

National Presenting Partner **BMO** 

BALLETJÖRGEN

The Nutcracker

A Canadian Tradition



SHOWPLACE
PERFORMANCE CENTRE

December 11, 2024

Showplace Performance Centre – Peterborough, ON



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
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Ontario 

Momoka Matsui; Photo by Zach Nash

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!

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

Bengt Jörgen C.M.

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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.

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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	Lily Villeneuve
FATHER	Omar Hernández
**CHILDREN	Lyrik Alkema, Gwendolyn Gilmer, Adam Davidson

LUMBER JACKS

Callum McGregor & Ryusei Nagafuchi

**WOOD CHOPPING CHILD

Zoë Kindrachuk

YOUNG WOMAN

Mandi Bryce

**YOUNG CHILD

Hailey Berger

GRANDMA

Taisiya Zamula

GRANDPA

Daniel Da Silva

IMMIGRATION AID

Akari Fujiwara

**KLARA

Chloe Chow

SCHOOL TEACHER

Esther Zignaigo

PAINTER

Leandro Prado

**SOCK BUNNY

Pearl Harp

**RATS

Daniel Da Silva, Hailey Berger, Zoë Kindrachuk

HORNED OWL

Mandi Bryce

** NUTCRAKER PRINCE

Leandro Prado

RED FOX

Lydia-Laure Germain

SKUNK

Daniel Da Silva

WOLF

Adam Davidson

MOOSE

Esther Zignaigo

SKIPPING ROPE HANDLES

Anna Turkington & Taisiya Zamula

MOUNTIES

Chabi Arauz, Adrián Ramírez Juárez, Ryusei Nagafuchi,
Lily Villeneuve

KING BAT

Callum McGregor

SNOWMAN

Adam Davidson

**WHITE TAILED DEER

Hailey Berger & Gwendolyn Gilmer

SNOW QUEEN & CAVALIER

Risa Takeshima & Omar Hernández

SNOWFLAKES

Chabi Arauz, Mandi Bryce, Lydia-Laure Germain,
Anna Turkington, Taisiya Zamula, Adrián Ramírez
Juárez, Callum McGregor, Ryusei Nagafuchi

ACT II

*BEAVERS	Gwendolyn Gilmer & Adam Davidson
*FROGS	Nora Abramczyk & Gemma Demers
*SQUIRRELS	Vivian Kempt, Paisley Reid, Sloane White
*BEAR CUB	Brooklyn Lenneville
LORD & LADY BIRCH	Sakura Kawamura & Omar Hernández
RACCOONS	Chabi Arauz & Daniel Da Silva
LOONS	Akari Fujiwara & Adrián Ramírez Juárez
*YOUNG DRAGONFLIES	Lyrik Alkema & Hailey Berger
DRAGONFLY	Lydia-Laure Germain
BEARS	Adam Davidson & Ryusei Nagafuchi
COTTONTAIL RABBITS	Anna Turkington, Taisiya Zamula, Esther Zignaigo/Callum McGregor
MOTHER SPRUCE	Lily Villeneuve
**CHIPMUNKS	Nora Abramczyk, Gemma Demers, Brooklyn Lenneville
*BEAR CUB	Zoë Kindrachuk
TRILLIUM FLOWER	Akari Fujiwara
FLOWERS	Chabi Arauz, Risa Takeshima, Anna Turkington, Esther Zignaigo, Daniel Da Silva, Adrián Ramírez Juárez, Callum McGregor, Ryusei Nagafuchi

*Local Youth Participant Role
**Touring Youth Participant Role

@gb_dance



George Brown Dance



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SUMMER DANCE ACADEMY

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:

Nora Abramczyk, Gemma Demers Vivian Kempt, Brooklyn Lenneville, Paisley Reid, Sloane White

Local Youth Participants Courtesy of:

7 Attitudes School of Arts, Next Generation Dance Company, Premiere Studio of Dance

Local Volunteer Rehearsal Direction: Bianca Hebor with Tiffany Caron

Local Rehearsal Space Courtesy of: 7 Attitudes School of Arts

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 - *VIBExe*

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

Mike Newbigging PT, BSc., MPT, FCAMPT
Physiotherapist

Trent Health in Motion, Trent Athletic Centre, 1600 West Bank Drive,
Peterborough

Tel.: (705)-741-4758

www.newbiggingphysio.com

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
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 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

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 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 Aquino

Artistic Working Group Daniel Da Silva, Lydia-Laure Germain~, Esther Zignaigo

~Past RBC Foundation Apprentice Dancer

~George Brown Dance Graduate

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Academy Director

Clea Iveson

Director of Touring

Cameron Smillie

George Brown Dance Program Manager

Derek Sangster

Business Operations Manager

Aleksandra Maslennikova

Marketing Manager

Casey Spector

Dance Program Coordinator

Kia Kotsanis

Education Coordinator

Mackenzie Grantham

Resident Lighting Designer &

Production Manager

Madhu Seran

Virtual Dance Studio Host & Community Liason

Hannah Mae Cruddas

Bookkeepers

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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