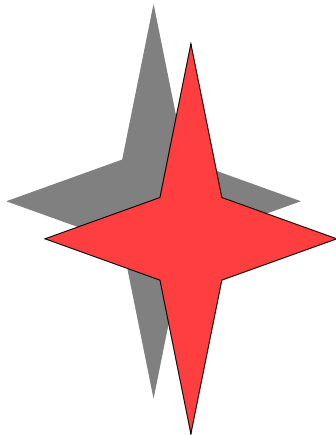




Russell Children's  
Ballet Company



# *The Spirit of Christmas*



Proud product of

**RCBS**

Russell Children's Ballet School

<https://www.russellchildrensballetschool.com/>



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*Philippa Twigg - Artistic Director RCBS*

## Message from the Director

Dance can be a truly uplifting and magical thing. It can inspire, heal, console, uplift and help mourn. It takes time, dedication, determination and practice to be able to move gracefully to music. Too often we get bogged down in the actual learning of technique and forget that first and foremost, dance is an art and is meant to be performed. The time we put in learning and training is simply to prepare us for performances, whether just for ourselves or others. I started my journey in dance at age 3 and have danced many different styles over the years: Jazz, Tap, Hip-Hop, Musical Theatre, Ballroom, even Belly-Dancing and Salsa Babies, but Ballet has always been where my heart lies. Ever since my ballet teacher in Reading, England inspired me to follow in her footsteps, I have been sharing my love, knowledge and passion for this art with as many people as possible.

For as long as I can remember, I have dreamed of putting together a group of dancers to bring our love of dance directly into the community. Dance is for everyone, whether young, old, timid or bold. As long as you have the heart and desire, you can truly learn to shine in your own way. This is what we try to teach our dancers every day. This group of young talented people have committed to performing these pieces throughout the community. They hope to inspire you all while growing as dancers themselves. I hope you are left with feelings of happiness and joy as you watch RCBC share their story through their love of dance and see just how magical this art form can be.

I want to thank all my dancers for working so hard to help me realize this dream, their parents for bringing them to rehearsals and supporting us, Tricia Bouvier Harps and the rest of the Russell Children's Ballet School for their unwavering support that has allowed me to make this dream come true. I also want to thank my family: my husband Dave, and my two boys Iain and Ryan for their support through this transition and giving me up for all the crazy extra hours. Love you guys more than you know.

Thanks as well to YOU ALL for being here and supporting us during our debut season!

On with the show!

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# Meet the Company



**Philippa Twigg**  
Artistic Director - RCBS  
RAD Ballet Teacher, LRAD  
Age: unknown

Started dancing: Age 3  
My favourite dance step is: Pas de Valse  
My favourite dance style: Ballet  
I joined RCBC because: I always dreamed of creating a dance company  
I dance because: I love it!  
My inspiration to dance is: It's my happy place.  
If I could pick 3 words: Kind, bubbly, & dedicated  
I want to say thank you to: My family



**Promise Gabie**  
Senior Dancer  
Age: 14

Started dancing: Age 5  
My favourite dance step is: Posé pirouette en dedans  
My favourite dance style: Ballet & Free  
I joined RCBC because: It was a friendly & local dance school  
I dance because: Moving my body to music in creative ways brings me joy. I feel free when I dance  
My inspiration to dance is the dance opportunities I will experience along the way  
If I could pick 3 words: gentle, perseverant & observant  
I want to say thank you to: My teachers & my parents for supporting and encouraging me along the way.



**Alyssa Perci**  
Intermediate Dancer  
Age: 13

Started dancing: Age 3  
My favourite dance step is: Jeté passé  
My favourite dance style: Ballet  
I joined RCBC because: I love to dance and it does RAD exams and follows these levels  
I dance because: It makes me happy  
My inspiration to dance is: To get my energy & stress out  
If I could pick 3 words: independent, kind & caring  
I want to say thank you to: Miss Philippa for making the Russell Children's Ballet Company



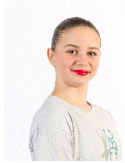
**Chloe Kozera**  
Intermediate Dancer  
Age: 12

Started dancing: Age 2  
My favourite dance step is: Pas de Bourée piqué  
My favourite dance style: Lyrical I love being able to tell a story or project an emotion through my body.  
I joined RCBC because: Being selected for the Nutcracker made me realize how rewarding it is to work hard with a team of dancers to entertain an audience through dance.  
I dance because: It helps relieve stress after a long day at school and I like how it makes me feel afterwards.  
My inspiration to dance is: Watching my body get stronger and do moves that were hard at the start. I feel accomplished knowing I succeeded at something challenging.  
If I could pick 3 words: confident, out-going & strong  
I want to say thank you to Miss Philippa for always working so hard to make sure we have opportunities like the new dance company to grow as dancers and for always being such a positive, patient teacher while we learn new things in class.



