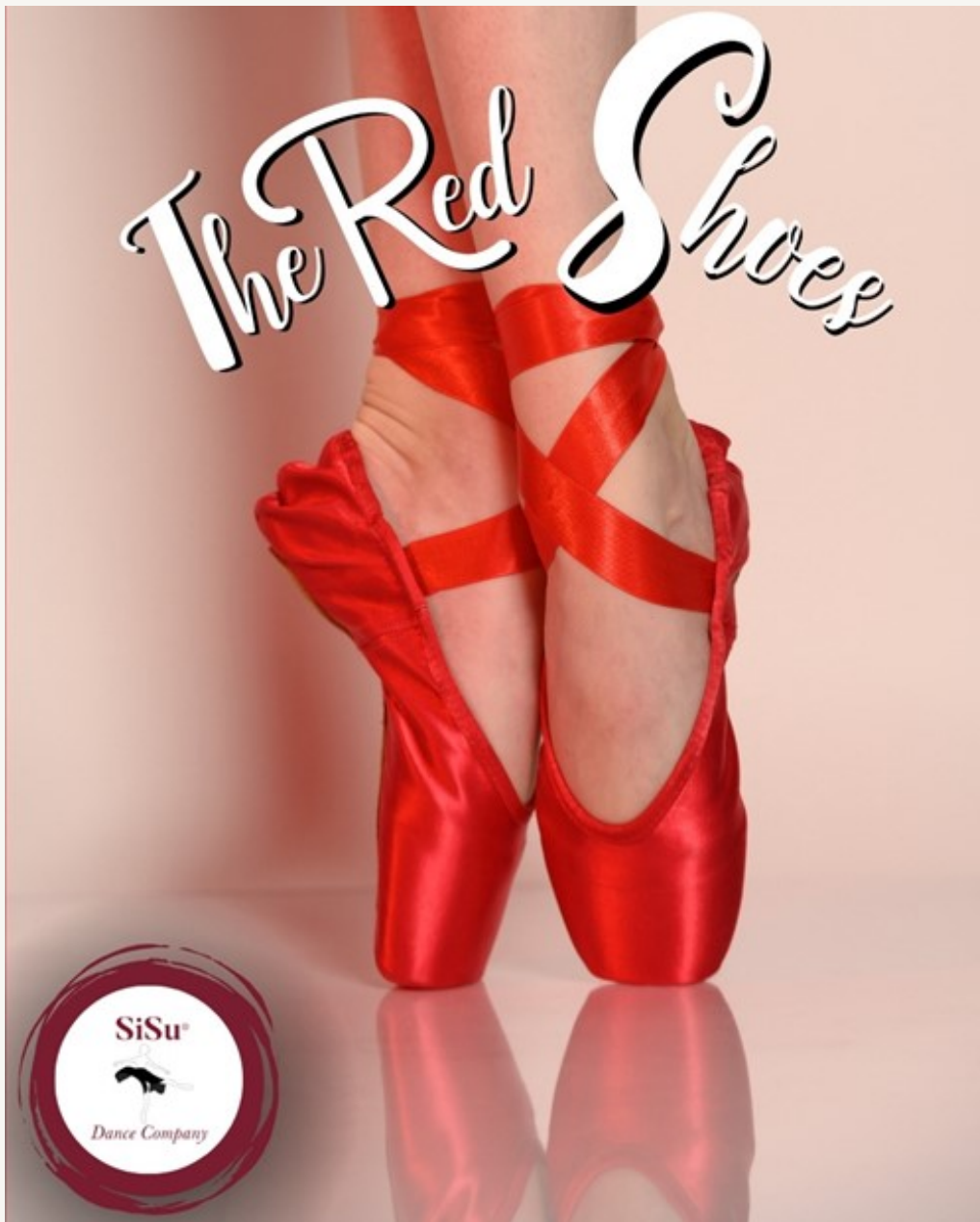


May 2024



~ Presents ~



For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind - *James 3:16*



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## “The Red Shoes” Program

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SiSu® Dance Company 2024 

1st Act 

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Meet Our Dancers 

**Please silence and refrain from using your cell phone.**

**No flash photography or video allowed in the theatre.**

# **The Red Shoes**

Story readaptation, restaging and new choreography

by Megan Nicko - Inspired by David Chavez ~ 2023

Based on the short story by Hans Christian Anderson. Like many of Anderson's tales, "The Red Shoes" has a moralistic message. The tragic flaw is sin in the form of envy, jealousy, temptation, selfishness, greed, and no other than sinful nature. The tragic flaw of vanity and disobedience leads to virtues of modesty and obedience. Megan has adapted the short story, giving it additional restaging, new characters, story interest, and meaning.

