

National Presenting Partner



B^{🇨🇦} LLETJÖRGEN

The Nutcracker

A Canadian Tradition



December 21, 2025
Centennial Hall – London



KARIN HOBBY DANCE ACADEMY

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Thank you

Local Youth Rehearsal Directors Karin Hobby Dance Academy

KHDANCE

Studio Space for Company Class Dance Essence

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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. 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 six different dance schools in London and area. We thank the teachers at these schools for sharing their beautifully trained students with us. Tremendous gratitude goes to Karin Hobby, assisted by Monica Bian and Ainsley Morgan at Karin Hobby Dance Academy, who have so capably led the regular rehearsals for our 2025 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 experienced assistance with the local youth cast during our time in the theatre. Company class is a daily necessity for professional dancers and this was made possible here in London by the welcoming hospitality of Dance Essence. Our program advertisers contribute to the success of this event and we extend thanks for your contribution. A special note of gratitude to Highstreet Asset Management for their contribution to Share the Magic - our campaign that, in partnership with Children's Aid Society of London & Middlesex, provides Nutcracker tickets to children, youth and families who might otherwise not be able to participate in the Nutcracker magic. But most importantly, we thank you, the audience. Your support is the foundation that makes this performance possible.



Best wishes for a festive holiday season,
Carolynn Clark and Cameron Smillie, Co-founders,
Live at the Hippo Pool Events Inc.

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.



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).

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	Matthew Jordan
MOTHER	Anna Turkington
MAID	Lydia-Laure Germain

FARMING FAMILY

MOTHER	Jennifer Ramirez
FATHER	Adam Davidson
**CHILDREN	Thomas Leigh, Lyrik Alkema, Gabi Calhoun-Wearn

LUMBER JACKS

Ryusei Nagafuchi, Eugene Pang

**WOOD CHOPPING CHILD

Evelyn Lorrison

YOUNG WOMAN

Natalie Dixon

**YOUNG CHILD

Rooney Dadamo

GRANDMA

Taisiya Zamula

GRANDPA

Daniel Da Silva

IMMIGRATION AID

Mandi Bryce

**KLARA

Eliza Domzella

SCHOOL TEACHER

Esther Zignaigo

PAINTER

Adrián Ramirez Juárez

**SOCK BUNNY

Lyrik Alkema

**RATS

Evelyn Lorrison, Rooney Dadamo

HORNED OWL

Mandi Bryce

** NUTCRACKER PRINCE

Thomas Leigh

RED FOX

Natalie Dixon

SKUNK

Eugene Pang

WOLF

Adam Davidson

MOOSE

MPP Terence Kernaghan

SKIPPING ROPE HANDLES

Anna Turkington, Taisiya Zamula

MOUNTIES

Matthew Jordan, Ryusei Nagafuchi, Jennifer Ramirez,
Esther Zignaigo

KING BAT

Ilia Dogudovskii

SNOWMAN

Adam Davidson

**WHITE TAILED DEER

Rooney Dadamo, Gabi Calhoun-Wearn

SNOW QUEEN & CAVALIER

Risa Takeshima & Omar Hernández

SNOWFLAKES

Chabi Arauz, Mandi Bryce, Ilia Dogudovskii, Lydia-Laure
Germain, Matthew Jordan, Eugene Pang, Anna
Turkington, Taisiya Zamula

ACT II

*BEAVERS

*FROGS

*SQUIRRELS

*BEAR CUB

LORD & LADY BIRCH

RACCOONS

LOONS

*YOUNG DRAGONFLIES

DRAGONFLY

BEARS

COTTONTAIL RABBITS

MOTHER SPRUCE

**CHIPMUNKS

TRILLIUM FLOWER

FLOWERS

*Lilijana Blatnicky & Adam Davidson

Emersyn Amendt & Kennedy Wiebe

Sylvia Frisa, Delaney Grover, Makayla Howard, Addison McKnight

Aria Dear

Akari Fujiwara & Adrián Ramírez Juárez

Mandi Bryce & Daniel Da Silva

Esther Zignaigo & Matthew Jordan

Chelsea Howard, Caeley McClinchey

Anna Turkington

Adam Davidson & Eugene Pang

Lydia-Laure Germain, Natalie Dixon, Taisiya Zamula

Zoë Kindrachuk

Robyn Azarcon, Lilijana Blatnicky, Iris Frisa, Maya Lenarcik

Risa Takeshima

Chabi Arauz, Mandi Bryce, Ilia Dogudovskii, Lydia-Laure Germain

Matthew Jordan, Ryusei Nagafuchi, Eugene Pang, Taisiya Zamula

*Local Youth Participant Role

**Touring Youth Participant Role



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George Brown Dance



Nutcracker Youth Community Program Credits

Local Youth Participants:

Robyn Azarcon, Isla Blair, Lilijana Blatnicky, Aria Dear, Iris Frisa, Sylvia Frisa, Delaney Grover, Chelsea Howard, Makayla Howard, Maya Lenarcik, Caeley McClinchey, Addison McKnight, Kiara Luna Vilovski

Understudies: Robyn Azarcon – Frog, Delaney Grover – Dragonfly, Caeley McClinchey – Squirrel, Kiara Luna Vilovski – Chipmunk

Local Youth Participants Courtesy of: London: Swan Studio Dance, Belle Pointe Dance & Movement Company, Dance Essence, Dance London, Karin Hobby Dance Academy; Strathroy: Needham School of Dance

Local Volunteer Rehearsal Direction: Karin Hobby, Monica Bian and Ainsley Morgan

Local Rehearsal Space Courtesy of: Karin Hobby Dance Academy - London

Jörgen Dance Rehearsal Directors:

