



Kodiak Arts Council's *The Nutcracker*

2019

Cast Handbook

Every three years, Kodiak Arts Council presents *The Nutcracker* as part of its Performing Arts Series. *The Nutcracker* is an exciting and rewarding time for our dancers and their families, and is the major community production for the Arts Council this year. Participation in this full-length production requires hard work, commitment, and dedication to make it a positive and successful experience.

If you have questions after reviewing this handbook, please contact us. There are inevitably questions we didn't answer, or details we have missed (or gotten wrong!) You can call the office (907) 654-5722, email dance@nextstepdancekodiak.com, or stop by the studio.

We are here to help!

This year's performances will be held: **Friday, December 6 @ 7 pm**
Saturday, December 7 @ 2 pm & 7 pm
Sunday, December 8 @ 2 pm

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IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

For **GENERAL INFORMATION** (class/rehearsal absences, schedule questions), please contact our front desk, dance@nextstepdancekodiak.com or (907) 654-5722

Kodiak Arts Council Office: 486-5291 Katie Oliver or Trisha Bartel

Every three years for more than 30 years, Kodiak Arts Council presents *The Nutcracker* as part of the Performing Arts Series. *The Nutcracker* is a Kodiak tradition, and many of our dance families have been involved for 15 years or more! It is also an important fundraising production for the Arts Council this year. Next Step Dance Kodiak is following in the tradition of previous dance schools in Kodiak in supporting the Arts Council through participation, choreography, staff time, and of course, training our beautiful and strong dancers. Most NSDK staff time, including weekend rehearsals and choreography, is generously volunteered in order to support a vibrant, thriving Arts Council, dance in our community, and importantly, to provide an exciting performance opportunity for our students. Likewise, backstage and tech crew are all volunteering their time and talents. Because *The Nutcracker* is an Arts Council production, some questions will be directed to Arts Council staff, while other questions we will be able to answer within the dance studio. Participation in this production requires hard work, commitment, and dedication to make it a positive and successful experience, and is also a way to give back to your community. If you would like to further support the Kodiak Arts Council, consider becoming a member (membership info available online and at Auditorium rehearsals) or volunteer to assist in one of their many productions.

The Nutcracker is a wonderful tradition performed around the world each year, and we look forward to being able to provide this holiday gift to our community, together with our amazing dancers, and hope the timeless music and choreography sweeps you into a joyous holiday season!

The Nutcracker Performance order

ACT I

PARTY SCENE

Clara, Fritz, Maids & Butler, Herr Stahlbaum, Frau Stahlbaum, Party Parents, Party Children, Harlequin Doll, Ballerina Doll, Gingerbread Dolls, Jack in the Box Doll, Nutcracker Doll, Herr Drosselmeyer

BATTLE SCENE

Clara, Baby Mice, Big Mice, Soldiers, Mouse King, Harlequin Doll, Ballerina Doll, Nutcracker Prince

SNOW SCENE

Clara, Nutcracker Prince, Baby Snow, Snow Queen, Snowflake Corps, Cossack dancers

ACT II

ACT II Kingdom of the Sweets Order (subject to change)

Christmas Angels

Clara

Presentation of Clara to Sugar Plum and the Kingdom

Story Telling (some characters will be present from each divertissement group)

Pastry Chefs (and bring cakes)

DIVERTISSEMENTS Order (subject to change)

1. Spanish Hot Chocolate (Ballet 4)
2. Marzipan (featured part)
3. Russian Candy Canes (Beginning Ballet 2)
4. Arabian Coffee (featured part)
5. Chinese Tea (Ballet 3)
6. Russian Tea Cakes (featured part)
7. BonBons (Ballet 2)
8. Mother Ginger and Polichinelles (featured part)
9. Grand Pas de Deux – Sugar Plum Fairy and Nutcracker Prince (featured part)
10. Waltz of the Flowers – Dew Drop Fairy and Flowers (Ballet 5 & 6)
11. FINALE : Clara, Sugar Plum Fairy, Nutcracker Prince, Selected Dancers from: Spanish Hot Chocolate, Arabian Coffee (Quick change), Chinese Tea, Russian tea Cakes (Quick change), Marzipan (Quick change), Polichinelles, Dew Drop and selected flowers

MULTIPLE CASTS EXPLAINED

For many roles, we have two or more casts of dancers so that we can maximize performance opportunities, and not overwork dancers. The order of cast has no intrinsic meaning. For example, “first cast” does not have more talent than “second cast”. Dancers must perform in their assigned cast for all performances. Roles with multiple casts will receive their performance assignments later in the rehearsal process. See next section for information about understudies.

