

3 local ballet students in Butler's 'Nutcracker'

BY ADMIN · DECEMBER 1, 2015



From left, Kate Barker, Abby Burnette and Chloe Andry. (Submitted photos)

By Mark Ambrogi

Noblesville East Middle School sixth-grader Chloe Andry views being in the Butler Ballet production of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" as a great experience. "It's really cool to see what it may be like in the future if I would ever go there," Andry said. "It's a fun experience."

Andry, 12, joins fellow Noblesville residents Abby Burnette, 10, Kate Barker, 11, from Ballerinas Academy of Dance in Noblesville as cast members in "The Nutcracker," Dec. 3 through Dec. 6 at Clowes Hall on the Butler University campus. "They all started at age 3 or 4 in our program, so they started in our pre-school/kindergarten

program,” said Becky Van Briggie, owner and artistic director from Ballerinas Academy of Dance. “They’re all at the studio taking multiple classes. They’re all very serious about their ballet. They’ve all studied tap, jazz and contemporary dance. Their focus is in performing with ballet. It’s the most important discipline for the dancer as it improves the quality of all the other styles of dance.”

The Butler performances are 7:30 p.m. Dec. 3, 8 p.m. Dec. 4, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 5 and 2 p.m. Dec. 6 Burnette, Barker and Andry will perform at Youth America Grand Prix (ages 8-19) March 4-6 at The Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel. “Students come from all over the country to dance before professionals in the dance world,” Van Briggie said. Van Briggie said there will be representatives from important ballet companies.

“That will be great to experience something new especially from the people with my studio,” said Andry, who rehearses her ballet seven days a week. “It’s a great way to get exposure. Andry will do a ballet solo, a classical variation of ballet and contemporary piece. “To me, it’s more about getting exposure to what my future might hold,” Andry said. “There are great teachers and people there to judge you. I don’t think as it as much of a competition as I think of it as a way to get out there.”