

National Presenting Partner **BMO** 

BALLETJÖRGEN

# The Nutcracker

A Canadian Tradition



**FLATC**  
MARKHAM  
THEATRE

December 30 & 31, 2022  
Flato Markham Theatre – Markham, 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.

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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](http://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 (2pm), Taisiia Zamula (7pm)
MAID	Hannah Mae Cruddas (2pm), Lydia-Laure Germain (7pm)
FARMING FAMILY	
**SON	Nolan Baik (30th), Zach Morriss (31st)
MOTHER	Aria Lara Wilton (30th), Adrianna Cote (31st)
FATHER	Adam Davidson (30th), Márcio Teixeira (31st)
**DAUGHTERS	Lyrik Alkema (2pm, 30th), Jessie Marshall (30th), Quinn Morriss (31st), Ella Warner (7pm, 30th, 31st)
LUMBER JACKS	Márcio Teixeira (30th), Omar Hernández (31st), Callum McGregor
**WOOD CHOPPING GIRL	Georgia Hollingsworth (7pm, 30th, 31st), Quinn Morriss (2pm, 30th)
YOUNG WOMAN	Ana Zamora (30th), Ana Isabel Arauz (31st)
**YOUNG CHILD	Lyrik Alkema (31st), Howie Peters (30th)
GRANDMA	Elise Tigges
GRANDPA	Daniel Da Silva
IMMIGRATION AID	Taisiia Zamula (2pm), Momoka Matsui (7pm)
**KLARA	Jada Prato
SCHOOL TEACHER	Esther Zignaigo (2pm), Hannah Mae Cruddas (7pm)
PAINTER	Adrián Ramírez Juárez
**SOCK BUNNY	Georgia Hollingsworth (2pm, 30th), Quinn Morriss (7pm, 30th, 31st)
**RATS	Jessie Marshall (30th), Howie Peters (31st), Ella Warner, Elise Tigges
HORNED OWL	Sakura Kawamura (30th), Ana Zamora (31st)
**NUTCRACKER PRINCE	Nolan Baik (30th), Zach Morriss (31st)
RED FOX	Lydia-Laure Germain (30th), Esther Zignaigo (31st)
SKUNK	Márcio Teixeira (30th), Callum McGregor (31st)
WOLF	Adam Davidson
MOOSE	Hannah Mae Cruddas (2pm, 30th), Esther Zignaigo (7pm, 30th), Akari Fujiwara (31st)
SKIPPING ROPE HANDLES	Ana Zamora (30th), Lydia-Laure Germain (31st), Taisiia Zamula

### MOUNTIES

Aria Lara Wilton, Ana Isabel Arauz (30th), Adrianna Cote (31st), Omar Hernández (2pm, 30th, 31st), Leandro Prado (30th), Márcio Teixeira (31st), Adrián Ramírez Juárez (7pm, 30th)

### \*\*WHITE TAILED DEER

Lyrik Alkema, Howie Peters (30th), Ella Warner (31st)

### KING BAT

Callum McGregor (2pm), Omar Hernández (7pm)

### SNOWMAN

Adam Davidson

### SNOW QUEEN & CAVALIER

Adrián Ramírez Juárez & Akari Fujiwara (2pm, 30th), Momoka Matsui & Daniel Da Silva (7pm, 30th), Hannah Mae Cruddas & Leandro Prado (31st)

### SNOWFLAKES

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

### ACT II

#### \* \*\*BEAVERS

Lyrik Alkema, Adrianna Cote, Aria Lara Wilton

#### \*FROGS

Quetzalli Gay Hernandez, Allison Smith

#### \*SQUIRRELS

Georgia Hollingsworth, Jessie Marshall, Howie Peters, Ella Warner

#### \*BEAR CUB

Annika Jörgen-Iveson

#### LORD & LADY BIRCH

Momoka Matsui & Leandro Prado (2pm), Adrián Ramírez Juárez & Akari Fujiwara (7pm)

#### RACCOONS

Hannah Mae Cruddas & Daniel Da Silva (30th), Momoka Matsui & Márcio Teixeira (31st)

#### LOONS

Adrián Ramírez Juárez & Akari Fujiwara (2pm), Ana Zamora & Leandro Prado (7pm)

#### \*YOUNG DRAGONFLIES

Georgia Hollingsworth, Jessie Marshall, Quinn Morriss

#### DRAGONFLY

Sakura Kawamura (2pm), Esther Zignaigo (7pm)

#### BEARS

Callum McGregor (2pm), Omar Hernández (7pm), Márcio Teixeira (30th), Adam Davidson & Daniel Da Silva (31st)

#### TRILLIUM FLOWER

Akari Fujiwara (2pm, 30th), Momoka Matsui (7pm, 30th), Hannah Mae Cruddas (31st)

#### FLOWERS

Ana Zamora, Sakura Kawamura, Lydia-Laure Germain (30th), Taisiia Zamula (31st), Esther Zignaigo, Callum McGregor, Márcio Teixeira, Omar Hernández, Daniel Da Silva

#### \*\*WHITE TAILED DEER

Lyrik Alkema, Ella Warner

*\*Local Youth Participant Role*

*\*\*Touring Youth Participant Role*



## Nutcracker Youth Education Program Credits

### Local Youth Participants:

Quetzalli Gay Hernandez, Allison Smith, Annika Jørgen-Iveson

Local Youth Participants Courtesy of 7 Attitudes School of Arts, L'Arabesque Ballet

### Youth Cast on Tour with

#### Ballet Jørgen

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 Jørgen Extends Special Thanks

All of our volunteers that made this production possible.