## **Synopsis according to Megan Nicko...**

The "Red Shoes" is a story true to our everyday nature. Karen, a poor young girl, who is teased by the other girls in her community because she is poor and has no money to buy a pair of shoes, finds judgment of others that her appearance is not as acceptable as theirs. Karen's mother offers to buy Karen a new pair of shoes. Karen only has a heart and eye for the very stunning red shoes the Shoemaker has created. The Shoemaker sees the opportunity to tempt Karen as he sees her envy for these Red Shoes. Temptation is the very nature we all face daily, "sin". Karen insists on the Red Shoes and no others. The moment Karen puts the Red Shoes on she is transformed into a beautiful young lady and begins to dance with beauty and grace.

Karen sinfully flaunts the shoes in church in front of all the young girls, making them very envious. Due to Karen's sinful behavior, she is reprimanded by the Pastor, who demands she remove them and not to wear them again. Karen refuses and causes a scene in front of all, disrupting the church sermon, which results in her mother having a heart attack. Due to her mother's illness Karen removes the shoes and surrenders them to the Pastor.



Karen tends to her sick mother. However, her thoughts wander back to the Red Shoes and she decides to leave her mother's side to retrieve the shoes. Karen cannot resist once she finds the shoes and decides to slide them back on to her feet. Watching close by, the Shoemaker sees that the temptation of the beautiful Red Shoes is more than Karen can bear. As Karen selfishly dances around, the Shoemaker puts a spell on the shoes to punish Karen. While dancing, Karen loses full control of her movement and realizes that the shoes will not allow her to stop dancing. Karen soon realizes that the shoes are controlling her. The Red Shoes begin to make Karen travel further and further away from her home. Karen is given a vision of her mother being carried away to be put to rest. Karen is now struck with regret that she had chosen a pair of shoes that blurred her love for her mother.

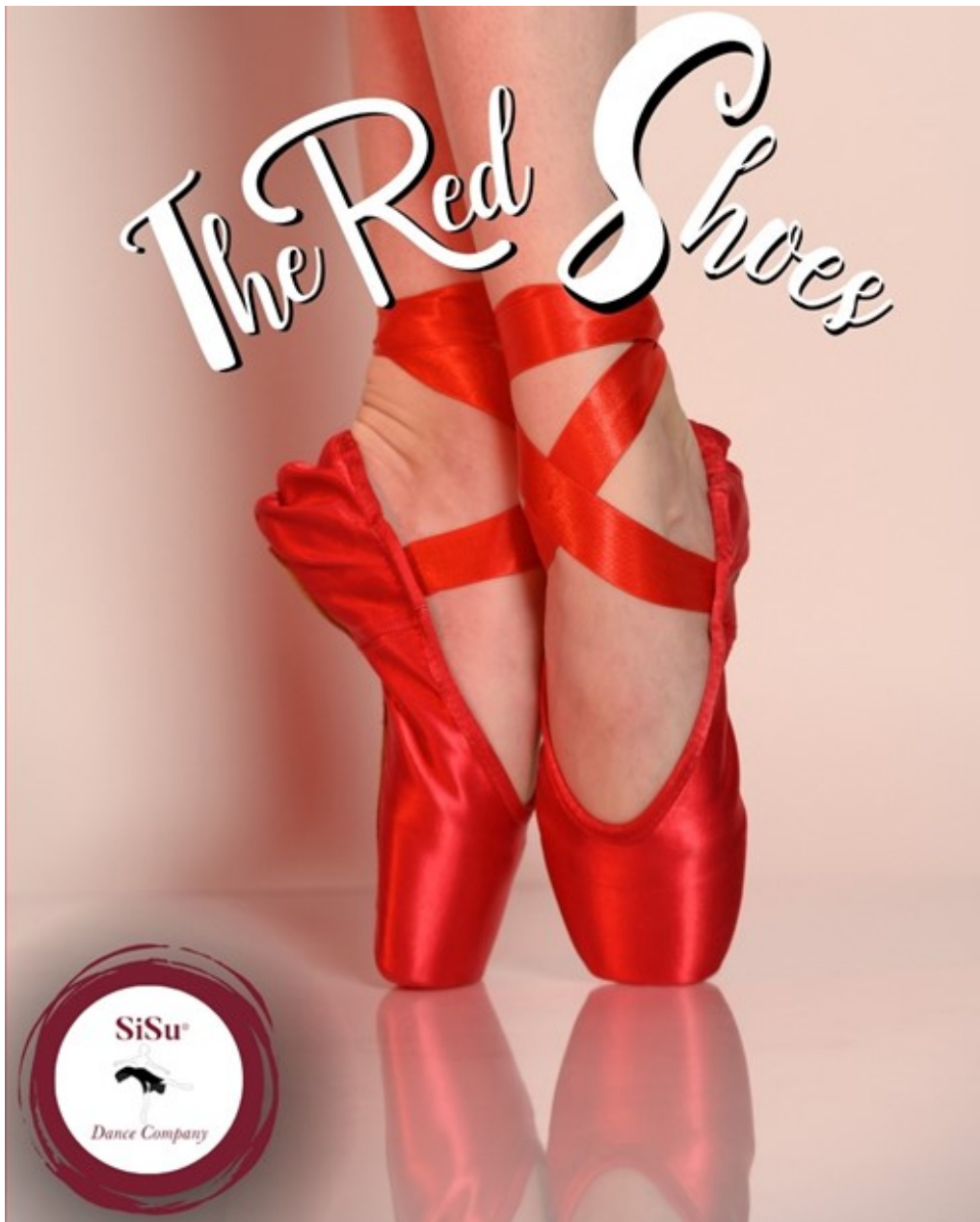
Karen is taken through valleys and mountains and haunted by the Satan. Satan then provokes Karen making her dance through a journey that takes her to a circus and through a Gypsy village. Karen is punished by clowns and gypsies. Through her aimless journey Karen finally regrets her mistakes and sees how sin leads to unethical choices. Karen feels guilt and remorse in her actions that has led to her mother's death. Is it too late? Has her vanity and disobedience left her no hope to repent? As the Red Shoes continue to force Karen to dance onward, she is brought upon an executioner's home. Karen pleads with him to cut off her feet. The Executioner sees Karen's remorse and wants to free her from the chain of spells put upon her. He cannot as he knows only the grace, death, and resurrection of Jesus can free her from her sins.

