


National Presenting Partner **BMO** 

BALLETJÖRGEN

The Nutcracker

A Canadian Tradition



December 3, 2022
FirstOntario Concert Hall – Hamilton, ON

Momoka Matsui; photo by Kamal Daid.

Message from the Artistic Director



Welcome to our performance of *The Nutcracker: A Canadian Tradition!*

Every year, Ballet Jörgen has the privilege of sharing this production and other ballets with over 50,000 people from coast to coast, bringing people together and to help build stronger communities through dance. The Nutcracker is a wonderful holiday tradition for so many Canadians and is often a child's first experience watching a ballet. For this reason, we are pleased to incorporate dance students into this production, as so many professional dancers start their careers as young performers in The Nutcracker!

A few years ago I thought about creating a Canadian-inspired Nutcracker, one that would connect this wonderful ballet to our own heritage. I am particularly delighted to have created a ballet connected to one of my own favourite pastimes — canoeing in Ontario's Algonquin Park.

Sue LePage, our Set & Costume Designer and Heinar Piller, Stage Director, have contributed greatly to the creation of this unique re-imagining of the ballet. Thank you to Clea Iveson for suggesting the use of Group of Seven paintings as a backdrop for our stunning and dramatic Canadian landscapes and to the McMichael Canadian Art Collection for their help in making this uniquely Canadian production possible.

I am also indebted to the loyal supporters of Ballet Jörgen who have demonstrated extraordinary financial support including the late Ann & Lyman Henderson. This performance is in part made possible with the support from National Presenting Partner BMO Financial Group, The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation and Ballet Jörgen donors.

Thank you for coming and for making *The Nutcracker: A Canadian Tradition* part of your holiday season.

Enjoy the show!

Bengt Jörgen C.M.

JÖRGENDANCE

Dance for all

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DANCE

For 35 years Jörgen Dance has brought the joy of dance to countless individuals, families, and communities across Canada and beyond. While we are firmly rooted in our history as an exceptional professional ballet company, we have grown to be so much more! Today we offer a wide range of training and community programs across many dance styles to ensure dance is truly accessible for all Canadians. Whether you are looking to attend a performance, learn to dance, or engage with the arts for the first time; there is something for you under the **Jörgen Dance** umbrella. You will be welcomed, educated, entertained, and be a respected member of our in-person and virtual community. As an organization we genuinely believe in our motto **Dance for All**.

Visit the website today and subscribe for email news and updates.

jorgendance.ca



Adrián Ramírez Juárez; photo by Kristie Jones.

Synopsis

Act I

It is Christmas Eve 1912, in the small village of Bisset, Ontario, north of Algonquin Park. The community is preparing for a holiday celebration and rare respite from every-day hard labor. People are gathering, a Christmas tree is cut and everyone heads to the school house for the festivities. Klara, a young girl recently orphaned and sent to Canada to join her older sister, arrives.

With the party already in full swing, Klara is warmly welcomed by everyone except by the daughter of the one well-to-do couple in the community, with whom Klara's sister is employed as a maid. The celebrations are interrupted by the arrival of a painter who brings handmade toys for the kids and a painting for his sweetheart, the local school teacher. Klara is left without a wooden toy, since she is an unexpected arrival but then she brings out the one heirloom from her home, a beautifully decorated Nutcracker. This immediately makes her the centre of attention. Jealous, the rich girl grabs the Nutcracker and in a fit of anger throws it into the wood stove. An inconsolable Klara stomps off, hides behind a school desk and falls asleep. As the Party comes to an end and everyone is leaving, Klara's sister is growing worried. When she cannot find her sister she rushes out together with the painter and the teacher to look for Klara.

When Klara wakes up she finds the school house deserted and growing cold. She is all alone! As the clock chimes 12 times, her world starts to change. Creatures of the wood are intruding; giant sized toys come alive and from the stove pops a life size Nutcracker. She is no longer alone. She has a friend! Together they have to face the attacks of King Bat and his cunning compatriots. A wild battle ensues, ebbing back and forth. Bowling pin Mounties join the fray, but it is Klara and the Nutcracker who save the day and defeat King Bat. As the walls of the school house fade away, Klara and the Nutcracker enter the beautiful snow covered forest on a sleigh drawn by white tailed deer. Out of the snow beautiful snowflakes appear, mesmerizing and blowing Klara and the Nutcracker deep into the forest. As the snow starts to fall, Klara and the Nutcracker are lost. Tired they fall asleep in the snow.