Clea Iveson, Zoë Kindrachuk, Valentina Polanco, Elise Tigges, Lily Villeneuve, Aria Lara Wilton

Jörgen Dance Rehearsal Assistants & Chaperones:

Chabi Arauz, Zoë Kindrachuk, Jennifer Ramirez

Touring Youth Participants:

Lyrik Alkema, Toronto & Orillia – *Orillia Ballet Academy, Move with AW The Studio, Rebels, In Motion*

Gabi Calhoun-Wearn, Mississauga-Sabucco's Dance Company & International Dance Academy

Rooney Dadamo, Toronto – *Charb Arts Studios*

Madelyn Domenichetti, Burlington – *Move with AW The Studio*

Eliza Domzella, Elmira – *Carousel Dance Centre*

Aurelia Hoondert, Guelph – *Impact Dance Complex*

Mia Kucanin, Toronto – *National Ballet School*

Sarah Lai, Markham – *Harriet Chung Performing Arts*

Thomas Leigh, Waterloo – *Davenport Dance Project*

Evelyn Lorrison, Toronto – *Charb Arts Studios*

Bodhi McBurney, Nelson & Toronto – *George Brown Dance/Jörgen Dance Academy, Front Street Dance*

Maeve Towndrow, Toronto – *National Ballet School*

Understudy: Arlo Dadamo, Toronto – *Charb Arts Studios*

Local Volunteer Rehearsal Directors: WE THANK YOU!

Brampton - Jamaica Fraser – *Innovative Artists Dance Collective*

Brantford - Jennifer Dowler - *CORE Dance Project*

Burlington – Caden Drewett - *Jörgen Dance Academy*

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

Hamilton - Miss Sam Watson – *Smithville Dance Academy*

Kingston - Jasmin Lazo – *5678 Dance Studio*

Kitchener-Waterloo - Georgia Hollingsworth – *Carousel Dance Centre*

London - Karin Hobby, Monica Bian & Ainsley Morgan – *Karin Hobby Dance Academy*

Markham – Sofia Polti & Tia Marinakis – *George Brown Dance, Jörgen Dance Academy, L'Arabesque Ballet & Wonderland Dance Co.*

North Bay – Georgia Waye – *BTS Dance Corp & North Bay YMCA*

Ottawa - Lisa Brooks – *Brocadie Dance*

Ballet Jörgen Extends Special Thanks



Corey Kim MPT, PT, Cert MDT

All of our volunteers that made this production possible.

Meet Your Dancers



Chabli Arauz
Panama, Panama
Company Member
since 2024



Mandi Bryce
Maple Ridge, British Columbia
Company Member since 2025



Daniel Da Silva
São Paulo, Brazil
Company Member
since 2009



Adrián Ramírez Juárez
Mexico City, Mexico
Company Member since 2014



Adam Davidson
Zephyr, Ontario
Company Member
since 2019



Ilia Dogudovskii
Moscow, Russia
Company Member
since 2025



Akari Fujiwara
Aichi, Japan
Company Member
since 2017



Callum McGregor
Glasgow, Scotland
Company Member
since 2019

Sponsored by Mary & Graham Hallward



Lydia-Laure Germain
Montreal, Quebec
Company Member
since 2021



Omar Hernández
Pinar del Río, Cuba
Company Member
since 2022



Matthew Jordan
Adelaide, Australia
Company Member
since 2024



Ryusei Nagafuchi
Aichi, Japan
Company Member
since 2025

Sponsored by Mary & Graham Hallward



Eugene Pang
Hong Kong, China
Company Member
since 2025



Risa Takeshima
Nagoya, Japan
Company Member
since 2024



Anna Turkington
Katrine, Ontario
Company Member
since 2025



Zoë Kindrachuk
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Mentee

Sponsored by Hitoshi Ohtsuji



Taisiya Zamula
Moscow, Russia
Company Member
since 2023



Esther Zigaño
Lima, Peru
Company Member
since 2021



Natalie Dixon
Calgary, Alberta
RBC Apprentice



Jennifer Ramirez
Caracas, Venezuela
Mentee

Production Credits

Choreography 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

BALLET JÖRGEN

Co-Founders Susan Bodie & Bengt Jörgen C.M.
Artistic Director & CEO Bengt Jörgen C.M.
Artistic Lead & Rehearsal Director Daniel Da Silva
Company Dancers Chabi Araúz~, Mandi Bryce, Daniel Da Silva, Adam Davidson~, Ilia Dogudovskii, Akari Fujiwara~, Lydia-Laure Germain~, Omar Hernández, Matthew Jordan~, Adrián Ramírez Juárez~, Callum McGregor~, Ryusei Nagafuchi~, Eugene Pang, Risa Takeshima, Anna Turkington~, Taisiya Zamula~, Esther Zignaigo
RBC Apprentices Emma Courish, Natalie Dixon, Camilla Hood, Rose Juliette~, Lily Villeneuve~
Mentorship Students Zoë Kindrachuk, Jennifer Ramirez
Principal Character Artist Clea Iveson
Resident Choreographer Hanna Kiel
Resident Stage Direction Heinar Pillar
Production & Stage Manager Amanda Caliollo
Technical Coordinator Erwin Lau
Technical Crew Jacob Gagnon
Wardrobe Supervisor Márcio Teixeira (*Sponsored by Mary & Graham Hallward*)
Artistic Working Group Daniel Da Silva, Lydia-Laure Germain~, Matthew Jordan~, Esther Zignaigo
~Past RBC Foundation Apprentice Dancer
~George Brown Dance Graduate

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