Monday Beginning Ballet 1 - Green cast (Saturday night and Sunday matinee)

Thursday Beginning Ballet 1 - Red cast (Friday night and Saturday matinee)

Tuesday Beginning Ballet 2 - Green cast (Saturday night and Sunday matinee)

Friday Beginning Ballet 2 - Red cast (Friday night and Saturday matinee)

For Red Cast/Green Cast information for Baby Snow and Baby Mice, please see listings at the end of this packet

Understudies should attend all rehearsals for the roles for which they are responsible.

Understudies are listed in italics on the casting sheet. While understudies will not perform that role (unless need arises; ex. Illness or injury), they are expected to learn by watching and practicing with the other dancers, or on the side of the studio. When multiple understudies have learned a role, and a substitute is needed for performance, the Artistic Director will decide which dancer will perform.

REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE

Kodiak Arts Council and NSDK asks all performers to make *The Nutcracker* their top priority. Rehearsals are essential and attendance at all rehearsals is expected. Everyone is working hard to prepare for a successful and rewarding *Nutcracker* experience, and we depend on each dancer to be present at all rehearsals in order to make this possible. We are learning choreography in classes and rehearsals in October, and need to have them finished and ready for staging in November. If you participate in other activities such as sports or music programs, please plan accordingly so that you do not miss rehearsals. Dancer availability may impact casting; and if stated availability changes after casting decisions have been made, changes may also be made to casting, at the Artistic Director’s discretion.

- Class Absences: Students are learning choreography in class, so it is vital that your student attend all their classes. Following NSDK’s policies, if your child has a fever or is contagious, please keep them home. If they are not feeling well but are not contagious, or are injured, please send them to class so they can observe and learn choreography.
- Rehearsal Absences will generally NOT be allowed for: private music recitals, sports events, birthday parties (especially those you have control over scheduling) and other social gatherings, tickets to entertainment events, excursions, etc.

- Absences will be allowed for: illness, family emergency, major family events, required school functions or other unavoidable circumstances. If you must miss rehearsal due to illness or unforeseen emergency, please notify us at Dance@nextstepdancekodiak.com or leave a message at the NSDK office phone: 907.654.5722 PRIOR to the start of rehearsal. Without prior notification of illness to the NSDK office, the dancer's absence will be considered as unexcused.
- Unexcused Absences: be advised of the following policy: At the discretion of the Artistic Director, **TWO** unexcused absences may result in the dancer's role(s) being recast; and/or the dancer being removed from the production altogether.
- Be on time for rehearsal. We cannot have successful rehearsals until all dancers are in the studio and ready. Tardiness affects everyone's ability to succeed in their performance.

REHEARSAL REMINDERS AND SCHEDULE

Rehearsals take place on Saturdays and/or Sundays, and during regular class time, when practical. The rehearsal schedule is posted on the bulletin board in our studio lobby, on our facebook page, and copies are available upon request from the NSDK office. Schedules will be emailed to all cast members. Please look for these emails. Be sure to check your junk mail and spam folders so as to not miss important information, and accept the NSDK email address as a "safe sender".

Rehearsal cancellations due to inclement weather will be announced on our website, emailed, and posted on our Facebook and Instagram pages. We will also text and make phone calls, when appropriate.

- Dancers should come to rehearsals in proper dance attire with hair in a bun.
- Please label all your dancer's items, including shoes, bags, jackets, water bottles, etc.
- For rehearsals lasting more than one hour, please send your dancer with a healthy snack.
- No food is permitted in the auditorium seating area. Dancers and families are welcome to eat backstage on stage left. However, if costumes are out in the backstage area, please take extra care not to touch them or consume food near them.
- Water is allowed in the auditorium. Chewing gum is not permitted.
- For roles that are double cast, or have understudies, all dancers are expected to learn through observation. This means that dancers must watch when the other cast is rehearsing and continue to learn their role by watching.
- All dancers should be picked up within fifteen minutes of the end of a rehearsal and must wait inside the building for their ride (unless driving themselves).