–INTERMISSION–



Snowflakes; photo by Cait Media Group Corp.

Act II

Klara wakes to find all the snow gone and the forest in full summer bloom. Amazed, she wakes the Nutcracker. The ice has turned to water with beavers, frogs and squirrels guiding Klara and the Nutcracker ever deeper into the forest until they come face to face with Lady and Lord Birch. Klara and the Nutcracker, explaining that they are lost, are welcomed to stay to meet some of the animals and flowers of the woods. Raccoons, loons, dragonflies, bears, flowers, a giant spruce tree and the small animals living under its branches, entertain the two guests of the forest. Finally Lord and Lady Birch sway their majestic crowns in a twirling pas de deux. Klara is exhilarated by the warm welcome and applauds them all. Bidding farewell, Klara and the Nutcracker fall asleep as they are escorted out of the forest by two bears.

When Klara wakes, she is alone, back in the school house. It was all just a dream! She runs to the window, but sees no one, as she disappointedly turns back she notices her old wooden Nutcracker on the school desk and remembers her dream — she is not alone — her new world is full of beauty — places, people and creatures to meet!

The Cast

In order of appearance, program & cast subject to change.

ACT I

WELL-TO-DO FAMILY

DAUGHTER	Sakura Kawamura
FATHER	Leandro Prado
MOTHER	Lydia-Laure Germain
MAID	Hannah Mae Cruddas

FARMING FAMILY

**SON	Zach Morriss
MOTHER	Adrianna Cote
FATHER	Adam Davidson
**DAUGHTERS	Jessie Marshall & Ella Warner

LUMBER JACKS

**WOOD CHOPPING GIRL	Georgia Hollingsworth
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YOUNG WOMAN

**YOUNG CHILD	Akari Fujiwara
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GRANDMA

GRANDPA	Elise Tigges
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IMMIGRATION AID

**KLARA	Hiroto Saito
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SCHOOL TEACHER

PAINTER	Ana Zamora
---------	------------

**SOCK BUNNY

**RATS	Ana Isabel Arauz
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HORNED OWL

**NUTCRACKER PRINCE	Esther Zignaigo
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RED FOX

SKUNK	Adrián Ramírez Juárez
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WOLF

MOOSE	Georgia Hollingsworth
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SKIPPING ROPE HANDLES

MOUNTIES	Jessie Marshall & Howie Peters
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* **WHITE TAILED DEER

	Sakura Kawamura
--	-----------------

KING BAT

SNOWMAN

SNOW QUEEN & CAVALIER

SNOWFLAKES

ACT II

* **BEAVERS

*FROGS

*SQUIRRELS

*BEAR CUB

LORD & LADY BIRCH

RACCOONS

LOONS

*YOUNG DRAGONFLIES

DRAGONFLY

BEARS

MOTHER SPRUCE

*CHIPMUNKS

TRILLIUM FLOWER

FLOWERS

**WHITE TAILED DEER

**Local Youth Participant Role*

***Touring Youth Participant Role*

Callum McGregor

Adam Davidson

Momoka Matsui & Daniel Da Silva

Akari Fujiwara, Lydia-Laure Germain, Omar Hernández
Sakura Kawamura, Callum McGregor, Márcio Teixeira,
Ana Zamora, Esther Zignaigo

Lyrik Alkema & Adrianna Cote

Evelyn Barnett, Kiley Bradley

Danaca Bell, Howie Peters, Lily Villeneuve, Ella Warner

Arya Cronk

Momoka Matsui & Leandro Prado

Hannah Mae Cruddas & Daniel Da Silva

Akari Fujiwara & Adrián Ramírez Juárez

Georgia Hollingsworth, Jessie Marshall

Sakura Kawamura

Callum McGregor & Márcio Teixeira

Adrianna Cote

Lyrik Alkema, Nolan Baik, Drea Maggio, Isabella Michalos

Akari Fujiwara

Hannah Mae Cruddas, Daniel Da Silva,
Lydia-Laure Germain, Omar Hernández,
Sakura Kawamura, Callum McGregor, Márcio Teixeira,
Esther Zignaigo

