

Principal Casting Announced for The Nutcracker Opens December 6, 2008

On Stage
Four Seasons Centre
for the Performing Arts

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The Walter Carsen
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Charitable
Business Number
11905 1449 RR0001

November 26, 2008... **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada, announces the principal casting for Toronto's magical holiday tradition, *The Nutcracker*, which opens on December 6, 2008.

Principal Dancers **Greta Hodgkinson** and **Aleksandar Antonijevic** will dance the lead roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy and Peter/The Nutcracker in the opening performance on December 6 at 2:00 pm.

First Soloist **Etienne Lavigne** will make his debut as Peter/The Nutcracker. Second Soloist **Jonathan Renna** and Corps de Ballet member **Noah Long** will make their debuts as Uncle Nikolai. Mr. Long will also make his debut as an Icicle, as will Corps de Ballet member **James Shee**. Corps de Ballet members **Elena Lobsanova** and **Jenna Savella** will make their debuts as the Snow Queen.

On December 13, 2008 at 2:00 pm EST, *The Nutcracker* will be presented live in HD in 79 Cineplex Entertainment theatres in Canada and Principal Dancers **Sonia Rodriguez** and **Piotr Stanczyk** will dance the lead roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy and Peter/The Nutcracker.

The Nutcracker choreography and libretto are by **James Kudelka**, music by **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**, set and costume design by **Santo Loquasto** and lighting design by **Jennifer Tipton**.

Nutcracker Story Time will continue this year, beginning 45 minutes prior to every performance. This engaging, interactive telling of *The Nutcracker* will take place in the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre of the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.

The Nutcracker is on stage at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts from December 6 - 28, 2008. For more information, visit thenutcracker.ca.

Principal Casting

The Sugar Plum Fairy

Greta Hodgkinson (Dec. 6 at 2:00 pm/Dec. 13, 17 at 7:00 pm)

Sonia Rodriguez (Dec. 6, 11, 16 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 13 at 2:00 pm)

Tina Pereira (Dec. 7 at 2:00 pm/ Dec. 19 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 21, 28 at 1:00 pm/Dec. 24 at 12:00 pm)

Jillian Vanstone (Dec. 10, 12, 20 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 14, 23 at 1:00 pm/Dec. 27 at 2:00 pm/Dec. 28 at 5:30 pm)

Heather Ogden (Dec. 14, 21, 23 at 5:30 pm/Dec. 18, 27 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 20 at 2:00 pm)

Peter/The Nutcracker

Aleksandar Antonijevic (Dec. 6 at 2:00 pm/Dec. 13, 17 at 7:00 pm)

Piotr Stanczyk (Dec. 6, 11, 16 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 13 at 2:00 pm)

Keiichi Hirano (Dec. 7 at 2:00 pm/ Dec. 19 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 21, 28 at 1:00 pm/
Dec. 24 at 12:00 pm)

Richard Landry (Dec. 10, 12 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 14 at 1:00 pm)

Etienne Lavigne* (Dec. 14, 21, 23 at 5:30 pm/Dec. 18, 27 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 20 at 2:00 pm)

Nehemiah Kish (Dec. 20 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 23 at 1:00pm/Dec. 27 at 2:00 pm/Dec. 28 at 5:30 pm)

Snow Queen and her Icicles

Xiao Nan Yu, Noah Long*, Aarik Wells (Dec. 6, 13 at 2:00 pm/Dec. 11, 20, 27 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 21, 23 at 5:30 pm)

Heather Ogden, Noah Long, Aarik Wells (Dec. 6 at 7:00 pm)

Stephanie Hutchison, Nan Wang, Brett van Sickle (Dec. 7, 27 at 2:00pm/Dec. 17 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 23 at 1:00 pm/Dec. 28 at 5:30pm)

Jenna Savella*, James Shee*, Brett van Sickle (Dec. 10, 19 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 14, 28 at 1:00 pm/Dec. 21 at 1:00 pm/Dec. 24 at 12:00 pm)

