

Ballet BC Brings Royal Winnipeg Ballet's Magical *Nutcracker* Back to Vancouver

For Immediate Release
Vancouver, BC-- **Ballet BC**

Ballet BC lights up the holidays with ***Nutcracker***: the dream ballet beautifully brought to life by Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet captures the imagination with this charming Canadian retelling of the beloved holiday classic, the *Nutcracker*. Danced to Tchaikovsky's glorious music, the story follows the wondrous adventures of Clara, her *Nutcracker* Prince and the Sugar Plum Fairy. The turn-of-the-century fantasy is set in a stately mansion where young Clara's Christmas dream world features toy soldiers, dancing mice and a mischievous bear who steals the Christmas pudding. When Clara's Christmas gift comes to life and defeats the evil Mouse King, she's whisked away to a magical kingdom, where the Sugar Plum Fairy reigns. Whether you're beginning a new holiday tradition or revisiting an old favourite, you'll be enthralled by Clara's escapades with her *Nutcracker* Prince.

This heart-warming ballet is full of surprises, including traditional Canadian scenes such as a snowy pond hockey game and a battle on Parliament Hill. Sumptuous costumes and an enchanting set design make this classic sparkle, delighting audiences of all ages with its beauty and splendour.

"We are thrilled to present the return of the **Royal Winnipeg Ballet**, one of Canada's leading ballet companies, in this iconic Canadian version of the delightful Christmas story" says **Ballet BC's Artistic Director Emily Molnar**. "Casting over 70 talented, aspiring young dancers from close to 20 dance schools across the Lower Mainland, this presentation also gives us a chance to support the local dance community and marks the first opportunity for these young dancers to perform with a professional ballet company.

"We excitedly present this ballet each year as it ties our past to our future. We are very happy that Vancouver is part of our exciting touring season and that we are working with Ballet BC again," shares **André Lewis, Artistic Director of Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet**. "***Nutcracker*** is an outstanding traditional piece of classical ballet repertoire where we see dancers in our Company grow into new roles and bring their unique artistry to the characters."

Choreography by **Galina Yordanova** and **Nina Menon**, Music by **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**, Costume Design by **Paul Daigle**, Scenic Design by **Brian Perchaluk**, Lighting Design by **Michael J. Whitfield**.

Nutcracker plays the **Queen Elizabeth Theatre December 8 – 11** (7:30pm performances December 8 - 10 and 2:00pm performances December 10 and 11). Single tickets range from \$35 to \$98.50 and Family Packs (2 Adults, 2 Children) range from \$229 - \$300 (including service charges). Tickets can be purchased through Ticketmaster at 1-855-985-2787 (855-985-ARTS) or online at ticketmaster.ca.

About Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet

Founded in 1939, Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet holds the double distinction of being Canada's premiere ballet company and one of the oldest ballet companies in North America. Versatility, technical excellence and a captivating style are the trademarks of Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet, qualities that have garnered both critical and audience acclaim over its history.

RWB's superlative standards keep the Company in demand around the globe as it presents more than 150 performances every season across Canada and in the United States, South America, Europe, the Middle East, Russia, Japan, Asia and Mexico. For more information, visit rwb.org

About Ballet BC

Combining classical integrity with a contemporary sensibility, Ballet BC is a creation-based company of 18 talented dancers from Canada and around the world that is committed to exploration and collaboration in contemporary dance. Solidly grounded in the rigour and artistry of classical ballet, with an emphasis on innovation and the immediacy of the 21st century, the Company presents a distinct and diverse repertoire of the most sought-after Canadian and international contemporary ballet choreography. Ballet BC continues its commitment to perform highly acclaimed productions on regional, national and international tours in addition to its regular performance season at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Vancouver. For more information, visit balletbc.com or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and on Twitter @balletbc.

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