

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

#14

60
years

The Nutcracker Principal Casting Announced Debuts by Elena Lobsanova and McGee Maddox Steven McRae Returns as Guest Artist

November 29, 2011... **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada, today announced the principal casting for Toronto's favourite holiday tradition, *The Nutcracker*. *The Nutcracker* opens December 10, 2011 at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts and runs to January 3, 2012.

First Soloist **Elena Lobsanova** makes her debut as the Sugar Plum Fairy. In 1997, while a student at Canada's National Ballet School, Ms. Lobsanova danced the role of Marie and she will be the first National Ballet dancer to go from Marie, Flowers, Spanish Chocolate, Sheep, Snow Queen to the Sugar Plum Fairy. Recently, Ms. Lobsanova created the role of Juliet in the widely acclaimed world premiere of *Romeo and Juliet*. First Soloist **McGee Maddox** will make his debut as Peter/The Nutcracker. Mr. Maddox danced the role of Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet* and will perform with Ms. Lobsanova on December 17 at 2:00 pm, 22 at 7:00 pm and 27, 29 and January 3 at 1:00 pm.

Steven McRae, Principal Dancer with The Royal Ballet, will appear as a Guest Artist in the role of Peter/The Nutcracker with Principal Dancer **Greta Hodgkinson** as the Sugar Plum Fairy. Mr. McRae appeared with the company in the North American premiere of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* in the role of the Mad Hatter, which he created at the world premiere in London. Mr. McRae will dance on December 11 at 5:30 pm and 15 at 7:00 pm.

Principal Dancer **Jiří Jelinek** makes his debut as Uncle Nikolai. He will perform the role on December 14, 21 at 7:00 pm, 24, 31 at 1:00 pm and 29 at 5:30 pm. Making her debut in the role of Baba is Corps de Ballet member **Lise-Marie Jourdain** on December 10, 14, 17, 21 at 7:00 pm, 18, 29 and January 3 at 5:30 pm and December 24, 28, 31 at 1:00 pm. Corps de Ballet members **Alexandra MacDonald**, **Brendan Saye** and **Ryan Booth** make their debut as the Snow Queen and her Icicles on December 18, 24, 28, 30, 31 at 1:00 pm, 20 at 7:00 pm and January 3 at 5:30 pm.

The opening performance on Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 2:00 pm will feature Principal Dancers **Heather Ogden** and **Guillaume Côté** in the roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy and Peter/The Nutcracker and the evening performance at 7:00 pm will feature Principal Dancers **Sonia Rodriguez** and **Piotr Stanczyk** in the lead roles.

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**.

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.

Celebrating 60 Glorious Years

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Principal Casting

The Sugar Plum Fairy

Heather Ogden (Dec 10 at 2:00 pm/ Dec 11 at 1:00 pm/ Dec 28, 30 at 5:30 pm)

Sonia Rodriguez (Dec 10 at 7:00 pm/ Dec 14, 17, 20 at 7:00 pm)

Greta Hodgkinson (Dec 11 at 5:30 pm/ Dec 15, 16 at 7:00 pm/ Dec 18 at 1:00 pm)

Elena Lobsanova* (Dec 17 at 2:00 pm/ Dec 22 at 7:00 pm/ Dec 27, 29, Jan 3 at 1:00 pm)

Tina Pereira (Dec 18, Jan 3 at 5:30 pm/ Dec 21, 23 at 7:00 pm/ Dec 28, 30 at 1:00 pm)

Stacey Shiori Minagawa (Dec 24, 31 at 1:00 pm/ Dec 29 at 5:30 pm)

Peter/ The Nutcracker

Guillaume Côté (Dec 10 at 2:00 pm/ Dec 11 at 1:00 pm/ Dec 28, 30 at 5:30 pm)

Piotr Stanczyk (Dec 10 at 7:00 pm/ Dec 14, 17, 20 at 7:00 pm/ Dec 24, 31 at 1:00 pm/ Dec 29 at 5:30 pm)

