

National Presenting Partner **BMO** 

BALLETJÖRGEN

The Nutcracker

A Canadian Tradition



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December 23
Centennial Hall - London, ON

Momoka Matsui, Photo by Kamal Daid



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Local Youth Rehearsal Directors

Dance Steps, Donna Bayley & Krista Conti

Studio Space for Company Class



Live at the Hippo Pool Events is proud to continue The Nutcracker tradition in London. Bringing holiday magic to the Centennial Hall stage since 2014, Ballet Jörgen's Nutcracker has become a family tradition. We are deeply grateful for the generous support of our Performance Sponsor, **Highstreet Asset Management**. A dedicated team has been working hard in the months leading up to this afternoon's performance. Participating in this afternoon's performance are talented **young dancers from seven different dance schools in London**. We thank the teachers at these schools for sharing their beautifully trained students with us. Tremendous gratitude goes to **Donna Bayley and Krista Conti of Dance Steps** for regular rehearsals of this local youth cast. Their generous gifts of time, teaching expertise and studio space were given with wisdom, good humour and kindness and we are indebted to them. To the **parents and young dancers** who adjusted busy family schedules and traveled faithfully to rehearsals, please know that this performance is especially wonderful because of your participation. Special thanks to **Leah Gliddon**, our honorary Hippo, for her capable assistance with the local youth cast. Company class is a daily necessity for professional dancers and this was made possible here in London by the unwavering and generous hospitality of **Dance Steps**. Our **program advertisers** contribute to the success of this event and we extend thanks for your contribution. But most importantly, we thank you, **the audience**. Your support is the foundation that makes this performance possible.

Best wishes for a magical festive season

Carolynn Clark & Cameron Smillie, Co-founders, Live at the Hippo Pool Events Inc.

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Children and Adult classes

Message from the Artistic Director

Welcome to the 15th anniversary season 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!



When I thought about re-creating our Nutcracker, I wanted it to be 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 year we are celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the Nutcracker: A Canadian Tradition with the addition of a new section, Cottontail Rabbits, made possible with the support of Kathleen and Buck Henderson. This performance is in part made possible with the support from National Presenting Partner BMO Financial Group, The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation, The Charles H. Ivey 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!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bengt Jörgen'.

Bengt Jörgen C.M.

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–

The
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Family Foundation

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 Litlemark & Gustavo Hernandez; photo by Linda Schettle.

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, cottontail rabbits, 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. **Local Youth Participant Role*
***Touring Youth Participant Role*

ACT I

WELL- TO-DO-FAMILY

DAUGHTER	Sakura Kawamura
FATHER	Matthew Jordan
MOTHER	Lydia-Laure Germain
MAID	Akari Fujiwara

FARMING FAMILY

MOTHER	Chabi Arauz
FATHER	Adam Davidson
**CHILDREN	Lyrik Alkema, Hailey Berger, Kolton Ruyter

LUMBER JACKS Callum McGregor & Márcio Teixeira

**WOOD CHOPPING Siobhan Houston

YOUNG WOMAN Ana Zamora

**YOUNG CHILD Jackson Young/Sarah Beattie

GRANDMA Taisiya Zamula

GRANDPA Daniel Da Silva

IMMIGRATION AID Esther Zignaigo

**KLARA Julia Betini

SCHOOL TEACHER Momoka Matsui

PAINTER Leandro Prado

**SOCK BUNNY Lyrik Alkema

**RATS Daniel Da Silva, Siobhan Houston, Jackson Young, Hailey Berger

HORNED OWL Sakura Kawamura

** NUTCRACKER PRINCE Kolton Ruyter

RED FOX Lydia-Laure Germain

SKUNK Márcio Teixeira

WOLF Adam Davidson

MOOSE Esther Zignaigo

SKIPPING ROPE Ana Zamora & Taisiya Zamula

HANDLES

MOUNTIES Chabi Arauz, Esther Zignaigo, Matthew Jordan, Omar Hernández

KING BAT Callum McGregor

SNOWMAN Adam Davidson

**WHITE TAILED DEER Hailey Berger, Siobhan Houston

SNOW QUEEN & Akari Fujiwara & Adrián Ramírez Juárez

CAVALIER

SNOW FLAKES Sakura Kawamura, Esther Zignaigo, Lydia-Laure Germain, Ana Zamora, Taisiya Zamula, Callum McGregor, Márcio Teixeira, Leandro Prado

ACT II

BEAVERS	Claire Gustavson & Adam Davidson
*FROGS	Ella Dear, Dora Zong
*SQUIRRIELS	Eve Dow, Chelsea Howard, Thea Webb-Nicholls, Cherilyn Yan
*BEAR CUB	Stella Hargreaves
LORD & LADY BIRCH	Momoka Matsui & Omar Hernández
RACCOONS	Ana Zamora & Daniel Da Silva
LOONS	Akari Fujiwara & Adrián Ramírez Juárez
*YOUNG DRAGONFLIES	Monica Bian, Ainsley Morgan
DRAGONFLY	Sakura Kawamura
BEARS	Callum McGregor & Márcio Teixeira
COTTONTAIL RABBITS	Chabi Arauz, Mathew Jordan, Lydia-Alure Germain
MOTHER SPRUCE	Taisiya Zamula
*CHIPMUNKS	Cameryn Gustavson, Claire Gustavson, Madelyn Gustavson, Elizabeth Reeve
TRILLIUM FLOWER	Akari Fujiwara
FLOWERS	Ana Zamora, Sakura Kawamura, Esther Zignaigo, Lydia- Laure Germain, Márcio Teixeira, Leandro Prado, Callum McMgregor, Adrián Ramírez Juárez

Ballet Jörgen Extends Special Thanks

Kate Reid BScPT, Registered Physiotherapist, CBI Health London Dundas, 1657
Dundas St E, London ON N5W 3C6 519-457-2171 www.cbihealth.ca
All of our volunteers that made this production possible.

Nutcracker Youth Education Program Credits

Local Youth Participants: Monica Bian, Ella Dear, Eve Dow, Cameryn Gustavson, Claire Gustavson, Madelyn Gustavson, Stella Hargreaves, Chelsea Howard, Ainsley Morgan, Elizabeth Reeve, Thea Webb-Nicholls, Cherilyn Yan, Dora Zong

Understudies: *Monica Bian for Squirrel, Dora Zong for Chipmunk, Cherilyn Yan for Dragonfly*
Local Youth Participants Courtesy of: Dance Essence, Dance Extreme, Dance London, Dance Steps, Karin Hobby Dance Academy, Lester B Pearson School for the Arts, North London Dance Center

Local Rehearsal Direction: Donna Bayley & Krista Conti

Volunteer Local Rehearsal Space Courtesy of: Dance Steps

Rehearsal Directors: Clea Iveson, Valentina Polanco, Elise Tigges, Aria Lara Wilton

Rehearsal Assistants & Chaperones: Chabi Arauz, Sarah Milligan, Madelyn Wiedrick

Touring Youth Participants

Lyrik Alkema, Toronto & Orillia-*Prompt Dance Academy, Orillia Ballet Academy, In Motion*
Sarah Beattie, Collingwood-*Fleet-Wood Dance Centre*

Hailey Berger, Guelph-*Connections Dance Collective*

Julia Betini, Guelph-*Royal City School of Ballet and Jazz*

Emma Bray-Brezina, Scarborough-*Star Dance Academy*

Pearl Harp, Guelph-*Performance Dance Academy, Royal City School of Ballet and Jazz*

Siobhan Houston, Orillia-*Strength and Steps Studio-Barrie, Orillia Dance Academy*

Steven Johnson, Toronto-*Pegasus Studios*

Jessie Marshall, Guelph-*Performance Dance Academy*

Violet Reid, Lindsay-*Lindsay Dance Studio*

Kolton Ruyter, Orillia-*Tapps Performing Arts*

Jackson Young, Toronto-*George Brown Dance- Jörgen Dance Academy*

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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 Back Drop Studios, Richard

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Scenic Electronics

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Wardrobe Buyer Susan Rome

Costume Construction Industry Costumes, Brenda

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Colella, Avril Stevenson

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Artistic Director & CEO Bengt Jörgen C.M.

Ballet Master Hiroto Saito

Principal Ballet Coach Svea Eklof

Company Dancers Saniya Abilmajineva, 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

RBC Apprentices Ana Isabel Arauz~, Mathew

Jordan, Taisiia Zamula~

Mentorship Student Madelyn Wiedrick

Principal Character Artist Clea Iveson

Resident Choreographer Hanna Kiel

Resident Stage Direction Heinar Pillar

Technical Director Jacob Gagnon

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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Seasons greetings to you and your families

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