

National Presenting Partner BMO 

BALLETJÖRGEN

*The Stephen Leacock Theatre of Performing Arts
proudly presents*

The Essence of The Nutcracker



December 20, 2022
Stephen Leacock Theatre – Keswick, ON

Momoka Matsui; photo by Kamal Daid.

Message from the Artistic Director



Welcome to our performance of *The Essence of the Nutcracker* comprised of excerpts of our full length ballet *The Nutcracker: A Canadian Tradition!*

Every year, Ballet Jörgen has the privilege of sharing this production and other ballets with over 50,000 people from coast to coast, bringing people together and to help build stronger communities through dance. The Nutcracker is a wonderful holiday tradition for so many Canadians

and is often a child's first experience watching a ballet. For this reason, we are pleased to incorporate dance students into this production, as so many professional dancers start their careers as young performers in The Nutcracker!

A few years ago I thought about creating a Canadian-inspired Nutcracker, one that would connect this wonderful ballet to our own heritage. I am particularly delighted to have created a ballet connected to one of my own favourite pastimes — canoeing in Ontario's Algonquin Park.

Sue LePage, our Set & Costume Designer and Heinar Piller, Stage Director, have contributed greatly to the creation of this unique re-imagining of the ballet. Thank you to Clea Iveson for suggesting the use of Group of Seven paintings as a backdrop for our stunning and dramatic Canadian landscapes and to the McMichael Canadian Art Collection for their help in making this uniquely Canadian production possible.

I am also indebted to the loyal supporters of Ballet Jörgen who have demonstrated extraordinary financial support including the late Ann & Lyman Henderson. This performance is in part made possible with the support from National Presenting Partner BMO Financial Group, The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation and Ballet Jörgen donors.

Thank you for coming and for making *The Nutcracker* part of your holiday season.

Enjoy the show!

Bengt Jörgen C.M.

Mayor's Welcome Message

On behalf of Town Council, I am pleased to welcome everyone to Ballet Jörgen's *The Essence of the Nutcracker*.

This production is an incredible opportunity for local dancers to perform alongside the members of a professional ballet company. The experience they will gain will be extremely beneficial as they continue to study and develop their talents in the world of dance and theatre.

Congratulations to all of the performers and I know that everyone will be delighted with this evening's show!

Sincerely,

Margaret Quirk, Mayor



JÖRGENDANCE
Dance for all

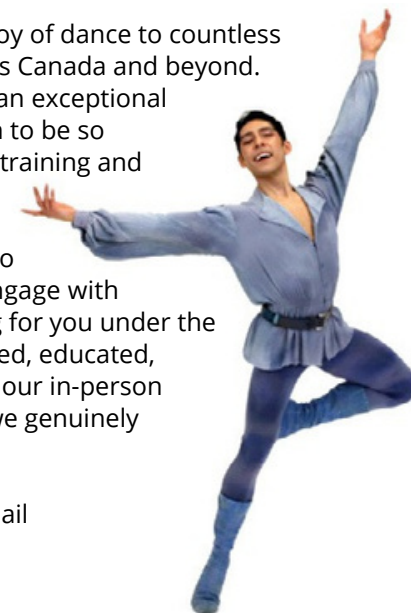
JÖRGENDANCE
ACADEMY

BALLETJÖRGEN

JÖRGENCOMMUNITY
DANCE

For 35 years Jörgen Dance has brought the joy of dance to countless individuals, families, and communities across Canada and beyond. While we are firmly rooted in our history as an exceptional professional ballet company, we have grown to be so much more! Today we offer a wide range of training and community programs across many dance styles to ensure dance is truly accessible for all Canadians. Whether you are looking to attend a performance, learn to dance, or engage with the arts for the first time; there is something for you under the **Jörgen Dance** umbrella. You will be welcomed, educated, entertained, and be a respected member of our in-person and virtual community. As an organization we genuinely believe in our motto **Dance for All**.

Visit the website today and subscribe for email news and updates. **jorgendance.ca**.



Adrián Ramírez Juárez; photo by Kristie Jones.

Synopsis

Act I

It is Christmas Eve 1912, in the small village of Bisset, Ontario, north of Algonquin Park. The community is preparing for a holiday celebration and rare respite from every-day hard labor. People are gathering, a Christmas tree is cut and everyone heads to the school house for the festivities.

Klara, a young girl recently orphaned and sent to Canada to join her older sister, arrives.

With the party already in full swing, Klara is warmly welcomed by everyone except by the daughter of the one well-to-do couple in the community, with whom Klara's sister is employed as a maid. The celebrations are interrupted by the arrival of a painter who brings handmade toys for the kids and a painting for his sweetheart, the local school teacher. Klara is left without a wooden toy, since she is an unexpected arrival but then she brings out the one heirloom from her home, a beautifully decorated Nutcracker. This immediately makes her the centre of attention. Jealous, the rich girl grabs the Nutcracker and in a fit of anger throws it into the wood stove. An inconsolable Klara stomps off, hides behind a school desk and falls asleep.

When Klara wakes up she finds the school house deserted. She is all alone! Creatures of the wood are intruding; giant sized toys come alive and from the stove pops a life size Nutcracker. She is no longer alone. She has a friend! Together they have to face the attacks of King Bat and his cunning compatriots. A wild battle ensues, ebbing back and forth. Bowling pin Mounties join the fray, but it is Klara and the Nutcracker who save the day and defeat King Bat. As the walls of the school house fade away, Klara and the Nutcracker enter the beautiful snow covered forest on a sleigh drawn by white tailed deer. Out of the snow beautiful snowflakes appear, mesmerizing and blowing Klara and the Nutcracker deep into the forest. As the snow starts to fall, Klara and the Nutcracker are lost. Tired they fall asleep in the snow.

–INTERMISSION–



Snowflakes; photo by Cait Media Group Corp.

Act II

Klara wakes to find all the snow gone and the forest in full summer bloom. The ice has turned to water with beavers, and squirrels guiding Klara and the Nutcracker ever deeper into the forest until they come face to face with Lady and Lord Birch. Klara and the Nutcracker, explaining that they are lost, are welcomed to stay to meet some of the animals and flowers of the woods. Raccoons, loons, dragonflies, bears, flowers, a giant spruce tree and the small animals living under its branches, entertain the two guests of the forest. Finally Lord and Lady Birch sway their majestic crowns in a twirling pas de deux. Klara is exhilarated by the warm welcome and applauds them all.

The Cast

In order of appearance, program & cast subject to change

ACT I

WELL-TO-DO FAMILY

DAUGHTER	Sakura Kawamura
FATHER	Leandro Prado
MOTHER	Taisiia Zamula
MAID	Lydia-Laure Germain

FARMING FAMILY

**SON	Nolan Baik
MOTHER	Adrianna Cote
FATHER	Adam Davidson
**DAUGHTERS	Jessie Marshall & Ella Warner
LUMBER JACKS	Omar Hernández & Callum McGregor

**WOOD CHOPPING GIRL	Quinn Morriss
YOUNG WOMAN	Ana Zamora
**YOUNG CHILD	Lyrik Alkema
GRANDMA	Elise Tigges
GRANDPA	Hiroto Saito
IMMIGRATION AID	Esther Zignaigo
**KLARA	Jada Prato
SCHOOL TEACHER	Hannah Mae Cruddas
PAINTER	Daniel Da Silva
**SOCK BUNNY	Quinn Morriss
**RATS	Jessie Marshall, Ella Warner, Elise Tigges
HORNED OWL	Ana Zamora
**NUTCRACKER PRINCE	Nolan Baik
RED FOX	Esther Zignaigo
SKUNK	Callum McGregor
WOLF	Adam Davidson
SKIPPING ROPE HANDLES	Lydia-Laure Germain & Taisiia Zamula
MOUNTIES	Ana Isabel Arauz, Adrianna Cote, Márcio Teixeira, Hiroto Saito

KING BAT	Omar Hernández
***WHITE TAILED DEER	Lyrik Alkema & Ella Warner

SNOW QUEEN & CAVALIER	Momoka Matsui & Daniel Da Silva
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ACT II

* **BEAVERS	Callie Ciszkowski & Adrianna Cote
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*SQUIRRELS	Hana Bohte, Mikayla Dietrich, Summer Roccasalvo, Payton Swannell
*BEAR CUB	Lyrik Alkema
LORD & LADY BIRCH	Akari Fujiwara & Adrián Ramírez Juárez
RACCOONS	Momoka Matsui & Márcio Teixeira
LOONS	Ana Zamora & Leandro Prado
*YOUNG DRAGONFLIES	Hana Bohte & Payton Swannell
DRAGONFLY	Esther Zignaigo

