



Photo: Adrienne Surprenant

THE NUTCRACKER FUND: 25 YEARS OF GIVING BACK

Montreal, November 11, 2022 – In support of The Nutcracker Fund, Les Grands Ballets is inviting 2,800 children to attend a complete performance of *The Nutcracker* with orchestra, free of charge, on December 13, 2022.

Reflecting a desire to democratize ballet, foster inclusion and make art accessible to all, this educational program offers a total immersion in the world of *The Nutcracker*. Since its inception 25 years ago, the program has **introduced nearly 35,000 sick and disadvantaged children to the fairy tale world of *The Nutcracker*** through performances and workshops.

"As a society, we have the responsibility to provide youth with ideal conditions to help them flourish," says **Jean-Yves Bourgeois**, Executive Vice President of Desjardins' Business Services Group. *"This is why Desjardins is ramping up initiatives to support youth with their concerns and their ambitions, no matter their economic or social status. As the Nutcracker Fund's main partner in this event, we are proud to introduce Les Grands Ballets to every one of these children. They get to step outside their everyday lives for a little while and are sure to come out amazed and inspired."*

An educational matinée for 2,800 kids

This year, **1,400 students from 20 schools in disadvantaged neighbourhoods** selected by *Une école montréalaise pour tous* (a Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec program), and **1,400 children who are either sick or in difficult circumstances**, referred by around 20 foundations selected by the program's partners as well as the foundations below selected by Les Grands Ballets will attend the educational matinée of *The Nutcracker*:

- Fondation Charles-Bruneau
- Fondation petits trésors
- Le Phare, Enfants et Familles
- La Maison des Petits Tournesols
- Fondation Dr Julien
- Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation
- Montreal Oral School for the Deaf

On December 13, the children will have the opportunity to see a complete performance of *The Nutcracker* with orchestra, following an on-stage presentation by Ivan Cavallari, the artistic director of Les Grands Ballets, and a number of dancers. A chance to enjoy the wonder of ballet during the holidays.

Relaxed performances throughout the season



Over the course of the season, a number of performances are also open to young people at Place des Arts and in the company's Studio-Theatre at Édifice Wilder Espace Danse. As a part of Les Grand Ballets' mission to make dance more accessible to all, these events provide an environment adapted to the needs of people with varying abilities (Down Syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities), letting them attend a performance in a relaxed atmosphere.

Workshops at schools and foundations throughout the fall

In collaboration with *Une école montréalaise pour tous*, 240 workshops will be held throughout the fall in 21 schools in disadvantaged neighbourhoods in the Greater Montréal area. Sixty classes will each participate in four workshops led by professional artists to introduce children to dance and visual arts creation. The workshops give children the opportunity to discover the world of *The Nutcracker* in a fun, participatory and creative way before the performance.

"The aim of this project is to enrich the cultural knowledge of children from Montreal communities by giving them access to events like this stunning ballet. It also helps them broaden their worldview and express who they are. The workshops emphasize the power of taking action, speaking up and civic participation for the students, the objective being to reduce success gaps. Every year we witness the teachers' ongoing passion for this project and the students come out enthralled and transformed."

- **Ève Bernard**, Professional Resource in Artistic and Cultural Practices, Ministère de l'Éducation program *Une école montréalaise pour tous*

Other workshops will be held at numerous foundations selected by partners of the program, such as Le Phare, where the dancers and Ivan Cavallari will visit around 40 children in palliative care. It's a great way to bring some holiday cheer to those who cannot easily get around.

*"I think it's important to share the love of dance and the joy of *The Nutcracker* with children who are unable to come to the performance. I'll have the pleasure of going to meet the children of Le Phare this year and offering them a moment of reprieve and inspiration in the company of our dancers."*

Ivan Cavallari, Artistic Director of Les Grands Ballets





Photos: Sasha Onyshchenko

Costume refurbishment to keep the magic of *The Nutcracker* alive

The Nutcracker Fund also supports the annual refurbishment of *The Nutcracker's* costumes and set. The production has been running for nearly 60 years!

The costumes in numbers:

- Over 350 costumes handmade in Les Grands Ballets' costume workshop using nearly 4,000 metres of fabric
- 165 characters featured in *The Nutcracker*
- \$316,000 are invested each year in revamping parts of the costumes and set
- Nearly 6,000 hours of work spent in costume repair each year



LES GRANDS BALLETS THANKS THE NUTCRACKER FUND'S PARTNERS

MAIN PARTNER



\$25,000+

Canada Vie
Fondation J. A. de Sève

\$10,000+

Fondation anonyme (1)
Fondation Jacques Francoeur
Fondation Jacques & Michel Auger
Fondation Rossy
Hydro-Québec
IG Gestion de patrimoine
Une école montréalaise pour tous

\$5,000+

Fondation Ariane Riou et Réal Plourde
Fondation Brujavin
Fondation René Malo
Fondation Lorraine et Jean Turmel

More information:
NutcrackerFund.com

About Les Grands Ballets

A creation and production company, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens is devoted to the development of dance in all its forms, building on the discipline of classical ballet.

Under the artistic direction of Ivan Cavallari, some fifty Canadian and international dancers - accompanied by Les Grands Ballets Orchestra - bring the great classics of ballet to the stage, as well as the creations and repertoire of established and emerging contemporary artists.

Located in the heart of Montréal's Quartier des spectacles, Les Grands Ballets is wholly committed to give to as many people as possible access to dance, whether through the Nutcracker Fund for Children, leisure activities in the Grands Ballets STUDIOS or with the National Centre for Dance Therapy (NCDT), which is devoted to greater wellbeing through the benefits of dance.

Through the excellence of its productions and the scope of its cultural and social actions, the company seeks to inspire discovery and conjure emotions, stimulate the imagination, convey a passion for dance and create a lasting impact.

Media inquiries

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