

## Message from the Artistic Director

Welcome to 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. Last season we celebrated 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 support from National Presenting Partner BMO Financial Group, with touring support from the Ontario Arts Council. Additional support is provided by The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation, The Charles H. Ivey Foundation, The Azrieli Foundation and Ballet Jörgen donors. The Apprentice Program is made possible by RBC Foundation.

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

For 37 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

JÖRGENDANCE BALLETJÖRGEN JÖRGENCOMMUNITY DANCE

# **@JorgenDance**



# **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.



Adrián Ramírez Juárez & Akari Fujiwara; Photo by Zach Nash

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-

#### 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!

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### The Cast

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

ACT I

WELL- TO-DO-FAMILY

DAUGHTER Chabi Arauz

**FATHER** Adrián Ramírez Juárez MOTHER Anna Turkington MAID Lydia-Laure Germain

**FARMING FAMILY** 

**MOTHER** Rose Juliette (2pm & 5pm), Lily Villenueve (11am & 3pm)

FATHER Adam Davidson

\*\*CHILDREN Lyrik Alkema (11am & 3pm), Nolan Baik (2pm, 7pm, 11am),

Gwendolyn Gilmer, Lucia Kwiatkowski (2pm & 7pm), Kolton

Ruyter (3pm)

**LUMBER JACKS** Callum McGregor, Ryusei Nagafuchi (2pm, 7pm, 11am),

Omar Hernández (3pm)

\*\*WOOD CHOPPING CHILD Pearl Harp (2pm & 7pm), Zoë Kindrachuk (11am & 3pm)

YOUNG WOMAN Mandi Bryce \*\*YOUNG CHILD Hailey Berger **GRANDMA** Taisiya Zamula **GRANDPA** Daniel Da Silva

**IMMIGRATION AID** Lily Villenueve (2pm & 5pm), Rose Juliette (11am & 3pm)

\*\*KLARA Emma Bray-Brezina (2pm & 11am),

Chloe Chow (7pm & 3pm)

SCHOOL TEACHER Esther Zignaigo **PAINTER** Leandro Prado

\*\*SOCK BUNNY Lyrik Alkema (2pm, 11am & 3pm), Pearl Harp (7pm) \*\*RATS

Daniel Da Silva, Hailey Berger, Lucia Kwiatkowski (2pm &

7pm), Zoë Kindrachuk (11am & 3pm)

HORNED OWL Mandi Bryce

\*\* NUTCRACKER PRINCE Nolan Baik (2pm, 7pm, 11am), Kolton Ruyter (3pm)

**RED FOX** Rose Juliette **SKUNK** Daniel Da Silva WOLF Adam Davidson **MOOSE** Esther Zignaigo

SKIPPING ROPE HANDLES Anna Turkington & Taisiya Zamula

Chabi Arauz, Ryusei Nagafuchi, Leandro Prado, Lily Villenueve **MOUNTIES** 

KING BAT Callum McGregor SNOWMAN Adam Davidson

\*\*WHITE TAILED DEER Lucia Kwiatkowski (2pm & 7pm), Hailey Berger (11am &

3pm), Gwendolyn Gilmer

SNOW QUEEN & CAVALIER Risa Takeshima & Omar Hernández (2pm & 11am), Akari

Fujiawara & Adrián Ramírez Juárez (7pm & 3pm)

**SNOWFLAKES** Mandi Bryce, Lydia-Laure Germain, Anna Turkington, Taisiya

> Zamula, Chabi Arauz (11am & 3pm), Esther Zignaigo (2pm & 7pm), Ryusei Nagafuchi, Callum McGregor, Daniel Da Silva (11am), Omar Hernández (7pm & 3pm), Adrián Ramírez Juárez

ACT II

\*BEAVERS Marissa Lindsay (11am & 3pm), Jessie Marshall (2pm & 7pm),

Adam Davidson

\*FROGS Avery Hayward & Zoé Lin

Charlotte Balsas, Juna Cho, Emma Chun, Claire Poon \*SQUIRRELS \*BEAR CUB Verity Smith (2pm & 7pm), Nyrie Saatjian (11am & 3pm) LORD & LADY BIRCH Sakura Kawamura & Omar Hernández (2pm & 11am), Akari Fujiawara & Adrián Ramírez Juárez (7pm & 3pm) Chabi Arauz (2pm & 7pm), Mandi Bryce (11am), Sakura Kawamura (3pm), **RACCOONS** 

Daniel Da Silva (2pm, 7pm, 11am/Ryusei Nagafuchi), Callum McGregor (3pm) LOONS Akari Fujiawara & Adrián Ramírez Juárez (2pm & 11am), Esther Zignaigo &

Omar Hernández (7pm & 3pm)

\*YOUNG DRAGONFLIES Lyrik Alkema, Charlotte Balsas (7pm), Juna Cho (2pm, 11am & 3pm), Emma Chun (7pm), Pearl Harp (7pm), Elif Naz Eroglu (2pm, 11am & 3pm)