Lyrik Alkema & Howie Peters

Nutcracker Youth Education Program Credits

Local Youth Participants:

Evelyn Barnett, Danaca Bell,
Kiley Bradley, Arya Cronk, Drea Maggio,
Isabella Michalos, Lily Villeneuve

Local Youth Participants Courtesy of Academy of Dance Arts, C.O.R.E

*Dance Project, George Brown Dance,
Guelph Academy of Dance, Hamilton
Conservatory for the Arts*

Local Rehearsal Direction Volunteer

Tammy Tropeau

Local Rehearsal Space Courtesy of

Studio Two

Youth Cast on Tour with Ballet Jörgen

Lyrik Alkema, Oro Medonte –

Prompt Dance Academy

Nolan Baik, Markham –

L'Arabesque Ballet

Georgia Hollingsworth, Brantford –

Burford Dancers

Jessie Marshall, Guelph –

Holly Hughes Dance Academy

Quinn Morriss, Brantford –

Studio 5.6.7.8 Inc.

Zach Morriss, Brantford –

Dance Discovery

Howie Peters, Toronto –

Quinte Ballet School of Canada

Jada Prato, Vaughan –

Academy of Ballet and Jazz

Elisabeth Ranger, Toronto –

Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre

Ella Warner, Brighton –

Dance with Miss Liz

Rehearsal Directors

Clea Iveson, Estelle Tang, Elise Tigges,
Aria Lara Wilton

Rehearsal Assistants and Chaperones

Ana Isabel Arauz, Adrianna Cote,
Aria Lara Wilton

Local Volunteer Rehearsal Masters

Brantford – Avery Keyes

Guelph – Brandi Matheson &

Pat McLeod

Huntsville – Sue Kirwin-Campbell

Keswick – Victoria Melbourne

Kitchener-Waterloo – Shelby Ward

London – Donna Bayley & Krista Conti

Ottawa – Tracy Mitchell

Peterborough – Summer Burch

Saskatoon – Tammy Tropeau

Local Studio Space Provided by

Brantford – *CORE Dance Project*

Guelph – *Royal City School of Ballet
and Jazz*

Huntsville – *Muskoka Dance Academy*

Keswick – *Core School of Dance*

Kitchener-Waterloo – *Carousel
Dance Centre*

London – *Dance Steps Studio*

Ottawa – *Brocadie Dance, Greta*

Leeming Studio of Dance

Peterborough – *7 Attitudes School
of Arts*

Saskatoon – *Studio One RP Dance*

Ballet Jörgen Extends Special Thanks

Thomas Hlavenka, Registered Physiotherapist (RPT)
Centreline Physio, Sports & Wellness Inc.

All of our volunteers that made this production possible.



The Nutcracker: A Canadian Tradition
was developed in collaboration
with the McMichael Canadian Art
Collection. The backdrops used
in this production were inspired
by "Church and Houses at Bisset"
(Franklin Carmichael), "Trees and
Wildflowers" (L. L. Fitzgerald),
and "Snow in the Woods"
(Tom Thomson).

Woodland Raccoons: Annelie
Lillemark & Gustavo Hernandez;
photo by Linda Schettle.



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Visit jorgendance.ca to learn more.

"Chipmunks" from our Local Participant Program; photo by Kat Rizza.

Meet Your Dancers



Hannah Mae Cruddas
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Company Member
since 2012



Daniel Da Silva
São Paulo, Brazil
Company Member
since 2009



Adam Davidson
Zephyr, Ontario
Company Member
since 2019



Márcio Teixeira
São Caetano, Brazil
Company Member
since 2019



Ana Zamora
Havana, Cuba
Company Member
since 2022



Esther Zignaigo
Lima, Perú
Company Member
since 2021



Akari Fujiwara
Nagoya, Japan
Company Member
since 2017



Lydia-Laure Germain
Montréal, Québec
Company Member
since 2022



Omar Hernández
Pinar del Rio, Cuba
Company Member
since 2022



Taisiia Zamula
Moscow, Russia
Apprentice



Victoria Collier
Georgia, USA
Junior Company Member



Estelle Tang
Hong Kong
Junior Company Member



Adrián Ramírez Juárez
Mexico City, Mexico
Company Member
since 2014



Sakura Kawamura
Nagoya, Japan
Company Member
since 2022



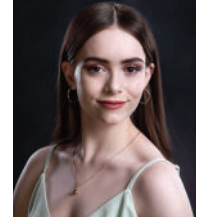
Momoka Matsui
Fukuoka, Japan
Company Member
since 2015