OCTOBER REHEARSALS

October 12, 19, 26: **BABY SNOW & HELPERS (Hadley, Audrey, Abigail, Cassidy)**
12:30-1:15 upstairs at NSDK

October 12, 19, 26: **BABY MICE & HELPERS (Lexi, Lydia, Hailey, Krista)**
2:00-2:45 upstairs at NSDK

Features Roles will have rehearsals scheduled separately

NOVEMBER REHEARSALS

On stage, each group will run their dance at least twice (including soloists). Much of the party scene, especially, is double cast, so thank you in advance for your patience!

November 2nd: rehearsals with classes and featured parts as needed (**soldiers and mice will likely have rehearsal this weekend**)

November 9th: Auditorium

12:30-12:50: Tap pre show

1:00-2:30 Party Scene Clara, Fritz, Maids & Butler, Herr Stahlbaum, Frau Stahlbaum, Party Parents, Party Children, Harlequin Dolls, Ballerina Dolls, Gingerbread Dolls, Jack in the Box Dolls, Nutcracker Dolls, Herr Drosselmeyer

2:30-3:30 Battle Scene: Clara, Baby Mice, Big Mice, Soldiers, Mouse King, Harlequin Doll, Ballerina Doll, Nutcracker Prince (Baby Mice, Harlequin Doll, Ballerina Doll, will be 2:30-3:00)

3:30-4:15: Christmas Woods: Clara, Nutcracker Prince, Baby Snow, Snow Queen, Snowflake Corps, Cossack dancers (Baby Snow will be 3:30-4:00)

4:15-5:00: Angels, presentation to the Sugar Plum Fairy and Kingdom of the Sweets, Storytelling, Pastry Chefs

5:00-6:30: Spanish Hot Chocolate (Ballet 4), Russian Tea Cakes, Russian Candy Canes, Arabian Coffee, Chinese Tea, Marzipan, BonBons, Mother Ginger and Polichinelles, Sugar Plum Solo

Waltz of the Flowers – Dew Drop Fairy and Flowers (Ballet 5 & 6), remainder of solos, etc.

November 16th: Auditorium

12:30-12:50: Tap pre show

1:00-2:30 Party Scene Clara, Fritz, Maids & Butler, Herr Stahlbaum, Frau Stahlbaum, Party Parents, Party Children, Harlequin Doll (2 casts, twice through each), Ballerina Doll (2 casts twice through each), Gingerbread Dolls, Jack in the Box Doll (2 casts v), Nutcracker Doll (2 casts twice through each), Herr Drosselmeyer

2:30-3:20 Battle Scene: Clara, Baby Mice (two casts, twice each), Big Mice, Soldiers, Mouse King, Harlequin Doll, Ballerina Doll, Nutcracker Prince (Baby Mice, Harlequin Doll, Ballerina Doll, will be 2:30-3:00)

November 16th: Auditorium (continued)

3:20-4:00: Christmas Woods: Clara, Nutcracker Prince, Baby Snow (two casts, twice each), Snow Queen, Snowflake Corps, Cossack dancers (Baby Snow will be 3:20-3:45)

4:00-4:40: Angels (two casts, twice each), presentation to the Sugar Plum Fairy and Kingdom of the Sweets, Storytelling, Pastry Chefs

4:40-6:00: Spanish Hot Chocolate, Russian Tea Cakes, Russian Candy Canes (two casts, twice each), Arabian Coffee, Chinese Tea, Marzipan, BonBons, Mother Ginger and Polichinelles, Sugar Plum Solo, Waltz of the Flowers – Dew Drop Fairy & Flowers, Finale, remainder of solos, etc.

November 23rd: Auditorium – COSTUMES NEEDED (including all accessories, but no pointe shoes)

1:00-2:30: Tap pre show and Party Scene (run through twice, once with each Clara, Jack in Box, Ballerina, Harlequin, Nutcracker Dolls)

2:30-3:15: battle Scene (each baby mice cast gets twice through)

3:15-4:00: Christmas Woods (both casts Christmas Angels)

4:00-5:30: Act II through Finale (both casts Candy Canes, Arabian, Dew Drop)

November 30rd: extra rehearsals as needed

Sunday Dec 1: TECH REHEARSAL Auditorium - COSTUMES NEEDED

Dance floor will be down, so pointe shoes required from now on

1:00-2:30: Pre-show and Party Scene (run through twice, once with each Clara, Jack in Box, Ballerina, Harlequin, Nutcracker Dolls)

2:30-3:15: battle Scene (no BABY MICE needed)

3:15-4:00: Christmas Woods (no BABY SNOW needed)

4:00-5:30: Act II through Finale (both casts Arabian, Dew Drop)

5:30-6:00: extra rehearsals as needed

Dec 1-5: DRESS AND TECH REHEARSALS 4:00-9:00 pm each day

detailed rehearsal schedules will be released closer to time. We will run Curtain Call first, then the show in order. We may run some pieces (like baby mice and baby snow) twice. Dancers may leave after they are done with their dances.

