

The Story of the Nutcracker

Act One

It is Christmas Eve, and the Von Stahlbaum family has once again invited their dearest and most distinguished friends to their annual tree trimming party. Their children Clara and Fritz, anxiously await the moment when the drawing room doors open, when they and their friends burst excitedly into the exquisitely decorated room. They are greeted by their parents and all enjoy the gift giving, dancing and merriment. The festivities are interrupted by the arrival of a mysterious stranger, Herr Drosselmeyer, whose odd appearance first frightens the guests. When Drosselmeyer reveals himself as the children's well loved godfather and village toymaker, apprehension is replaced by delight as he entertains them with magic tricks and life-sized, mechanical, dancing dolls. Drosselmeyer presents Clara with a special gift, a Nutcracker, whom she loves dearly. Filled with jealousy, Fritz seizes the doll and tries to break it. Drosselmeyer bandages the doll and invites everyone to rejoin the celebration with a final dance before the party comes to an end.

Clara awakes in the night and tip toes downstairs in search of her beloved Nutcracker. Alone in the dark, she is startled by the midnight striking of the grandfather clock and the eerie shadows cast in the empty drawing room. Tired and frightened she lies down and falls asleep, only to be awakened by the scurrying of mice at her feet! As if in a vision, Drosselmeyer mysteriously appears, bringing her precious Nutcracker Doll to life! The Christmas Tree grows to heights unimagined before her very eyes, and an army of soldiers assembles to assist the Nutcracker in a battle against the King of the Mice. In the end, it is Clara who must come to the aid of her precious Nutcracker doll. As the vicious Mouse King overtakes the Nutcracker, Clara removes her slipper and strikes the final blow. Clara watches in awe as her Nutcracker transforms into a dazzling prince, and the familiar walls give way to a snow frosted evergreen forest. On a sleigh of red velvet, Clara is guided through the wintry landscape by her Nutcracker Prince, who introduces her to the Fairy of Ice and Snow and her attendant Snow Flakes, before whisking her off to the Kingdom of the Sweets.

Act Two

In the Kingdom of Sweets, where the Sugar Plum Fairy is Queen, preparations are being made for the arrival of the honored guest, Clara. The Master Chef is busy concocting his finest recipes, enlisting the "help" of his troublesome sous chefs, who would rather be dancing than baking the hours away. The Sugar Plum Fairy and Nutcracker Prince invite Clara to sit and watch the festivities seated upon her throne. Here the dancers display their delicious treats to Clara, who watches with delight. The Spanish dancers represent luscious Hot Chocolate. Coffee is presented from Arabia and tea from China. Marzipan and Candy Canes abound and from under her enormous skirt, little Polichinelle surprise Mother Ginger and delight Clara and her new friends. The Flowers dance too, and finally, the Sugar Plum Fairy herself performs a dazzling pas de deux with the Prince. Everyone joins in one final waltz, and then it is time to say good bye. Slowly the dancers fade from her vision and once more Clara finds herself alone in the drawing room of her home on Christmas Eve. Looking to her beloved Nutcracker doll, she can only wonder, "Was it all a dream?"

Melissa Bierstock

Freely adapted from the "The Nutcracker" by E.T.A. Hoffman

December 11th, 12th, and 13th, 2015

Ulster Performing Arts Center

Kingston, New York

CATSKILL *Ballet* THEATRE
presents



The Nutcracker

A classical ballet in two acts – four scenes and prologue.