BEARS	Adam Davidson & Daniel Da Silva
MOTHER SPRUCE	Adrianna Cote
*CHIPMUNKS	Callie Ciszkowski, Chantal Clarke, Allyson Phillips, Riley Tarling

TRILLIUM FLOWER FLOWERS	Hannah Mae Cruddas Sakura Kawamura, Ana Zamora, Ana Isabel Arauz, Taisiia Zamula, Márcio Teixeira, Omar Hernández, Callum McGregor
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*Local Youth Participant Role
**Touring Youth Participant Role

Meet Your Dancers



Hannah Mae Cruddas
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Company Member
since 2012



Daniel Da Silva
São Paulo, Brazil
Company Member
since 2009



Adam Davidson
Zephyr, Ontario
Company Member
since 2019



Márcio Teixeira
São Caetano, Brazil
Company Member
since 2019



Ana Zamora
Havana, Cuba
Company Member
since 2022



Esther Zignaigo
Lima, Perú
Company Member
since 2021



Akari Fujiwara
Nagoya, Japan
Company Member
since 2017



Lydia-Laure Germain
Montréal, Québec
Company Member
since 2022



Omar Hernández
Pinar del Rio, Cuba
Company Member
since 2022



Taisiia Zamula
Moscow, Russia
Apprentice



Victoria Collier
Georgia, USA
Junior Company
Member



Estelle Tang
Hong Kong
Junior Company
Member



Adrián Ramírez Juárez
Mexico City, Mexico
Company Member
since 2014



Sakura Kawamura
Nagoya, Japan
Company Member
since 2022



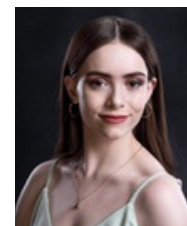
Momoka Matsui
Fukuoka, Japan
Company Member
since 2015



Chabi Arauz
Panama City, Panama
Mentorship Student



Adrianna Cote
Saskatoon,
Saskatchewan
Mentorship Student



Aria Lara Wilton
Kingston, Ontario
Mentorship
Student



Callum McGregor
Glasgow, Scotland
Company Member
since 2019



Leandro Prado
Altamira, Pará, Brazil
Company Member
since 2016



Hiroto Saito
Kobe, Japan
Company Member
since 2007



Clea Iveson
Toronto, ON
Principal Character Artist
Company Member
1992 – 2012



Elise Tigges
North Vancouver, BC
Character Artist

Learn more
about
your dancers!

Production Credits

Choreography (After Petipa & Ivanov)
Bengt Jörgen, C.M.
Composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Costume & Set Design Sue LePage
Lighting Design Bonnie Beecher
Stage Direction Heinar Piller
Creative Assistant Clea Iveson
Scenic Carpentry Hamilton Scenic Specialty
Backdrops Scenic Drop Studios,
Richard Mongiat, Elizabeth Bailey,
Katherine Lilley
Set Electrics Wireless Automation &
Control Scenic Electronics
Costume Coordinator Industry
Costumes
Wardrobe Buyer Susan Rome
Costume Construction Industry
Costumes, Brenda Clark
Assisted by Adrienne Baker, Geoffrey
Davis, Marion Schoeler Arana Enterprises,
Angela Arana, Yeo Lan Kwee, Linda
Kirby, Maria Colella, Avril Stevenson
Millinery Monica Viani, Assisted by
Katie Spreitzer
Dyeing Chrome Yellow
Props Builder Viola Frazier
Ballet Jörgen
Ballet Jörgen Co-Founders
Susan Bodie & Bengt Jörgen C.M.
Ballet Jörgen Artistic Staff
Artistic Director & CEO
Bengt Jörgen C.M.
Ballet Master Hiroto Saito
Principal Ballet Coach Svea Eklof
Company Dancers
Hannah Mae Cruddas~, Daniel Da Silva,
Adam Davidson~, Akari Fujiwara~,
Lydia-Laure Germain~, Omar Hernández,
Adrián Ramírez Juárez~, Sakura Kawamura~,
Momoka Matsui~, Callum McGregor~,
Leandro Prado, Hiroto Saito,
Márcio Teixeira~, Ana Zamora,
Esther Zignaigo
Apprentices Taisiia Zamula
Junior Company Members
Victoria Collier, Ryusei Nagafuchi
Estelle Tang, Taisiia Zamula,
Mentorship Students Chabi Arauz~,
Adrianna Cote~, Aria Lara Wilton~

Principal Character Artist Clea Iveson
Character Artist Elise Tigges
Resident Choreographer Hanna Kiel
Resident Stage Director Heinar Piller
Production Manager Patrick Florin
Technical Director Jacob Gagnon
Lighting Director & Associate Technical
Director Madhu Seran
Stage Manager Kayla Ado
Wardrobe Supervisor Glenna Foerster
Artistic Working Group Hannah Mae
Cruddas, Daniel Da Silva & Hiroto Saito
Past RBC Foundation Apprentice Dancer
~George Brown Dance Graduate
Jörgen Dance
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Education Manager Clea Iveson
Director of Touring Cameron Smillie
George Brown Dance, Program
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Business Operations Manager
Aleksandra Maslennikova
Marketing Manager Dana Ginsberg
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Nina Milanovski
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Casey Spector
Community Programs Lead Elise Tigges
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Canadian Statistics Coordinator
Meg Follett
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Lauder
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Bonnie E. Robson, Carolina
Rotondo, Ben Sit

Nutcracker Youth Education Program Credits

Local Youth Participants:

Hana Bohte, Callie Ciszkowski,
Chantal Clarke, Mikayla Dietrich,
Allyson Phillips, Summer
Roccasalvo, Payton Swannell,
Riley Tarling

Local Youth Participants courtesy of
*Alyssa's Dance Academy, Canada's
National Ballet School, Core School of
Dance, Idance, In harmony Dance and
Wellness*

Local Rehearsal Direction Volunteer
Victoria Melbourne

Local Rehearsal Space Courtesy of
Core School of Dance

Youth Cast on Tour with
Ballet Jörgen

Lyrik Alkema, Oro Medonte –
Prompt Dance Academy
Nolan Baik, Markham –
L'Arabesque Ballet
Georgia Hollingsworth, Brantford –
Burford Dancers
Jessie Marshall, Guelph –
Holly Hughes Dance Academy
Quinn Morris, Brantford –
Studio 5.6.7.8 Inc.
Zach Morris, Brantford –
Dance Discovery
Howie Peters, Toronto –
Quinte Ballet School of Canada
Jada Prato, Vaughan –
Academy of Ballet and Jazz

Elisabeth Ranger, Toronto –
Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre
Ella Warner, Brighton –
Dance with Miss Liz

Rehearsal Directors

Clea Iveson, Estelle Tang, Elise Tigges,
Aria Lara Wilton

Rehearsal Assistants and Chaperones
Ana Isabel Arauz, Adrianna Cote,
Aria Lara Wilton

Local Volunteer Rehearsal Masters

Brantford – Avery Keyes
Guelph – Brandi Matheson &
Pat McLeod
Huntsville – Sue Kirwin-Campbell
Keswick – Victoria Melbourne
Kitchener-Waterloo – Shelby Ward
London – Donna Bayley & Krista Conti
Ottawa – Tracy Mitchell
Peterborough – Summer Burch
Saskatoon – Tammy Tropeau

Local Studio Space Provided by
Brantford – *CORE Dance Project*
Guelph – *Royal City School of Ballet
and Jazz*
Huntsville – *Muskoka Dance Academy*
Keswick – *Core School of Dance*
Kitchener-Waterloo – *Carousel
Dance Centre*
London – *Dance Steps Studio*
Ottawa – *Brocadie Dance, Greta*
Leeming *Studio of Dance*
Peterborough – *7 Attitudes School
of Arts*
Saskatoon – *Studio One RP Dance*

Ballet Jörgen Extends Special Thanks

ProActive Rehab
SPORT | AQUATIC | REHAB THERAPIES

Leslie Tempest, PT., Registered Physiotherapist/Owner at ProActive Rehab
All of our volunteers that made this production possible

Ballet Jörgen Supporters

Major Support Provided by



Anne of Green Gables – The Ballet® is made possible by
Margaret Fountain C.M. & David Fountain C.M.

The Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain CC ONB

THE SOBEY
FOUNDATION

Program Partners



Saskatchewan &
Manitoba Programming



Western Canada Local
Participant
Programming



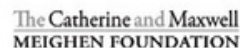
Atlantic Youth Engagement



Foundation Partners



The Bennett Family Foundation



Additional Support



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