Monday: Red Cast TECH

Tuesday: Green Cast TECH

Wednesday: Red Cast Final Dress

Thursday: Green Cast Final Dress

DRESS REHEARSALS, TECH & PERFORMANCES

SUNDAY Dec 1 and the following Monday-Thursday is MANDATORY TECH REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE TIME. Some featured roles or classes may also have rehearsal the Friday or Saturday after Thanksgiving.

- NO absences are permitted at any time during this time period.
- Students with outstanding tuition balances will not be allowed to perform unless arrangements are made prior to November 15th.
- We make every effort to run on schedule during this week, but unforeseen circumstances do sometimes arise that affect the finish times for dancers. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation!
- All items brought to the theatre should be labeled with the dancer's name! *Please do not send anything of value backstage at all!
- All dancers should arrive at the theatre with their hair & makeup fully done (except for lipstick). Please send all makeup with the dancer in case touch ups are needed. Specific make-up supplies and application requirements will be provided for each role, prior to our first dress rehearsal at NSDK.
- Warm up classes will be provided on stage each day of Nov 30-Dec 5. For warm up classes, all dancers in Level 3 & up (including contemporary, tap, and hip hop) should wear regular dance attire. NSDK leotard uniforms are not required, but excessive warm-up outfits, leg warmers, scarves, socks, gloves, slippers, shorts, t-shirts, or other non-dance items are not permitted. Dancers are to look neat at all times.
- Make sure your child eats a well-balanced, nutritious meal to keep up their stamina throughout the rehearsal and performance process. Please send a non-messy snack and bottle of water with your child. Please do not send colored drinks, gooey items, etc. No peanut products are allowed in the Green Room or dressing rooms. Please label water bottles.
- During the performances, Kodiak Arts Council will provide backstage helpers to stay with our younger dancers in the dance studio and KMS hallways or classrooms. You are welcome, but not required, to stay downstairs with your young dancer in their designated place, but you will not be permitted backstage while they are dancing.
- Please send quiet activities and games labeled with your child's name. Do not send markers, or pens, slime, or anything with glitter or sticky substances.

ALL dancers should have the following items in their bags for all dress rehearsals and performances:		
PERFORMANCE MAKEUP IN A LABELED ZIPLOC BAG	CLEAN TIGHTS & SHOES	HAIR NETS, HAIRSPRAY, BOBBY PINS, ELASTICS, HAIRBRUSH
HEALTHY, NON-MESSY SNACK	EXTRA PAIR OF TIGHTS	QUIET ACTIVITY
WATER BOTTLE (LABELED)		

COSTUMES, CLOTHES, HAIR & MAKE-UP

- Costumes will be distributed at rehearsal on November 16. Unless otherwise specifically instructed, all dancers need pink tights, pink ballet shoes, and a bun. If you have questions on your dancer's shoe or tights needs, please ask!
- Costumes for the Party Parents will be provided by the Kodiak Arts Council.
- Dancers are responsible for providing their own shoes, tights, flesh-colored camisole leotards, and briefs (if applicable). All other supplies can be purchased at NSDK's store. NSDK has some shoes available for certain roles in The Nutcracker. Check with the office before purchasing new shoes, as we may be able to save you the expense!
- All assigned costume pieces, including headpieces and accessories, are the dancers' responsibility once distributed. If hairpieces or accessories are lost, it will be the responsibility of the dancer and family to create new ones in order to perform.
- Please follow instructions for care of the costumes (ie. hang, or store in cloth costume bags, or ziploc bags for hair pieces, accessories), and make sure each of your items are accounted for before leaving the theatre. If a repair is needed in between performances or rehearsals, please notify our Costumer at the end of the performance. Do not wait until call time for the next show.
- While waiting in costume to go on stage, please have your dancer wear a large, button down shirt over their costume for warm and keeping the costume clean. No eating in costume at any time!
- Costumes may not be worn out into the commons to greet family and friends after performances. Please properly store your costume prior to leaving the dressing room after the show.
- Sew elastics on ballet slippers (do not tie in knot under arch). Knot and cut off drawstrings on your ballet slippers, once they've been fitted to your feet.

