

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

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Mayor Rob Ford in *The Nutcracker*

December 6, 2011... **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet Canada, today announced that Toronto Mayor **Rob Ford** makes his debut with The National Ballet of Canada this season in *The Nutcracker*. Mayor Ford will appear in a special cameo appearance as a Cannon Doll in the opening performance on December 10 at 2:00 pm at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.

Celebrity walk-on roles are a long-held tradition with *Nutcrackers* all over the world. Since the premiere of *The Nutcracker* by **James Kudelka** in 1995, the National Ballet has hosted a variety of Toronto luminaries, personalities and politicians as Cannon Dolls, including former Toronto Mayors **David Miller** and **Barbara Hall**, MPPs **Greg Sorbara** and **Aileen Carroll**, MP **Olivia Chow**, City Councillors **Michael Thompson** and **Adam Vaughan**, **Mats Sundin**, **Margaret Atwood**, **Kurt Browning**, **Doug Gilmore**, **Rick Mercer** and many more.

The Cannon Doll guest roles are colourfully costumed as Russian Petrouchka dolls in Act I who shoot a cannon into the audience to begin the battle scene.

Also making their debuts with the National Ballet in *The Nutcracker* this season are members of Toronto band Ohbijou **Casey Mecija** and **Jenny Mecija**, Toronto Argonauts **Chris Van Zeyl** and **Joe Epele**, stars of Degrassi **Luke Bilyk** and **Melinda Shankar**, CBC Radio's Metro Morning's **Jill Dempsey** and **Jim Curran**, CBC News Toronto hosts **Dwight Drummond** and **Anne-Marie Mediwake**, CBC Executive Vice-President **Kirstine Stewart** and Canadian actor **Zaib Shaikh**, City TV Anchors **Roger Petersen** and **Avery Haines**, hosts of The W Network's *Love it or List it* **Hilary Farr** and **David Visentin**, TVOKids hosts **Drew Dafoe** and **Kara Harun**, Toronto Life Senior Editors **Kelly Pullen** and **Mark Pupo**, The Grid's Associate Editor **Carley Fortune** and Senior Editor **Greig Dymond**, Toronto Star Writer **Derick Chetty**, Zoomer Radio host **Libby Znaimer** and Virgin Radio host **Kella**.

This Season's Cannon Dolls:

December 10 at 2:00 pm	Toronto Mayor Rob Ford
December 10 at 7:00 pm	CBC News Toronto Hosts Dwight Drummond and Anne-Marie Mediwake
December 11 at 1:00 pm	The W Network's <i>Love it or List it</i> Hosts Hilary Farr and David Visentin
December 11 at 5:30 pm	City TV Anchors Roger Petersen and Avery Haines
December 14 at 7:00 pm	TVOKids' <i>The Space</i> Hosts Drew Dafoe and Kara Harun
December 15 at 7:00 pm	Stars of Degrassi Luke Bilyk and Melinda Shankar
December 16 at 7:00 pm	The Grid Associate Editor Carley Fortune and Senior Editor Greig Dymond
December 17 at 2:00 pm	Toronto Life Senior Editors Kelly Pullen and Mark Pupo
December 18 at 1:00 pm	The Globe and Mail Writer Brad Wheeler
December 18 at 5:30 pm	CBC Radio's Metro Morning's Jill Dempsey and Jim Curran
December 20 at 7:00 pm	Zoomer Radio Host Libby Znaimer
December 21 at 7:00 pm	99.9 Virgin Radio Host Kella
December 23 at 7:00 pm	Ohbijou Members Casey and Jenny Mecija
December 28 at 7:00 pm	Toronto Star Writer Derick Chetty
December 29 at 1:00 pm	Toronto Argonauts Chris Van Zeyl and Joe Epele
December 30 at 1:00 pm	Jazz FM Host Jaymz Bee
December 30 at 5:30 pm	CBC's Executive Vice-President Kirstine Stewart and Canadian Actor Zaib Shaikh

60
years

Celebrating 60 Glorious Years

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

A restaged *Nutcracker Story Time* will debut this season, beginning 45 minutes prior to every performance. This new and engaging telling of *The Nutcracker* will take place in the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre of the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.

The Nutcracker is onstage at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts from December 10, 2011 to January 3, 2012. For more information, visit national.ballet.ca.

The 2011/12 Season is presented by CTV and The Globe and Mail.

Celebrating 60 Years of Partnership with The Volunteer Committee, The National Ballet of Canada.

TD Bank Group presents *The Nutcracker* and *Nutcracker Story Time*.

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

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 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; and the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund.

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