Chabi Arauz
Panama City, Panama
Mentorship Student



Adrianna Cote
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Mentorship Student



Aria Lara Wilton
Kingston, Ontario
Mentorship Student



Callum McGregor
Glasgow, Scotland
Company Member
since 2019



Leandro Prado
Altamira, Pará, Brazil
Company Member
since 2016



Hiroto Saito
Kobe, Japan
Company Member
since 2007



Clea Iveson
Toronto, ON
Principal Character Artist
Company Member
1992 – 2012



Elise Tigges
North Vancouver, BC
Character Artist

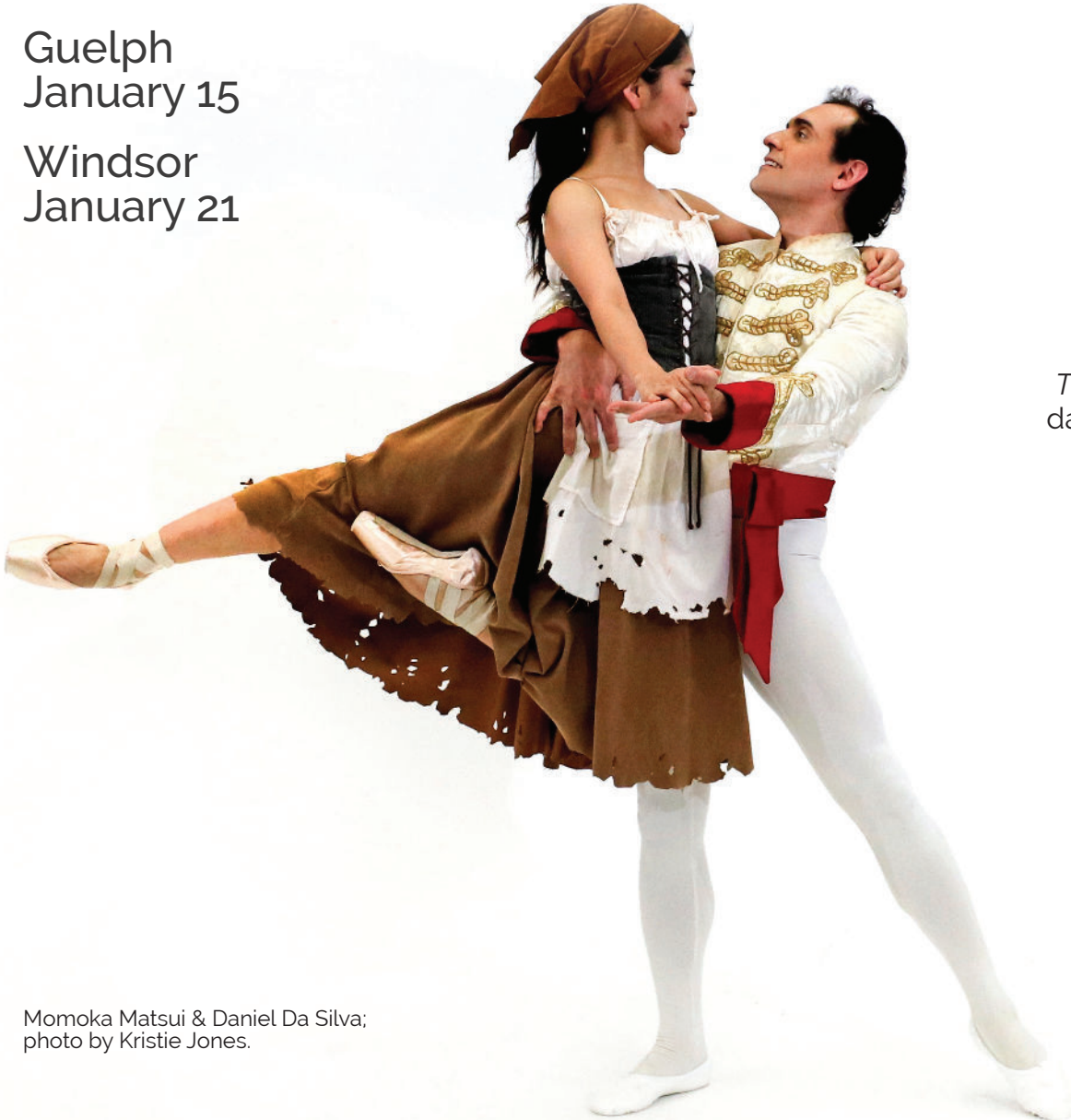
Learn more
about
your dancers!