- No jewelry (unless specified), no shiny barrettes or hair clips, no body glitter, no nail polish.
*Please do not wear jewelry backstage unless required for your role. NSDK and the Kodiak Arts Council are not responsible for the loss of valuables.
- No underwear under tights, for any ages! Female dancers ages 10+ need to wear a nude body liner (camisole or adjustable straps) under their costumes. Please send your dancer in comfortable sweatpants and a zip front sweatshirt or button down shirt.
- Hair must be neatly slicked back with gel or hairspray. No loose tendrils, wisps or bangs.
- All dancers should arrive at the theatre with their hair & makeup fully done (except for lipstick). Please send all makeup with the dancer in case touch ups are needed. Any specific or unusual make-up supplies and application requirements (such as pink cheeks for Dolls and Soldiers) will be provided for each role, prior to our first dress rehearsal.
- For warm up classes, all dancers in Ballet 3 & up (including contemporary, tap, and hip hop) should wear regular dance attire. NSDK leotard uniforms are not required, but excessive warm-up outfits, leg warmers, scarves, socks, gloves, slippers, shorts, t-shirts, or other non-dance items are not recommended. Dancers are to look neat at all times.

ARRIVING AT THE THEATRE

For rehearsal: Dancers must enter The Gerald C. Wilson Auditorium through the rehearsal door and wait in the Auditorium Seats until their time to dance.

For Monday Dec 2- Thursday Dec 5, please enter using the Green Room entrance (near the middle school playground). On Monday and Tuesday, dancers may watch the rest of the performance from the Auditorium. On Wednesday and Thursday, we will run from the greenroom and dancers must remain downstairs while not dancing.

Parents and caregivers who are NOT confirmed and approved backstage volunteers with Kodiak Arts Council will not be allowed backstage during performances. NSDK personnel will make clear announcements to notify parents and other visitors that it's time to leave the backstage area.

All dancers should be dressed and ready to dance at the start of both tech and dress rehearsals. following are not yet confirmed; however, we expect theatre call times to similar to the following:

Friday, December 6: **5:30 pm** (for the 7 pm performance)

Saturday, December 7: **1:00 pm** (for the 2 pm performance) and

5:30 pm (for the 7 pm performance)

Sunday, December 8: **1:00 pm** (for the 2 pm performance)

LEAVING THE THEATRE

ALL dancers must wait to be dismissed from all rehearsals, including tech and dress rehearsals.

At the end of the performance, parents may meet their dancer in the lobby or the backstage hallway. ***Baby Snow and Baby Mice may be collected from Stage LEFT after Curtain Call.*** Parents and visitors are NOT allowed in the Green Room or dressing rooms, unless they have signed up to be backstage volunteers.

Dancers and families are expected to be respectful of each other, the volunteers, and the space we are sharing. Dancers are not dismissed until make-up and outer dressing rooms have been cleaned. All costumes and headpieces should be stored properly, trash disposed of, counters wiped clean of make-up, lights turned off, etc. Rooms will be inspected each night.

THEATRE ETIQUETTE- *for dancers and everyone else, too!*

- 1. Be respectful of shared spaces like the dressing room and hallway- do not spread yourselves out all over the place!**
 - Costumes should be handled with care and hung back up after changing. Headpieces and accessories should be returned to their bag.
 - Have a hangar for your costume, and use the Green Room lockers for your costumes. Do not drape them over chairs, on the floors, etc- they will get spilled or stepped on!
 - Be sure you have all your required shoes, tights, etc.
 - Label your personal items.
 - Clean your space before leaving after the performance. Don't forget to check the floor!
 - DO NOT touch property belonging to KIBSD, including musical instruments, desks, etc.
- 2. Show respect for others**
 - Never touch, move, or remove another dancer's costume, accessory or prop during a performance. It could be preset, or needed for a quick change. Often times, dancers or backstage personnel will see an item that appears to be "laying around", and in an effort to be helpful, will move it or put it away, causing panic and stress for dancer needing the item quickly.
 - Turn off your cell phone (airplane mode is fine) and put it away when you leave for warm-up class. DO not set your phone to vibrate. Cell phones are to remain completely off until after the performance. **Cell phone use in the Auditorium does interfere with the sound system, and can affect both the volume and clarity of the music used for performance.**
 - Conversation should be quiet and respectful. No loud talking, no playing loud music, and no electronic devices that make sound.