Heather Ogden, Etienne Lavigne, Keiichi Hirano (Dec. 12, 13, 16 at 7:00 pm)

Elena Lobsanova*, Nan Wang, Brett van Sickle (Dec. 14 at 5:30 pm/Dec. 18 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 20 at 2:00 pm)

Baba

Victoria Bertram (Dec. 6 at 2:00 pm/Dec. 13, 17, 27 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 21, 23 at 5:30 pm)

Lorna Geddes (Dec. 6, 11, 16, 20 at 7:00 pm/ Dec. 13 at 2:00 pm/Dec. 23 at 1:00 pm/Dec.27 at 2:00 pm/ Dec. 28 at 5:30 pm)

Alejandra Perez-Gomez (Dec. 7, 20 at 2:00 pm/Dec. 14 at 5:30 pm/Dec. 18 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 21, 28 at 1:00 pm /Dec. 24 at 12:00 pm)

Lisa Robinson (Dec. 10, 12, 19 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 14 at 1:00 pm)

Uncle Nikolai

Kevin D. Bowles (Dec. 6, 7, 13, 27 at 2:00 pm/Dec. 16, 20 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 23 at 1:00 pm/Dec. 28 at 5:30 pm)

Avinoam Silverman (Dec. 6, 11, 13, 17 at 7:00 pm)

Noah Long* (Dec. 10, 12 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 14 at 1:00 pm)

Jonathan Renna* (Dec. 14 at 5:30 pm/Dec. 18 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 20 at 2:00pm/Dec. 21, 28 at 1:00 pm/Dec. 24 at 12:00 pm)

Piotr Stanczyk (Dec. 19, 27 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 21, 23 at 5:30 pm)

*Debut. All casting subject to change.

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Karen Kain
Artistic Director

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The Nutcracker

Saturday December 6, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Sunday December 7, 2:00 pm
Wednesday December 10, 7:00 pm
Thursday December 11, 7:00 pm
Friday December 12, 7:00 pm
Saturday December 13, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Sunday December 14, 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm
Tuesday December 16, 7:00 pm
Wednesday December 17, 7:00 pm
Thursday December 18, 7:00 pm
Friday December 19, 7:00 pm
Saturday December 20, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Sunday December 21, 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm
Tuesday December 23, 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm
Wednesday December 24, 12:00 pm
Saturday December 27, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Sunday December 28, 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm

Tickets:

Prices range from \$33 - \$117.

New special offer!

Free parking! Purchase tickets to select performances of *The Nutcracker* and receive a free parking voucher at Nathan Phillips Square and a Nutcracker Activity Book. While supplies last, valid only on the date of performance. (Select performance dates are December 6, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18 at 7:00 pm; December 6, 7 at 2:00 pm; December 14 at 5:30 pm.)

Discount rates are available for groups of 10 people or more. Holiday 4-Packs can be purchased for \$149 - \$347. Rush seats are available on the day of performance in person at the box office for \$30.

Venue:

Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, 145 Queen Street West, Toronto.

Box Office:

The box office is located at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts (145 Queen Street West). To purchase tickets, call 416 (toll free 1 866) 345 9595 or visit thenutcracker.ca.

Website: thenutcracker.ca.

The 2008/09 Season is presented by CTV and The Globe and Mail.

TD Waterhouse presents *The Nutcracker*.

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

Media Release

Made possible by generous financial support from production underwriters Sandra & Jim Pitblado, Lawrence & Ann Heisey and an anonymous friend of the National Ballet.

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Performance Sponsors: Stott Pilates (December 11), RBC (December 20, matinee)

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The Nutcracker live in HD is presented by TD Waterhouse, with additional funding by John and Claudine Bailey.

The National Ballet of Canada gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of the Canada Council for the Arts; the Ontario Arts Council; the City of Toronto through the Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Department; The Government of Canada through the Honourable James Moore, Minister, the Department of Canadian Heritage; the Government of Ontario; the Ontario Arts Foundation; the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

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For more information, please contact:

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