

PRESS RELEASE
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YEARS | GRANDS BALLETS
GRADIMIR PANKOV ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



PRESENTS

THE NUTCRACKER



PURE ENCHANTMENT

Photo: Damian Siqueiros / Zetaproduction

Montreal, November 28, 2016 – From December 10 to 30, the magic of *The Nutcracker* will return to the Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier of Place des Arts! This year, the premiere will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 10 and will feature famous talk show host and producer Julie Snyder, who will join the dancers on stage and perform as Clara's Grandmother. All are invited to join Les Grands Ballets for *The Nutcracker's* Family Afternoon.

This two-act ballet based on E.T.A. Hoffmann's classic tale is set to the music of Tchaikovsky and brings together over one hundred dancers. It has enchanted more than 2,000,000 spectators since its creation by Fernand Nault in 1964.

A PRODUCTION LIKE NO OTHER

Les Grands Ballets's *The Nutcracker* is the show that has played for the longest time in the same venue in all of Canada.

This production involves:

- More than 300 costumes
- 165 characters
- Over 300 people directly taking part in the production
- Each year, some \$150,000 are invested to revamp part of the sets or costumes. A costume costs an average of \$2,000. The King of Sweets costume is valued at \$10,000.



A TRIBUTE TO FRANÇOIS BARBEAU (1935-2016)

Born in Montreal, François Barbeau has gained worldwide recognition for his talent in costume design for theatre, film, television and dance. Among dance companies, Les Grands Ballets has made the most frequent use of his talents. He has designed costumes for John Butler's *Catulli Carmina* (1968 and 1986); Fernand Nault's *Carmina Burana* (1966 and 1998), *Les Sept Péchés capitaux* (1978) and *Tommy* (1970). In 1987, for the 30th anniversary of Les Grands Ballets, François Barbeau created the marvellous costumes of *The Nutcracker*, which will dazzle audiences again this year. For Melanie Ferrero, Head of Wardrobe: "Even though Mr. Barbeau has left us by surprise last winter, *The Nutcracker* and his legacy will live on and continue to shine, like he would have wanted."

MOUSE OF THE DAY

One hour before each performance, actor Jacques Piperni will give a reading of Hoffmann's tale to children, after which the Mouse of the Day will be randomly selected. The lucky winner will then dress up as a mouse and appear on stage in the first act, before returning to his or her seat during intermission to watch the rest of the show.

SHARE THE ENCHANTMENT OF *THE NUTCRACKER*

Each year, The Nutcracker Fund for Children gives 2,800 children from disadvantaged Montreal neighborhoods, hospitals and foundations a chance to take part in educational workshops and attend a performance of *The Nutcracker*. To this day, 30,200 children were able to take part in this program. The Fund also helps support the production of *The Nutcracker* through restoration of its sets and costumes. To make a donation and share the enchantment: www.fondscassenoisette.com

THE NUTCRACKER by Fernand Nault

with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal Orchestra,
conducted by Allan Lewis and Florian Ziemer
Music by Tchaïkovsky

December 10 to 30, 2016, Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal would like to thank **TD Bank Group**, Title Sponsor for *The Nutcracker*, as well as **Investors Group Financial Services**, sponsor for the private evening of December 16th. The company is supported by **Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec**, **Canada Council for the Arts** and **Conseil des arts de Montréal**.

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