Instead of cutting off Karen's feet he leads her to the only one who can break her chain of spell. As the holy children approach Karen, she is filled with the amazing grace of love and how repentance and asking for forgiveness can lead to her chains being broken and setting her free.

Karen watches the precious souls as they ascend into heaven. She has new hope through her acceptance of Jesus and the unending love of his amazing grace.



How will you respond the next time you are tempted by our sinful nature: envy, jealousy, temptation, selfishness, and greed?



# A Message from SiSu Dance Company's Director



**Megan Nicko**  
**Founder / Director**

SiSu ® Dance Academy & Company may be the newest Dance Academy/ Company in Albuquerque, but our teachers have over 45 years of teaching experience combined. Each of our teachers bring a special gift to training SiSu ® dancers and we will continue to train with love, discipline, and safety. Every dancer that dances at SiSu ® will be taught with the same focus of technique and discipline whether they are a recreational dancer or a more serious dancer looking to further their career in dance. SiSu ® Dance Academy/ Company nurtures their dancers not just in training but in everyday mentoring. We are much more than dance! I believe this is the reason we are set apart from other dance studios. Every dancer has potential, and every dancer will be given equal opportunity to succeed in their love for the art.

I am so incredibly blessed to work with each of these company dancer's and their families. Each dancer is unique and special, and I am honored to be part of their dance journey.

With love, gratitude, and blessings always,

Megan Nicko





# ***SiSu***® ***Dance Company***

## ***2024***



## **“The Red Shoes”**

A Hans Christian Andersen story

Adapted, Created and Choreographed

*by*

**Megan Nicko**



# 1st Act

**Karen** – Faith Nicko

**Shoemaker** – Amie Tennant

**Sunday School Teacher** - Kaitlyn Mcleod

**Sunday School Children** – Tilia Brown, Eliana Gomez, Gabriela Gomez, Aubrey Goodman, Madeleine Harvold, Alana Hime, Emily Hodges, Eleanor Lechman, Cassidy McConnell,