Steven McRae* (Dec 11 at 5:30 pm/ Dec 15 at 7:00 pm)

Aleksandar Antonijevic (Dec 16 at 7:00 pm/ Dec 18 at 1:00 pm)

McGee Maddox* (Dec 17 at 2:00 pm/ Dec 22 at 7:00 pm/ Dec 27, 29, Jan 3 at 1:00 pm)

Etienne Lavigne (Dec 18, Jan 3 at 5:30 pm/ Dec 21, 23 at 7:00 pm/ Dec 28, 30 at 1:00 pm)

Snow Queen and her Icicles

Elena Lobsanova, Nan Wang, Brett van Sickle (Dec 10 at 2:00 pm/ Dec 10 at 7:00 pm)

Stephanie Hutchison, Etienne Lavigne, Patrick Lavoie (Dec 11 at 1:00 pm/ Dec 16 at 7:00 pm)

Elena Lobsanova, McGee Maddox, Aarik Wells (Dec 11 at 5:30 pm/ Dec 15 at 7:00 pm)

Stacey Shiori Minagawa, Etienne Lavigne, Patrick Lavoie (Dec 14, 17 at 7:00 pm/ Dec 27 at 1:00 pm)

Jenna Savella, Nan Wang, Brett van Sickle (Dec 17 at 2:00 pm/ Dec 22 at 7:00 pm/ Dec 28, 30 at 5:30 pm/ Dec 29, Jan 3 at 1:00 pm)

Alexandra MacDonald*, Brendan Saye*, Ryan Booth* (Dec 18, 24, 28, 30, 31 at 1:00 pm/ Dec 20 at 7:00 pm/ Jan 3 at 5:30 pm)

Stephanie Hutchison, Nan Wang, Brett van Sickle (Dec 18, 29 at 5:30 pm/ Dec 21, 23 at 7:00 pm)

Baba, Marie and Misha's Nurse

Alejandra Perez-Gomez (Dec 10, 17 at 2:00 pm, Dec 11 at 5:30 pm/ Dec 15, 20, 22 at 7:00 pm/ Dec 27, 29, 30, Jan 3 at 1:00 pm)

Lorna Geddes (Dec 11, 18 at 1:00 pm/ Dec 16, 23 at 7:00 pm/ Dec 28, 30 at 5:30 pm)

Lise-Marie Jourdain* (Dec 10, 14, 17, 21 at 7:00 pm/ Dec 18, 29, Jan 3 at 5:30 pm/ Dec 24, 28, 31 at 1:00 pm)

Uncle Nikolai

Jonathan Renna (Dec 10 at 2:00 pm/ Dec 11 at 1:00 pm/ Dec 18, 28, 30 at 5:30 pm)

Robert Stephen (Dec 10, 15, 17, 20 at 7:00 pm/ Dec 11 at 5:30 pm)

Jiří Jelinek* (Dec 14, 21 at 7:00 pm/ Dec 24, 31 at 1:00 pm/ Dec 29 at 5:30 pm)

Noah Long* (Dec 17 at 2:00 pm / Dec 22 at 7:00 pm/ Dec 27, 29, Jan 3 at 1:00 pm)

Kevin D. Bowles (Dec 16, 23 at 7:00 pm/ Dec 18, 28, 30 at 1:00 pm)

* Debut.

+ Guest Artist

All casting subject to change.

60
years

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.

Guillaume Côté is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Emmanuelle Gattuso & Allan Slaight.
Heather Ogden is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Ira Gluskin & Maxine Granovsky Gluskin.
Elena Lobsanova is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Sandra Faire & Ivan Fecan.
Jenna Savella is sponsored through *Dancers First* by an anonymous donor.
Robert Stephen is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Mr. Thor Eaton & The Honourable Nicole Eaton, Senator.
Brendan Saye is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Robin & Ross Robinson.

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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