Based on E.T.A. Hoffman's tale

"The Nutcracker and Mouse King" (1816)

Choreography

Maja Tibbling

Choreography for the Opening of Act II

Melissa Bierstock

Choreography for Hot Chocolate

Ricardo Costa

Music

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Cast

Act One

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| Councilor Stahlbaum | Augustus Guarente (Thurs & Sat) Eugene Kruchowy (Fri & Sun) |
| Frau Stahlbaum | Catherine Franklin |
| Their Children: Clara | Isabella Keesler (Thurs & Sat) Kaitlyn Nero (Fri & Sun) |
| Fritz | Jacob Internicola Emma Loewen (Understudy) |
| Grandparents | Victoria Lowe Richard Quinn |
| The Maid | Victoria Berrios |
| Their Guests: Parents | Timothy Bellora, Augustus Guarente or Eugene Kruchowy, John Hutton, Jennifer Iacovelli, Damian Interrante, Polly McElrath, Zarin Mirza, Natalia Muzyka |
| Their Children: Girls | Beatrix Airhart, Isabella Keesler or Kaitlyn Nero, Amanda Machung, Andrea Theoret |
| Boys | Nyaja Brodhead, Celia Couse, Naava Fox, Katie Hutton |
| Herr Drosselmeyer | Ellis Lader |
| Toys: Harlequin | Mathew Ortiz |
| Columbine | Saki Masuda |
| Soldier | Jacob Eichenhofer |
| Cantinière* | Fieldina Water |
| The Nutcracker | Victoria Berrios |
| Mouse King | David Loewen |
| Mice | Celia Couse, Naava Fox, Sasha Fraser, Emma Loewen, Amanda Machung, Michelle Moughan, Sydnee Nissen, Alma Sutherland |
| Soldiers | Katherine Chiera, Eliana Coppola, Ella Foss-Sellitti, Ava Gardner, Kaitlyn Gleason, Josephine Internicola, Juliette Internicola, Maya Lowe, Erin Machung, Melanie Milla, Olivia Mitchell, Magdalyn VanWagenen |
| The Nutcracker Prince | Norbert Nirewicz |
| The Snow Fairy | Jennifer Moll-Safonovs |
| The Snow Flakes | Eleanor Alford, Lena Easter, Catherine Franklin, Polly McElrath, Zarin Mirza, Natalia Muzyka, Jennelle Ohene-Agyei, Fieldina Water Emma Loewen & Sydnee Nissen (Understudies) |
| Reindeer | Ava Bellora, Sophia Stroble, Isabella Williams |

* Cantinière: The girl who carried the canteen of water for the soldiers during the battle.

~ Intermission ~

Have you visited Catskill Ballet Theatre's
Nutcracker Table in the lobby?

Act Two

Land of the Sweets

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| The Sugar Plum Fairy | Jennifer Moll-Safonovs |
| The Nutcracker Prince | Norbert Nirewicz |
| Clara | Isabella Keesler (Thurs & Sat) Kaitlyn Nero (Fri & Sun) |
| Head Chef de Cuisine | Michelle Moughan |
| Sous Chefs de Cuisine | Emma Loewen, Sydnee Nissen |
| The Maids | Katherine Chiera, Ella Foss-Sellitti, Juliette Internicola, Kaitlyn Gleason |
| Hot Chocolate | Jacob Eichenhofer with Fieldina Water (Fri, Sat, Sun) Jennelle Ohene-Agyei (Thurs) |
| Coffee | Mathew Ortiz & Saki Masuda |
| Tea | Jennelle Ohene-Agyei & Natalia Muzyka |
| Candy Canes | Jacob Eichenhofer with Sydney Bellora, Gianna Langlois, Erin Machung, Olivia Mitchell, Alessandra Parrino, Alma Sutherland, Jacob Internicola or Katie Hutton, Beatrix Airhart or Melanie Milla, Josephine Internicola or Magdalyn VanWagenen, Amanda Machung or Naava Fox |
| Mother Ginger | John Hutton |
| Her Polichinelles | Eleanor Alford, Victoria Berrios, Nyaja Brodhead, Celia Couse, Sasha Fraser, Isabella Keesler or Kaitlyn Nero, Evelyn Shannon, Andrea Theoret |
| Flowers | Lena Easter or Natalia Muzyka, Catherine Franklin, Polly McElrath, Zarin Mirza, Jennelle Ohene-Agyei, Fieldina Water |

GRAND NUTCRACKER PAS DE DEUX

Choreography after Marius Petipa

THE TAKING OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND THE USE OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT
IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED DURING THIS PERFORMANCE.

PLEASE SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS.