

National Presenting Partner **BMO** 

BALLETJÖRGEN

The Nutcracker

A Canadian Tradition



December 30 & 31
Flato Markham Theatre - Markham, ON

Momoka Matsui; Photo by Kamal Daid

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, The Azrieli 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.

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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, 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.

ACT I

WELL- TO-DO-FAMILY

DAUGHTER Chabi Arauz
FATHER Matthew Jordan
MOTHER Lydia-Laure Germain
MAID Akari Fujiwara

FARMING FAMILY

MOTHER Madelyn Wiedrick
FATHER Adam Davidson
**CHILDREN Pearl Harp, Violet Reid, Steven Johnson

LUMBER JACKS Márcio Teixeira (Dec. 30, 2pm), Omar Hernández (Dec. 30, 7pm & Dec. 31), Callum McGregor

**WOOD CHOPPING Siobhan Houston (Dec. 30 & Dec. 31, 11am), Jessie Marshall (Dec. 31, 3pm)

YOUNG WOMAN Ana Zamora
**YOUNG CHILD Lyrik Alkema
GRANDMA Taisiya Zamula
GRANDPA Hiroto Saito
IMMIGRATION AID Sakura Kawamura
**KLARA Julia Betini

SCHOOL TEACHER Momoka Matsui (Dec. 30, 7pm), Esther Zignaigo (Dec. 30, 2pm & Dec. 31)

PAINTER Leandro Prado (Dec. 30, 2pm & Dec. 31, 11am), Adrián Ramírez Juárez (Dec. 30, 7pm & Dec. 31, 3pm)

**SOCK BUNNY Jessie Marshall (Dec. 30, Dec. 31, 3pm), Lyrik Alkema (Dec. 31, 11am)

**RATS Daniel Da Silva, Siobhan Houston (Dec. 30), Pearl Harp (Dec. 31), Jackson Young (Dec. 30, 2pm & Dec. 31, 11am), Lyrik Alkema (Dec. 30, 7pm & Dec. 31, 3pm)

HORNED OWL Sakura Kawamura

** NUTCRACKER PRINCE Steven Johnson

RED FOX Lydia-Laure Germain

SKUNK Márcio Teixeira

WOLF Adam Davidson

MOOSE Esther Zignaigo

SKIPPING ROPE Ana Zamora & Taisiya Zamula

HANDLES

MOUNTIES Madelyn Wiedrick, Chabi Arauz, Matthew Jordan, Omar Hernández

KING BAT Callum McGregor

SNOWMAN Adam Davidson

**WHITE TAILED DEER Pearl Harp (Dec. 31), Siobhan Houston (Dec. 30), Violet Reid

SNOW QUEEN & CAVALIER

Momoka Matsui & Leandro Prado (Dec. 30, 2pm & Dec. 31, 11am), Saniya Abilmajineva & Leandro Prado (Dec. 30, 7pm), Akari Fujiwara & Adrián Ramírez Juárez (Dec. 31, 3pm)
SNOW FLAKES Sakura Kawamura, Esther Zignaigo, Lydia-Laure Germain, Ana Zamora, Taisiya Zamula, Márcio Teixeira, Callum McGregor, Omar Hernández (Dec. 30, 7pm & Dec. 31), Adrián Ramírez Juárez (Dec. 30, 2pm)

ACT II

BEAVERS

Paige Maxman & Callum McGregor (Dec. 31, 11am), Adam Davidson (Dec. 30 & Dec. 31, 3pm)

*FROGS

Chanel Cairney (Dec. 30), Athanasia Notis (Dec. 30), Lindsay Han (Dec. 31), Nyrie Saatjian (Dec. 31)

*SQUIRRELS

Kiana Alsaidi (Dec. 30), Amelie Fraenkel-Clement, Samantha Lee, Mia Luo (Dec. 31), Emily Wu

*BEAR CUB

Cadence Cheung

LORD & LADY BIRCH

Momoka Matsui & Omar Hernández (Dec. 30, 2pm), Saniya Abilmajineva & Leandro Prado (Dec. 30, 7pm), Akari Fujiwara & Adrián Ramírez Juárez (Dec. 31, 11am), Momoka Matsui & Leandro Prado (Dec. 31, 3pm)

RACCOONS

Ana Zamora & Daniel Da Silva (Dec. 30 & Dec. 31, 3pm), Momoka Matsui & Márcio Teixeira (Dec. 31, 11am)

LOONS

Akari Fujiwara & Adrián Ramírez Juárez (Dec. 30), Esther Zignaigo & Omar Hernández (Dec. 31)

*YOUNG DRAGONFLIES
DRAGONFLY

Mia Lou & Amelie Fraenkel-Clement

Sakura Kawamura (Dec. 30 & Dec. 31, 3pm), Lydia-Laure Germain (Dec. 31, 11am)

BEARS

Callum McGregor & Márcio Teixeira (Dec. 30 & Dec. 31, 3pm), Adam Davidson & Daniel Da Silva (Dec. 31, 11am)

COTTONTAIL RABBITS
MOTHER SPRUCE
*CHIPMUNKS

Chabi Arauz, Matthew Jordan, Taisiya Zamula

Madelyn Wiedrick

Kiana Alsaidi (Dec. 31), Emma Chun, Elif Eroglu, Violet De Paolis (Dec. 30), Paige Waxman

TRILLIUM FLOWER
FLOWERS

Akari Fujiwara (Dec. 30), Ana Zamora (Dec. 31)
Ana Zamora (Dec. 30), Chabi Arauz (Dec. 31), Esther Zignaigo (Dec. 30), Taisiya Zamula (Dec. 31), Sakura Kawamura, Lydia-Laure Germain, Matthew Jordan, Márcio Teixeira, Callum McGregor, Adrián Ramírez Juárez (Dec. 30, 2pm), Omar Hernández (Dec. 30, 7pm & Dec. 31)

**Local Youth Participant Role*

***Touring Youth Participant Role*

Nutcracker Youth Education Program Credits

Local Youth Participants:

GKiana Alsaïdi, Chanel Cairney, Cadence Cheung, Emma Chun, Violet De Paolis, Elif Eroglu, Amelie Fraenkel-Clement, Lindsey Hen, Samantha Lee, Mia Luo, Athanasia Notis, Nyrie Saatjian, Paige Waxman, Emily Wu

Understudies: Kiana Alsaïdi for Chipmunk, Mia Luo for Squirrel

Local Youth Participants Courtesy of:

iDance Studio, L'Arabesque Ballet, Wonderland Dance Company

Local Rehearsal Direction Adrianna Cote

Volunteer Local Rehearsal Space Courtesy of: Wonderland Dance Company

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- Jürgen Dance Academy

Local Volunteer Rehearsal Masters

North Bay-Scott Fitzgerald & Allison Kingsbury

Orillia-Andrea Marcucci

Peterborough-Bianca Hebor

Hamilton & Guelph-Brandi Matheson, Pat McLeod, Amber Dow

Brantford-Avery Keyes

Ottawa-Lisa Brooks

Brampton-Jamaica Fraser

Sault Ste. Marie-Julia Jylha & Daniella Rossi

London-Donna Bayley & Krista Conti

Kitchener-Waterloo-Viktoria Karmenyicki

Markham-Aridanna Cote

Ballet Jürgen Extends Special Thanks

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hello@trinitychirohealth.ca



The
Michael Young
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 Liliemark & Gustavo Hernandez; photo by Linda Schettle.

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

Meet Your Dancers



Saniya Abilmajineva
Tashkent City, Uzbekistan
Republic Russia
Company Member



Hannah Mae Cruddas
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Company Member
since 2012



Daniel Da Silva
São Paulo, Brazil
Company Member
since 2009



Hiroto Saito
Kobe, Japan
Company Member
since 2007



Márcio Teixeira
São Caetano, Brazil
Company Member
since 2019



Ana Zamora
Havana, Cuba
Company Member
since 2022



Adam Davidson
Zephyr, Ontario
Company Member
since 2019



Akari Fujiwara
Nagoya, Japan
Company Member
since 2017



Lydia-Laure
Germain Montréal,
Québec Company
Member since 2022



Esther Zignaigo
Lima, Perú
Company Member
since 2021



Taisiya Zamula
Moscow, Russia
RBC Apprentice



Chabi Arauz
Panama City, Panama
RBC Apprentice



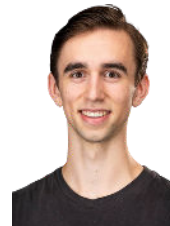
Omar Hernández
Pinar del Rio, Cuba
Company Member
since 2022



Adrián Ramírez Juárez
Mexico City, Mexico
Company Member
since 2014



Sakura Kawamura
Nagoya, Japan
Company Member
since 2022



Matthew Jordan
Adelaide, Australia
RBC Apprentice



Madelyn Wiedrick
Nelson, British Columbia
Mentorship Student



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



Momoka Matsui
Fukuoka, Japan
Company Member
since 2015



Callum McGregor
Glasgow, Scotland
Company Member
since 2019



Leandro Prado
Altamira, Pará,
Brazil Company
Member since 2016



Learn more about
your dancers!

Ballet Jörgen's
**ANNE of
GREEN GABLES**
The Ballet®



May 17&18-Markham

Hannah Mae Cruddas; photo by Cylla von Tiedemann.

Local Participant Program

The Anne of Green Gables – The Ballet® 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: 9-12 dancers ages 9-17.

Cast is assembled from local area students.

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Photo by Jason Freeze

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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

Mongiati, Elizabeth Bailey, Katherine Lilley

Set Electrics Wireless Automations & Control

Scenic Electronics

Costume Coordinator Industry Costumes

Wardrobe Buyer Susan Rome

Costume Construction Industry Costumes, Brenda

Clar, Assisted by Adrienne Baker, Geoffrey Davis,

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

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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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Academy Director Clea Iveson

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Márcio Teixeira & Valentina Polanco;
Photo by Kristie Jones.



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The Creation of Cottontail Rabbits for the The Nutcracker: A Canadian Tradition 15th Anniversary is Made Possible by Buchanan and Kathleen Henderson.

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