- No disruptive behavior (running, horsing around, etc.)
- When someone asks for the group's attention, acknowledge that you are listening.
- When someone provides information or direction to the group, acknowledge that you heard (thank you!).
- If you need help, ask for it.

3. Stay focused

- Beginning with warm-up class, you are expected to remain focused and attentive to the task at hand.
- Stay where you are supposed to be. Do not roam around the building.
In the wings:
- Space is limited, so please do not watch from the wings unless you are getting ready for an entrance.
- Black curtains must remain closed at all times.
- Do not touch the legs (curtains), props, or any preset items.
- Stay behind the tapeline. If you can see the audience, they can see you.
- No photography.
- Follow directions of the Stage Manager, Backstage Coordinator, Costume Coordinator, Crew, and Parent Volunteers.
- No cell phones!
- No talking backstage. Soft clapping only.

4. Be Appreciative of all those who make The Nutcracker possible

- **Most people involved in the Nutcracker are volunteers-** please be sure to say thank you to the Green Room managers, people moving sets and drops, Costumers, your teachers, people passing our programs in the lobby- it takes a huge amount of time and effort on behalf of volunteers to make The Nutcracker so amazing!
- Don't forget to be appreciative of other dancers, and keep things positive- no one knows how hard dance is except other dancers, so **be sure to tell each other when things are going great, and encourage each other when things don't go perfectly!**

PARENT OBSERVATION OF REHEARSALS

Parents, friends, and family members are not allowed in any of the backstage areas (wings, etc.) for any purpose before, during, or after performances unless officially volunteering backstage. You may remain downstairs with your dancer, or you may watch from the audience. Parents and families moving from the audience to backstage creates traffic jams, noise, and disrupts the backstage area. Parents who would rather stay than drop off their performers are welcome to sit in the audience and watch. Please note that these are closed rehearsals and no friends or extended family members should be invited to attend.

VIDEO RECORDING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

We anticipate that Kodiak high school media services will record the shows, and DVDs will be made available for sale to all families. Still photography of any kind is prohibited onstage, backstage, in the wings and from the audience *during performances*. This includes cell phones, tablets, digital cameras, etc. Not only does it adversely affect lighting design, it also distracts cast and audience members. Please remind family and friends of this rule. Families can take pictures during dress rehearsal ONLY, and **please remember that flash photography is never permitted.**

T-SHIRT SALES

Visit this link to purchase a 2019 Nutcracker shirt. Orders will be accepted through November 9. **NUTCRACKER 2019 Fundraising t-shirts Sales of t-shirts supports NSDK financial aid, and student travel to conventions when possible! This is a great way to celebrate involvement in Nutcracker and support NSDK students!**

ROSE SALES

Visit this link to fill out a form for rose orders [Rose order form](#) . Roses are a wonderful way to congratulate your dancer on their hard work! Roses will be available for pickup before the performances and will come wrapped with student name attached. **Sales of t-shirts supports NSDK financial aid, and student travel to conventions when possible! Avoid the crush at the flower section of the store, and pick yours up in the lobby! (Special orders may also be possible)**

NUTCRACKER TICKETS

Where to purchase: Tickets may be purchased online at www.kodiakarts.org, by calling the office at 907-486-5291 or 1 hour before each show.

Is it reserved seating: Yes. The online ticketing system will allow patrons to select their preferred seating when ordering tickets.

Prices: Adults \$20 /Seniors (60+) \$18/ Youth (<18) \$15

Doors open 1 hour before the show to allow for public purchase of tickets. The house will open 30 minutes prior to the show.

Cancellation policy: 24 hour advance notice from the event day/time is required to change or refund tickets.

Who needs a ticket: All audience members need tickets, including: parents, family members, and friends.

RED Cast/GREEN Cast information

Red Cast (Friday night, Saturday matinee) / Green Cast (Saturday night, Sunday matinee)

Young Clara – Michaelina Bell (*Cassidy Foster understudy Saturday afternoon*)

Jack in the Box – **Aliyah Sterns** / Abbey Harver

Ballerina Doll – **Myla Woodley** / Sara Scott

Harlequin Doll – **Ishi Taboy** / Grace Jackson

Gingerbreads – all shows

Nutcracker Doll- **Tosha Simpler** / Leif King

Party Girls & Boys – all shows

Maids – all shows

Fritz: **Kevin Foster** / Kate Holland

Marzipan – all shows

Russian Tea Cakes – all shows

Mouse King- all shows

Pulchinelles – all shows

Mother Ginger: all shows

Sugar plum – all shows (*Isabella Penaloza understudy- potentially Saturday matinee*)