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

DONATE TO LOCAL ONTARIO PROGRAMMING  
Visit [jorgendance.ca](http://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



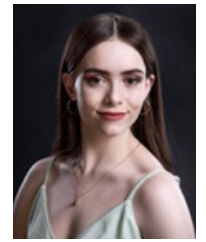
Momoka Matsui  
Fukuoka, Japan  
Company Member  
since 2015



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



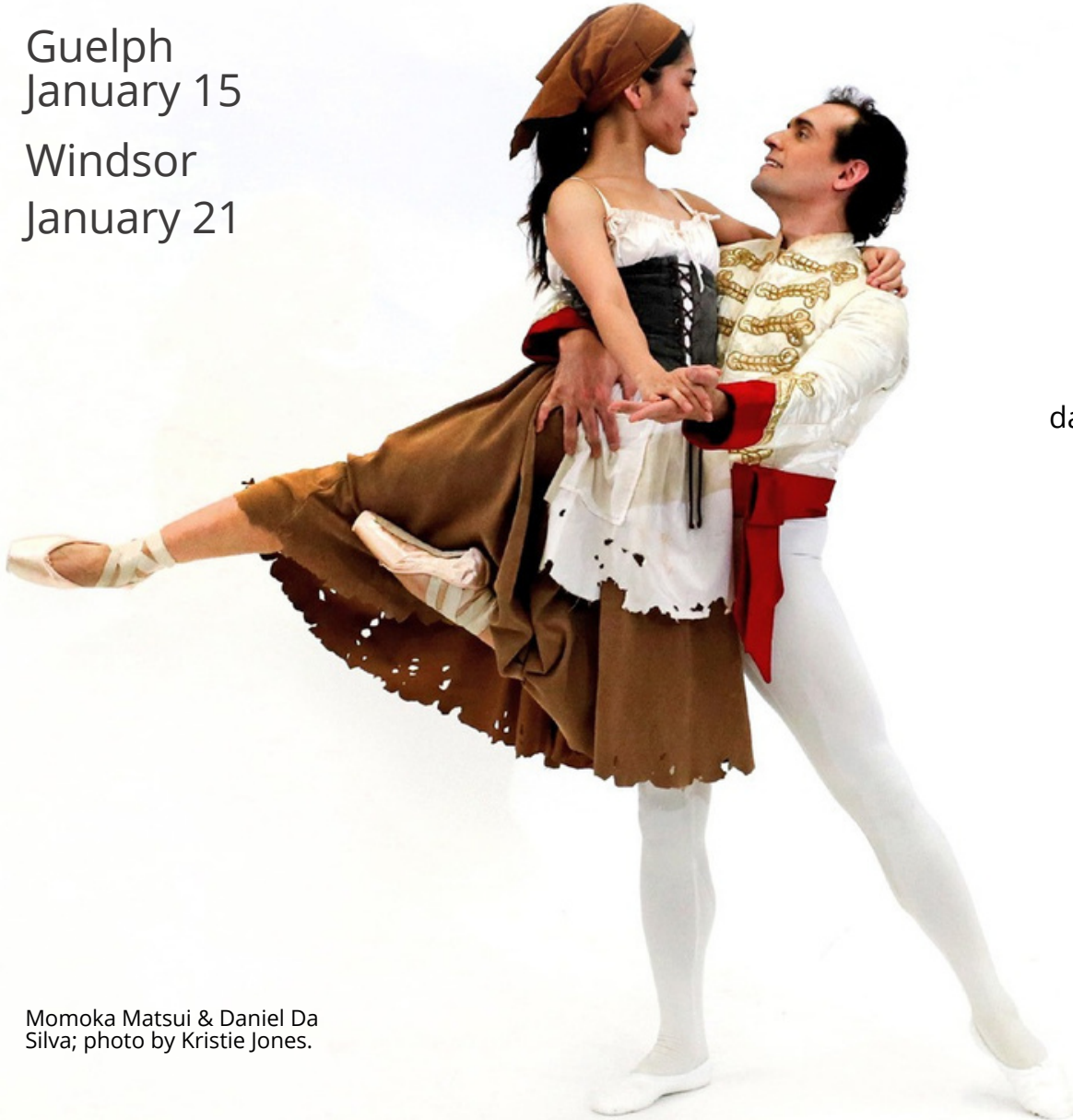
Learn more about  
your dancers!



# 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](http://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 at [jorgendance.ca](http://jorgendance.ca)

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,

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Katherine Lilley

Set Electrics Wireless Automation &

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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

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Jörgen Dance and George Brown College.

Márcio Teixeira & Valentina Polanco;  
photo by Kristie Jones.



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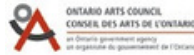


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160 Kendal Ave, Bldg. C, Rm. 126 Toronto, ON Canada M5R 1M3

Office: 416-961-4725 | Fax: 416-415-2865

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