TODAY’S BEST BETS

NUTRACKER BALLET

International Academy of Dance presents the full-length Nutcracker Ballet. Dancers include Oregon Ballet Theater’s Alison Roper (honored by Dance Magazine as one of ‘25 to Watch’), Santa Cruz native Jessica Radetsky (from Broadway’s ‘Phantom of the Opera’), and amateurs as young as four.

WHEN: 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.
WHERE: Cabrillo College Crocker Theater, 6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos
COST: $14-32

MARGARET CHO

Comedienne Margaret Cho’s many accolades include Grammy and Emmy nominations and the first-ever Best Comedy Performance Award at the 2007 Asian Excellence Awards. The advocate for anti-bullying campaigns also received a 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award from LA Pride. Jim Short opens the show.

WHEN: Doors open at 6 p.m., show starts at 7 p.m.
WHERE: Rio Theatre, 1205 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz
COST: $29.50 general, $47.50 gold circle

IRISH CHRISTMAS IN AMERICA

Celtic Society of Monterey Bay presents the popular show Irish Christmas in America, now in its ninth year. The event combines live Irish music and dance with a multi-media presentation. Performers include band Lumiere, singer/button accordionist Seamus Begley, and uilleann piper/flute player Sean Gavin.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Kuumbwa Jazz Center, 320 Cedar St., Santa Cruz
COST: $25 in advance, $27 at the door general, $22 for Celtic Society members

For more local activities, visit Things to Do on the Sentinel homepage or events.santacruzsentinel.com