DRAGONFLY Lydia-Laure Germain (2pm), Chabi Arauz (11am), Risa Takeshima (7pm & 3pm) **BEARS** Callum McGregor (2pm & 7pm), Ryusei Nagafuchi (2pm, 7pm, 11am/Daniel Da

Silva), Adam Davidson (11am & 3pm), Daniel Da Silva (3pm) COTTONTAIL RABBITS Lydia-Laure Germain (7pm & 3pm), Rose Juliette (11am), Anna Turkington

(2pm, 7pm, 3pm), Lily Villenueve (2pm), Taisiya Zamula (7pm, 11am, 3pm), Esther Zignaigo 2pm & 11am) MOTHER SPRUCE Rose Juliette (2pm & 7pm), Lily Villenuve (11am & 3pm) Alicia Cayley (2pm & 7pm), Avery Hayward (11am & 3pm), Locklyn \*\*CHIPMUNKS

Heisterkamp (2pm & 7pm), Annika Jörgen Iveson (11am & 3pm), Zoé Lin (2pm & 7pm), Marissa Lindsay (11am & 3pm), Estelle Mak (11am & 3pm), Athanasia Notis (2pm & 7pm)

Risa Takeshima (2pm, 7pm, 11am), Sakura Kawamura (3pm) TRILLIUM FLOWER **FLOWERS** Chabi Arauz, Mandi Bryce, Lydia-Laure Germain (2pm & 7pm), Anna Turkington (11am & 3pm), Taisiya Zamula (2pm & 7pm), Esther Zignaigo (11am

& 3pm), Daniel Da Silva, Callum McGregor, Ryusei Nagafuchi (2pm, 7pm,

11am/Adam Davidson), Omar Hernández (7pm & 3pm), Adrián Ramírez Juárez (2pm & 11am)

\*Local Youth Participant Role \*\*Touring Youth Participant Role @gb\_dance 💆





School of Media & JÖRGENDANCE **Performing Arts** 

# **GEORGE BROWN DANCE**

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Register to Audition!



Jörgen Dance offers four specialized Summer Intensive programs to dancers of various levels and ages, beginning at age 9, and a Junior Company program for pre-professional dancers, ages 18 and up.

# Nutcracker Youth Community Program Credits

**Local Youth Participants:** Charlotte Balsas, Alicia Cayley, Juna Cho, Emma Chun, Elif Naz Eroglu, Avery Hayward, Locklyn Heisterkamp, Annika Jörgen Iveson, Zoé Lin, Marissa Lindsay, Estelle (Yan Huen) Mak, Athanasia Notis, Claire Poon, Nyrie Saatjian, Verity Smith

Understudies: Estelle Mak for Squirrel, Nyrie Saatjian for Frog

**Local Youth Participants Courtesy of:** Canada's National Ballet School, L'Arabesque Ballet/Wonderland Dance Company, The Bradford School of Dance, Stouffville Academy

Local Volunteer Rehearsal Direction: Zoë Kindrachuk & Ryleigh Poelman Local Rehearsal Space Courtesy of: L'Arabesque Ballet & Wonderland Dance Co.

### Jörgen Dance Rehearsal Directors:

Clea Iveson, Valentina Polanco, Elise Tigges, Aria Lara Wilton

Extra special thanks to Caden Drewett for Audition & Rehearsal Assistance.

### Jörgen Dance Rehearsal Assistants & Chaperones:

Rose Juliette, Lily Villeneuve, Taisiya Zamula

### **Touring Youth Participants:**

Lyrik Alkema, Toronto & Orillia - Orillia Ballet Academy, Move With AW Dance, Rebels, In Motion

Nolan Baik, Markham - L'Arabesque Ballet

Sarah Beattie, Collingwood – The DanceRoom Inc.

Hailey Berger, Guelph - Connections Dance Collective

Emma Bray-Brezina, Toronto - George Brown Dance - Jörgen Dance Academy

Chloe Chow, Thornhill - Academy of Ballet & Jazz

Gwendolyn Gilmer, Caledon - Regional Arts Program, Mayfield Secondary School

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

Zoë Kindrachuk, Toronto - George Brown Dance - Jörgen Dance Academy

Lucia Kwiatkowski, Guelph - Royal City School of Ballet and Jazz

Jessie Marshall, Guelph - Performance Dance Academy

Kolton Ruyter, Orillia - Tapps Performing Arts

Understudy: Isabella Michalos, Guelph - Guelph Academy of Dance

#### Local Volunteer Rehearsal Directors: WE THANK YOU!

Brantford - Jennifer Dowler & Emma Peixoto - C.O.R.E Dance Project

Huntsville - Jennifer Johns-Main with Kai Smith - JJ Dance Performing Arts Studio

Regina - Monica Ventura with Payton McPherson - Class Act Studios

Saskatoon – Teal Hoenecke – VIBEyxe

Keswick - Juliette Macmillan with Kendra Beelik - CORE School of Dance

Hamilton - Miss Sam Watson & Mrs. Faith Proner - Smithville/Grimsby Dance Academy

Peterborough - Bianca Hebor with Tiffany Caron - 7 Attitudes School of the Arts

Ottawa - Lisa Brooks - Brocadie Dance

Brampton - Jamaica Fraser - Dynasty Dance Co.