**Orphanage Nanny** – Makenna Karmann

**Orphans** – Wilson Forbes, Javier Gomez, Miguel Gomez, Preston Goodman, Olivia Hodges, Alyssa Juliano, Addysen Roberts

**Vanity Girls** – Ripley Forbes, Allison Goodman, Aleksandra Ivanchoy, Chelsea Moffatt, Elly Morgan

**Karen's Mother** – Leticia Gomez

**Pastor** – Marcelo Gomez

**Townspeople** – Jim Brown, Crystal Forbes, Diego Gomez, Carl Hime, Jennifer Hime, Julia Hodges

**Angel of Deliverance** - Kaitlyn Mcleod





## 2nd Act

**Karen's Vanity** – Elly Morgan

### Circus

**Circus Leader** – Kaitlyn Mcleod

**Hoverboarders** – Diego Gomez, Eliana Gomez, Miguel Gomez, Aubrey Goodman, Madeleine Harvold

**Super Lion Trainer** - Parker McConnell

**Circus Lion** – Zeus Nicko

**Harlequin Puppet** – Ripley Forbes

**Stilt Walker** – Troy Nicko

**Pas de Quartre** – Allison Goodman, Aleksandra Ivanhov, Chelsea Moffatt, Elly Morgan

**Clowns** – Tilia Brown, Wilson Forbes, Eliana Gomez, Gabriela Gomez, Javier Gomez, Miguel Gomez, Aubrey Goodman, Preston Goodman, Madeleine Harvold, Alana Hime, Emily Hodges, Julia Hodges, Olivia Hodges, Eleanor Lechman, Kassidy McConnell, Addysen Roberts

**Gypsy King** – Marcelo Gomez

**Palm Reader** – Leticia Gomez



## **2nd Act (cont)**

**Gypsies** – Ripley Forbes, Allison Goodman, Aleksandra Ivanchov, Chelsea Moffatt, Elly Morgan

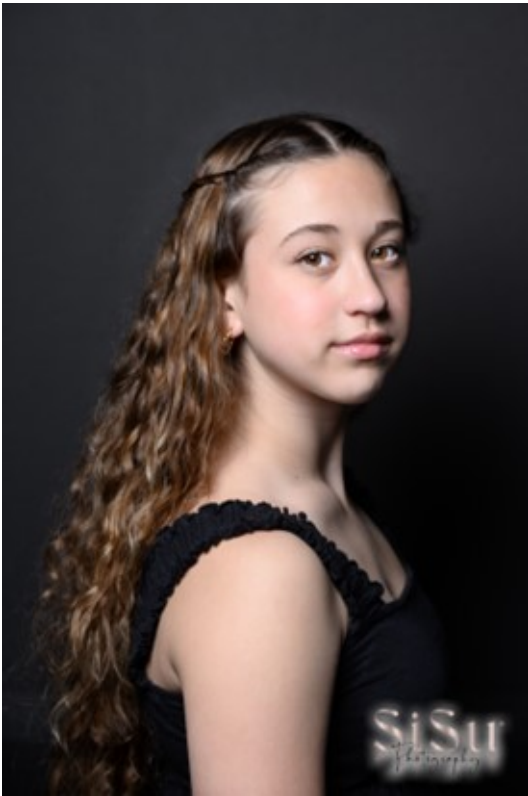
**Executioner** – Makenna Karmann

**Angels** – Ripley Forbes, Allison Goodman, Aleksandra Ivanchov, Chelsea Moffatt, Elly Morgan

Tilia Brown, Ripley Forbes, Eliana Gomez, Gabriela Gomez, Aubrey Goodman, Madeleine Harvold, Alana Hime, Emily Hodges, Eleanor Lechman, Cassidy McConnell,

**God's Heavenly Children** – Wilson Forbes, Javier Gomez, Miguel Gomez Preston Goodman, Alyssa Julianno, Addysen Roberts





# Faith Nicko

**Dances the Role of “Karen”**

***Principle Dancer/Teacher/Admin***

Faith has been dancing since the tender age of 2. Under the tutelage of her mother, Megan Nicko, she is trained in the genres of Cecchetti, Ballet, Pointe, Variations, Jazz, Contemporary, Acrobatics, Tap, Hip Hop, and Musical Theatre. Faith has successfully passed her Cecchetti Grades I-V. Faith passed her assistant training with Acrobatic Arts and is certified with the Leap N Learn Curriculum. Faith is an instructor at SDA and teaches ballet, jazz, acrobatics, and Contemporary. In addition to her formal training, she has studied with DeCruz Ballet and in summer programs in Canada, Wisconsin, and San Antonio. Faith is choreographing for her classes as well as pieces for competitions.

Faith has performed in recitals and productions, such as The Voice of Christmas, A Journey Through Storybooks, and The Red Shoes with SiSu® Dance Company. She also performed in Moscow's Nutcracker in 2017. She consistently participates in competitions such as, YAGP, and UBC.

Faith attends Ignite Christian Academy and enjoys being part of her Youth Group.