Snow queen – all shows (*Hailey Cornett understudy- potentially Saturday matinee*)

Dewdrop – **Bianni Penaloza**/ Hailey Cornett

Arabians – **Francie Eufemio & Sayuri Seto** (Leif King & Megan Riutta potentially Saturday matinee)

RED CAST (Friday night, Saturday			GREEN CAST (Saturday night, Sunday		
Amelia Newby	Mice	Red	Adilyn McDow	Mice	Green
Amsey Ray Duncan	Mice	Red	Amelia McBride	Mice	Green
Charlotte Schoeffel	Mice	Red	Ashlee Lorenson-	Mice	Green
Claire Hamilton	Mice	Red	Charlotte Kiefer	Mice	Green
Doris Schroeder	Mice	Red	Dylan Bravo	Mice	Green
Edith Wiedenhoef	Mice	Red	Fiona Lynch	Mice	Green
Jonah Baxter	Mice	Red	Isla Randolph	Mice	Green
Joni Campbell	Mice	Red	Lenith Fronda	Mice	Green
Lucas Ross	Mice	Red	Myer Wattum	Mice	Green
Myra McFarland	Mice	Red	Norah Button	Mice	Green
Roan Baxter	Mice	Red	Paisley Graham	Mice	Green
Waverly Hargraves	Mice	Red	Railey Hetrick	Mice	Green
			Riley Tolliver	Mice	Green
Aanya Hiner	Snow	Red	Lilyana Vasquez	Mice	Green
Adeline Gilbert	Snow	Red			
Alora Stevenson	Snow	Red	Elianah Vasquez	Snow	Green
Caryn DeHart	Snow	Red	Eloise Pryor	Snow	Green
Coral Wilde	Snow	Red	Emilia Agüero	Snow	Green
Emberlee Mickelson	Snow	Red	Emmi Riutta	Snow	Green
Emily Blondin	Snow	Red	Isabella M. Bishop	Snow	Green
Emma Rizer	Snow	Red	Nova Mullen	Snow	Green
Evelynn Shultz	Snow	Red	Paisley Rohde	Snow	Green
Francesca Schoeffel	Snow	Red	Payton Kiefer	Snow	Green
Jan Berestoff	Snow	Red	Rose Regele	Snow	Green
Raegan Taylor	Snow	Red	Shelby Bravo	Snow	Green
Ruth Baxter	Snow	Red	Zuria Eager	Snow	Green
Serenity Silva	Snow	Red			
Sparrow Brown	Snow	Red			
Stella Emmertt	Snow	Red			

Nutcracker: did you know?

From The Australian Ballet

The Nutcracker is the Christmas ballet that everyone knows and loves. But it's also the ultimate foodie's ballet. Its fantastical second act – a confetti of divertissements – is a homage in dance to the 19th century's most precious foodstuffs. Today, those divertissements may seem random, but look a little closer and you'll find they're united by a whimsical, rather scrumptious theatrical plan.

Long before the days of supermarkets and cafés, the creative team behind *The Nutcracker* had a fondness for the same victuals as we do. Imagine Lev Ivanov hankering for his morning coffee, Piotr Tchaikovsky balancing a cup of tea, and Marius Petipa scraping a little chocolate into a saucepan of warm milk. Conjure, if you will, an image of the first Sugar Plum Fairy, the Italian ballerina Antonietta dell'Era, rummaging for a sugary cough drop.

Just at that moment her Prince Coqueluche wanders into the rehearsal studio ...

Forget cheap imports, plastic wrap and barcodes. This was the age when great wooden chests of tea swung over the bows of ships from China, when the aroma of coffee evoked dreams of Arabia, when candies were bestowed on only the most fortunate of Russian children at Christmas time. In 1892, when *The Nutcracker* premiered and the curtain lifted on the Kingdom of the Sweets, these were some of the gastronomic wonders that the Imperial Ballet brought to life.



Inspired by Hoffmann's tale, the Kingdom of the Sweets was formed as a lusty representation of the toys and treats that every affluent St Petersburg family knew and loved. Food was the theme that the divertissements brought to life, beginning with the Spanish "chocolate" dance, which recalled the introduction of chocolate beans to Europe following the Spanish Conquest in South America. The sultry strains of the Arabian dance follow, evoking the warmth of the Middle East, where coffee was cultivated for centuries. Tea – represented by the sprightly Chinese dance – was traditionally the most recognizable treat in the ballet, and several choreographers incorporated tea-drinking gestures or even gigantic teapots into the variation.