**Abigail Kibbee**  
Intermediate Dancer  
Age: 12

Started dancing: Age 3  
My favourite dance step is: grand jeté or sissonnes de côté dessus  
My favourite dance style: stylized ballet  
I joined RCBC because: I want to perform in front of someone other than just my parents in our living room. I want to perform for people who don't know me and are just watching the show to see a show.  
I dance because: It is a way to express myself, put on a show, to tell a story and to have fun.  
My inspiration to dance is: I love to be on stage and I love putting on a show.  
If I could pick 3 words: Nice, funny & empathetic  
I want to say thank you to: My dance teacher Ms Philippa for being such an amazing teacher, Chloe Kozera for just being an amazing friend onstage, in class and outside of classes, thank you to my parents for supporting me all my life, and my best friend Elizabeth McCulloch for always coming to my shows and supporting me.



**Joelle Gaudit**  
Junior Dancer  
Age: 12

Started dancing: Age 10  
My favourite dance step is: Plié  
My favourite dance style: Ballet  
I joined RCBC because: I joined RCBC because I wanted to try out ballet.  
I dance because: I love it and enjoy it.  
My inspiration to dance is: The movie Ballerina  
If I could pick 3 words: Organized, dancer & smart  
I want to say thank you to: Miss Philippa cause she teaches me ballet.



**Penelope Leonard**  
Junior Dancer  
Age: 9

Started dancing: Age 4  
My favourite dance step is: Grand plié  
My favourite dance style: Ballet & Jazz  
I joined RCBC because: I wanted to dance more and to perform more.  
I dance because: it is fun and it is graceful.  
My inspiration to dance is: to be able to do my exam this year and to get on pointe.  
If I could pick 3 words: Funny, nice & adventurous  
I want to say thank you to: Ms Philippa, Ms Cass, Ms Theresa, Ms Alyssa, all my dance friends and my parents.



**Elizabeth Kuntz**  
Junior Dancer  
Age: 9

Started dancing: Age 3  
My favourite dance step is: Step hop. It's really energetic. I love it.  
My favourite dance style: Ballet  
I joined RCBC because: I've seen videos of ballerinas & that made me want to dance. I love performing as much as I can.  
I dance because: It's fun. I love music.  
My inspiration to dance is: The people I watch dance on TV.  
If I could pick 3 words: Artistic, energetic, outgoing, fearless, brave, musical, confident (I think that's more than 3)  
I want to say thank you to: My teachers and instructors for helping me on my way to becoming a ballerina



**Julianne DeLorey**  
Junior Dancer  
Age: 9

Started dancing: Age 4  
My favourite dance step is: Grand jeté  
My favourite dance style: Acro  
I joined RCBC because: I wanted to improve my skills and join a performance group.  
I dance because: I like it and it's fun.  
My inspiration to dance is: My best friend Charlotte.  
If I could pick 3 words: Smart, silly & strong  
I want to say thank you to: My Maman for getting me into dance.



**Isabelle Faucher**  
Junior Dancer  
Age: 9

Started dancing: Age 6  
My favourite dance step is: Grand jeté  
My favourite dance style: Classical Ballet  
I joined RCBC because: I think it's fun.  
I dance because: I was inspired by dancers that have very good technique.  
My inspiration to dance is: From really wanting to be on stage and be a professional dancer.  
If I could pick 3 words: Silly, fun & committed  
I want to say thank you to: Miss Tricia, Miss Cass and Miss Philippa for teaching me how to dance.



**Aurora Fox**  
Junior Dancer  
Age: 8

Started dancing: My Whole Life  
My favourite dance step is: Forward gallops  
My favourite dance style: Ballet  
I joined RCBC because: I love dance.  
I dance because: It makes me happy  
My inspiration to dance is: being in the Nutcracker.  
If I could pick 3 words: Happy, kind & fun (silly +1)  
I want to say thank you to: Miss Philippa

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# “THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS”

## Music Credits:

Sollise Na Nollag - Altan  
On a Cold Winter's Day/Christmas Eve - Luka Bloom  
Carol of the Bells (Orchestral) - The Spirit of  
Orchestral

## Cast:

**Love** (Promise)

**Peace and Hope** (Alyssa, Chloe, Abigail)

**Kindness** (Joelle, Penelope, Elizabeth, Julianne, Isabelle, Aurora)

*When this holiday season is upon us, there is always an extra sparkle of magic in the air. This is the inspiration behind this piece. I have tried to express the emotions of Love, Peace, Hope and Kindness that truly embraces this time of year.*



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**Season's Greetings**

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# *Upcoming* **PERFORMANCES**

**Dec 18th - Russell High School 9:15am**  
**Dec 20th - St. Mother Theresa Catholic School 10:30am**  
**Dec 21st - Russell Public School 10 and 10:30am**  
**Dec 23rd - RCBS Embrun Studio 5:00pm**

**Jan 5th - Russell Meadows Retirement Home**  
**Jan 6th - Le Pavillon Senior Residence Home 2pm**  
**Jan 7th - St. Mary's Anglican Church Hall 11am**



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