# Amie Tennant

## Dances the Role of “Shoemaker”

Amie has been dancing for upwards of 18 years, loving everything from ballet to jazz and musical theatre. Due to frequent moves, Amie has trained in many different studios, and incorporates all those influences into her teaching style. She believes hip hop and street dance are some of the most influential ways that dancers grow their confidence in themselves, their personal styles, and their ability as a stage performer, no matter what age or experience. Amie teaches hip hop at SiSu® Dance Academy.





## Kaitlyn McLeod

**Dances the Roles of “School Teacher”, “Circus Leader”, and “Angel of Deliverance”**

Kaitlyn McLeod began dancing at the age of 4. She was trained at Alwin's School of Dance, Magnify Dance Denter, Fishback Dance Studio, and Marin Dance Theatre. Kaitlyn held the dance captain position of Eldorado High School dance team where she also cheered. Kaitlyn has performed and competed in ballet, pointe, jazz, modern, Pom, and military styles. In addition, she has tested and passed Cecchetti student exams up to Grade V. She trained under Megan Nicko from the age of 12. Kaitlyn just graduated from UNM with a BA in Criminology and Psychology. Kaitlyn has a strong passion for dance and strives to help dancers at SiSu Dance Academy grow into strong beautiful dancers.





# Makenna Karmann

**Dances the Roles of “Orphan Nanny”  
and “Executioner”**

***Guest Artist***

Makenna has been dancing since she was three years old. Prior to moving to New Mexico, she danced at A Time to Dance in Valdosta, Georgia, where she performed in their company's performance of The Nativity and danced in their troupe as a Wise Man, Roman soldier, and Shepherd.

Makenna trained with SiSu® Dance Academy before graduating from high school as Valedictorian and National Honor Society. She danced for SiSu® Dance Company and has also competed nationally with the academy. Though contemporary and modern are Makenna's favorite genres, she has also trained in ballet, jazz, hip hop, and acrobatics, while maintaining her fitness training in cross conditioning classes. Her ballet training includes instruction in the Cecchetti method, where she has tested and passed student grades I through V.

In 2021, Makenna was featured in SiSu's® annual production of The Voice of Christmas as Lucifer, Cherubim Angel, and Angel of Love, as well as dancing with the ensemble in Germany and Host of Angels. She was also featured as Titania in the company's spring 2022 production of “A Journey Through Storybooks.”





Makenna attends college at GCU and while continuing her dance journey is also studying to pursue a bachelor's degree in psychology to eventually earn a master's in Dance Therapy (a program which marries dance with bringing insight to emotional and behavioral health). Above all else, Makenna is a follower of Christ. She hopes that her dancing reflects His demonstrated grace.





## Marcello Gomez

### Dances the Roles of “Pastor” and “Gypsy King”

Marcelo Gomez, a versatile performer, brings his rich tapestry of theater experience to the stage of the SiSu ® Dance Company's production of "The Red Shoes." Born and raised in Atchison, Kansas, Marcelo's passion for the performing arts was nurtured in its infancy at Maur Hill High School and further developed at Benedictine College. It was here that he honed his craft, participating in numerous productions that allowed him to explore and refine his talents in acting and stage performance.

With a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications, emphasizing photojournalism and marketing, Marcelo possesses a unique blend of creative and technical skills that enriches his approach to performance. His educational background informs his meticulous attention to detail and a keen eye for the visual storytelling elements that are crucial in dance and theater.

Marking his second year with the SiSu ® Dance Company's "The Red Shoes," Marcelo takes on the dual roles of the Pastor and Gypsy King, characters that demand a significant range of emotional depth and performance versatility. His portrayal of these characters is informed by an extensive background not only in front of the audience but



behind the scenes as well. With four years of experience working with lighting and visual audio in dance productions, Marcelo brings a comprehensive understanding of the technical aspects that contribute to a successful performance.

His previous roles at Maur Hill High School and Benedictine College showcase a performer committed to growth and adaptability. Whether on stage or behind the curtain, Marcelo's contributions to the arts transcend the mere act of performance — they reflect a deep dedication to the collaborative spirit of theater and dance.

In the SiSu ® Dance Company's rendition of "The Red Shoes," Marcelo's embodiment of both the Pastor and Gypsy King characterizes him as a formidable presence on stage, captivating audiences with his dynamic interpretation and compelling storytelling. His performance is a testament to his diverse talents and his ability to engage audiences in a profound, immersive experience.

**Thank you to all our sponsors and volunteers!**

