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**The Alabama Ballet celebrates 10 years
of GEORGE BALANCHINE'S *THE NUTCRACKER*TM in Birmingham**

Birmingham, AL – The Alabama Ballet, the state's premier professional ballet company, celebrates 10 years of George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*TM in Birmingham. *The Nutcracker*TM will take place from Friday, December 9 through Sunday, December 18, at the Wright Center, Samford University.

For tickets, call 205-975-2787 or visit www.alabamaballet.org. Ticket prices range from \$20-\$55. Group discounts are available. For additional information, call 205-322-9095.

The Alabama Ballet is one of only seven companies in the world licensed by the Balanchine Trust to perform this one-of-a-kind American treasure. Set to Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's glorious score, George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*TM features choreography by the 20th century master and opulent props and scenery built from the exacting specifications of New York City Ballet's production. The performances include the company's entire roster of 35 professional dancers in alternating roles and over 80 Community Cast members from The Alabama Ballet School and the Birmingham community.

The title sponsor of George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*TM is Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC. Lead outreach and education sponsor is Regions with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Alabama and Wells Fargo also supporting education and outreach efforts. Other sponsors include Kinetic Communications, The Birmingham News, the Alabama State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Performance Dates and Times

Friday, December 9, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 10, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 11, 2:30 p.m.
Friday, December 16, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 17, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 18, 2:30 p.m.

Special Events

Sugar Plum Parties

All children holding tickets are invited to join us one hour prior to the 2:30 matinees on December 10, 11, 17 and 18 for professional photos with the cast and holiday sweet treats. While the Sugar Plum Parties are free, there will be a nominal fee for photos.

Ballet Boutique

The Nutcracker boutique is located in the lower lobby of Samford's Wright Center, and is your one-stop shop for everything Nutcracker. Open before each performance and during intermission, the boutique carries an extensive array of beautifully decorated nutcrackers. Start your collection this season!