Guelph - Brandi Matheson & Amber Dow - Royal City School of Ballet and Jazz

London - Karin Hobby with Monica Bian & Sherri Yang - Karin Hobby Dance Academy

Kitchener-Waterloo - Viktoria Kamenyiczki - Carousel Dance Centre

Markham - Zoë Kindrachuk & Ryleigh Poelman - L'Arabesque Ballet & Wonderland Dance Co.

Ballet Jörgen Extends Special Thanks



Dr Rosyln Eng, HonsBScKin, DC, Chiropractor, Leaps and Bounds: Performance Rehabilitation #3 2015 Kingsridge Dr. Oakville ON L6M 4Y7 905-847-5227

www.leapsboundsrehab.ca

All of our volunteers that made this production possible.

## Meet Your Dancers



Chabi Arauz Panama City, Panama Company Member since 2024



Daniel Da Silva São Paulo, Brazil Company Member since 2009



Adam Davidson Zephyr, Ontario Company Member since 2019



Ilia Dogudovskii Moscow, Russia Company Member since 2024



Akari Fujiwara r Aichi, Japan Company Member since 2017 Sponsored by Mary and Graham Hallward.



Lydia-Laure Germain Montréal, Québec Company Member since 2022 Sponsored by Marie-Elle Carrothers.



Omar Hernández Pinar del Rio, Cuba Company Member since 2022



Matthew Jordan Adelaide, Australia Company Member since 2024



Adrián Ramírez Juárez Mexico City, Mexico Company Member since 2014



Sakura Kawamura Nagoya, Japan Company Member since 2022



Callum McGregor Glasgow, Scotland Company Member since 2019 Sponsored by Mary and Graham Hallward.



Leandro Prado Altamira, Pará, Brazil Company Member since 2016 Sponsored by Kevin Goldthorp.



Risa Takeshima Nagoya, Japan Company Member since 2024 Sponsored by Hitoshi Ohtsuji.



Taisiya Zamula Moscow, Russia Company Member since 2023



Esther Zignaigo Lima, Perú Company Member since 2021



Mandi Bryce Maple Ridge, British Columbia RBC Apprentice



Camilla Hood Brandon, Manitoba RBC Apprentice



Ryusei Nagafuchi Aichi, Japan RBC Apprentice



Anna Turkington Katrine, Ontario RBC Apprentice



Rose Juliette Montréal, Québec Mentorship Student



Lily Villeneuve Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario Mentorship Student

Learn More About
Our Dancers



## **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 Mongiat,

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 Adriennce 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

# BALLETJÖRGEN

Co-Founders Susan Bodie & Bengt Jörgen C.M.

Artistic Director & CEO Bengt Jörgen C.M.

Artistic Lead & Rehearsal Director Daniel Da Silva

Principal Ballet Coach Svea Eklof

Company Dancers Chabi Arauz~`, Daniel Da Silva,

Adam Davidson~`, Ilia Dogudovskii, Akari Fujiwara`,

Lydia-Laure Germain~`, Omar Hernández, Matthew

Jordan', Adrián Ramírez Juárez', Sakura Kawamura',

Callum McGregor', Leandro Prado, Risa Takeshima.

Taisiya Zamula'~, Esther Zignaigo

RBC Apprentices Mandi Bryce, Camilla Hood, Ryusei Paul Harricks, Helen Matteer, Kathy

Nagafuchi, Anna Turkington

Mentorship Students Rose Juliette, Lily Villeneuve

Principal Character Artist Clea Iveson

Resident Choreographer Hanna Kiel

Resident Stage Direction Heinar Pillar

Technical Director Jacob Gagnon

Wardrobe Supervisor Márcio Teixeira

Stage Manager Amanda Caliolo & Carlos Torres

Artistic Working Group Daniel Da Silva, Lydia-Laure

Germain~`, Esther Zignaigo

'Past RBC Foundation Apprentice Dancer

~George Brown Dance Graduate

# JÖRGENDANCE

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Clea Iveson

### **Director of Touring**

Cameron Smillie

### George Brown Dance Program Manager

Derek Sangster

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Aleksandra Maslennikova

### Marketing Manager

Casey Spector

### **Dance Program Coordinator**

Kia Kotsanis

### **Education Coordinator**

Mackenzie Grantham

### **Resident Lighting Designer &**

**Production Manager** 

Madhu Seran

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Hannah Mae Cruddas

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Irene Lockrey & Pamala Stickney

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Anna Rivas

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

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