Cinderella 2023 Tour

2 Shows in Ontario

Guelph
January 15

Windsor
January 21



Momoka Matsui & Daniel Da Silva;
photo by Kristie Jones.

Tickets on Sale at
jorgendance.ca

Local Participant Program

The Cinderella Local Participant Program gives young dancers the opportunity to perform with Ballet Jörgen. They interact and learn with professional dancers as they gain invaluable performance experience.

Limited spots available: 2-4 dancers ages 14-17.

Cast is assembled from local area students.

[Apply here.](#)

Dance for all

Production Credits

Choreography (After Petipa & Ivanov)
Bengt Jörgen, C.M.

Composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Costume & Set Design Sue LePage

Lighting Design Bonnie Beecher

Stage Direction Heinar Pillar

Creative Assistant Clea Iveson

Scenic Carpentry Hamilton Scenic
Specialty

Backdrops Scenic Drop Studios,
Richard Mongiat, Elizabeth Bailey,
Katherine Lilley

Set Electrics Wireless Automation &
Control Scenic Electronics

Costume Coordinator Industry
Costumes

Wardrobe Buyer Susan Rome

Costume Construction Industry
Costumes, Brenda Clark

Assisted by Adrienne Baker, Geoffrey
Davis, Marion Schoeler Arana Enterprises,
Angela Arana, Yeo Lan Kwee, Linda
Kirby, Maria Colella, Avril Stevenson
Millinery Monica Viani, Assisted by
Katie Spreitzer

Dyeing Chrome Yellow

Props Builder Viola Frazier

Ballet Jörgen

Ballet Jörgen Co-Founders

Susan Bodie & Bengt Jörgen C.M.

Ballet Jörgen Artistic Staff

Artistic Director & CEO

Bengt Jörgen C.M.

Ballet Master Hiroto Saito

Principal Ballet Coach Svea Eklof

Company Dancers

Hannah Mae Cruddas~, Daniel Da Silva,
Adam Davidson~, Akari Fujiwara~,
Lydia-Laure Germain~, Omar Hernández,
Adrián Ramírez Juárez~, Sakura Kawamura
Momoka Matsui~, Callum McGregor~,
Leandro Prado, Hiroto Saito,
Márcio Teixeira~, Ana Zamora,
Esther Zignaigo

Apprentices Taisiia Zamula

Junior Company Members

Victoria Collier, Ryusei Nagafuchi
Estelle Tang, Taisiia Zamula,

Mentorship Students Chabi Arauz~,
Adrianna Cote~, Aria Lara Wilton~
Principal Character Artist Clea Iveson

Character Artist Elise Tigges

Resident Choreographer Hanna Kiel

Resident Stage Director Heinar Pillar

Production Manager Patrick Florin

Technical Director Jacob Gagnon

Lighting Director & Associate Technical
Director Madhu Seran

Stage Manager Kayla Ado

Wardrobe Supervisor Glenna Foerster

Artistic Working Group Hannah Mae
Cruddas, Daniel Da Silva & Hiroto Saito

~Past RBC Foundation Apprentice Dancer
~George Brown Dance Graduate

Jörgen Dance

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Education Manager Clea Iveson

Director of Touring Cameron Smillie

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Casey Spector

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Canadian Statistics Coordinator
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& Inclusion Committee Jane Cooke-
Lauder

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Márcio Teixeira & Valentina Polanco;
photo by Kristie Jones.



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The Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain CC ONB

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