Interrupting the banquet was originally a *buffons* or jesters dance (set to the stirring Russian *trepak*) and the Dance of the Mirlitons, with its delightful scoring for flutes. And well you may ask, what *is* a mirliton? Are those stripy sticks grasped by the dancers meant to be candy canes? Or are they some kind of reed pipe? Confusingly, a mirliton is both a small sweet French cake and a type of musical instrument that produces "a coarse, reedy sound." At an early stage, according to author Robert Greskovic, Marius Petipa considered identifying the number with "cream pastries".

Seen less often nowadays is the first sweets divertissement, featuring Mother Ginger (Mere Gigogne) and her clutch of playful Polichinelles. A character with roots in the commedia dell'arte, Mother Ginger usually appears in a comically oversize skirt from under which young children emerge to dance the part of the Polichinelle candies. The divertissement took inspiration from a well-known candy tin that sold in Russia in the 1890s, formed in the shape of a woman wearing a large skirt. Naturally, the tin opened at the bottom to reveal the bonbons inside.



Mirlitons: Eloise Fryer and Jill Ogai in Sir Peter Wright's The Nutcracker. Photography Jeff Busby

Finally, following Tchaikovsky's famous Waltz of the Flowers, the Sugar Plum Fairy makes her eagerly awaited appearance. This fairy is no glorified prune. The true sugar plum of yesteryear has more in common with today's M&M or Smartie. The rounded sweets were a confectioner's *pièce de résistance*, consisting of layers of sugar syrup skillfully hardened around a caraway or cardamom seed, or an almond. Confectionary historians have described the process as one of the most difficult and tedious to master – not for nothing does

'plum' mean all manner of good things.

This is also the moment of the Sugar Plum Fairy's companion, gallant Prince Coqueluche. His name translated literally as "whooping cough", but was understood to mean a lozenge or cough drop. Pavel Gerdt, the Imperial Ballet's leading male artist, danced the role at the premiere. But Prince Coqueluche has since sunk into obscurity, becoming an anonymous cavalier, overshadowed by his celeste-tickling ballerina. Yet, what a sweet partnership they surely made, the Cough Drop and the Sugar Plum!



Amber Scott as Sugar Plum in Sir Peter Wright's The Nutcracker.

One child who succumbed to the delights of this delectable cavalcade was a young George Balanchine, who danced in *The Nutcracker* as a student at the Imperial Ballet School. Like so many of his contemporaries, Balanchine grew to appreciate the miracle of sugar. In the heart of St Petersburg stood Eliseyevsky's emporium, which dazzled the little Balanchivadze with its great high windows, its palace-like halls and opulent chandeliers. It

boasted "sweets and fruits from all over the world, like in *A Thousand and One Nights*," Balanchine remembered. "I used to walk past and look in the windows often. I couldn't buy anything there, it was too expensive.

Two World Wars and a revolution later, he also bore memories of the horrors of starvation. Like his fellow Russian choreographer David Lichine, Balanchine would go on to create his own fabulous, mouth-watering vision of *The Nutcracker*. His 1955 production for the New York City Ballet

replaced the mirlitons with marzipan shepherdesses and turned the *buffons* into candy cane. In 1958, Lichine, choreographing for London's Festival Ballet (now English National Ballet) conjured roses atop a Christmas cake for the Waltz of the Flowers, and an interlude for children dressed as little cooks and waitresses.



The Nutcracker has since become a journey into all kinds of magical places, revealing ever-changing dreamscapes filled with angels, puppet theatres, icy vistas, garden bugs, glass coaches, hot air balloons and even Fabergé eggs. The Dutch National Ballet currently sets its second act of *The Nutcracker* inside a magic lantern (an early form of projector). The Australian Ballet's production, by Peter Wright, sports a flying goose!

The food theme is still celebrated too, perhaps most memorably in Matthew Bourne's subversive *Nutcracker!* of 1992, with a cast that included Queen Candy, Prince Bon-Bon, King Sherbet, Marshmallow Girls and a trio of yobbish Gobstoppers.

So how do you like your *Nutcracker*? Sweet or savory? With lashings of whipped cream or pinnacles of glittering sugar? Clouds of fairy floss or archways of fairy bread? Let your mind go a-feasting on the treats of all seasons. It's our own Magic Christmas Pudding: *Nutcracker*, the gift that keeps giving.