

Alberta Ballet's

The Nutcracker



PRESENTS

Featuring live music with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra



AB
ALBERTA BALLET
CANADA

CALGARY

December 13-15, 20-24, 2019

CHOREOGRAPHER: EDMUND STRIPE



JEAN GRAND-MAÎTRE
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
2002 - PRESENT

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR SPONSOR



DEAR BALLET ENTHUSIASTS, HOLIDAY SEASON CELEBRATORS AND FAIRYTALE AFICIONADOS.

Welcome to Edmund Stripe's masterful interpretation of Tchaikovsky's and E.T.A. Hoffmann's everlasting masterpiece *The Nutcracker*. Tonight, like millions of fans around the world, you are about to experience the profoundly moving and beautiful tale of our young heroine Klara who victoriously defeats her deepest fears and whose courage and integrity is honored at the Sugar Plum Fairy's grand gala. Fabulous guest artists from around the world will dance in celebration of Klara's bravura, culminating with the famous technical tour de force which is the Grand Pas de Deux between the Sugar Plum Fairy and her loyal Cavalier.

Such stories should always be told to children. Heroes are needed now more than ever. Also essential is the discovery of the performing arts which will give your children hope as well as the understanding of beauty through the power

of dance, storytelling and live orchestral music. Good on you parents, aunts and uncles and grandparents for introducing your children to the arts!

I would like to take a moment to thank all the students from Alberta Ballet School for participating in tonight's performance as well as their admirably selfless parents who have driven them to rehearsals countless times since early September. Thank you to all our school staff for working so hard and diligently to create the many moments where the children shine. Thank you to Alberta Ballet School Director Ashley McNeil and teacher Nathalie Nadeau Hope for your efforts in auditioning, casting and rehearsing the children. Thank you to the always extraordinary dancers, Alberta Ballet staff, the numerous volunteers, the production and wardrobe crews, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and finally, to Associate Artistic Director Christopher Anderson and Ballet Mistress Christiana Bennett, who together prepare four casts each season, in record time. I give you my endless gratitude.

If you enjoy watching ballet with your family, then we would like to invite you back to the Jubilee in March when we premiere Septime Webre's not to be missed, internationally acclaimed production of *Peter Pan*. Another favourite for the kids.

Enjoy the beauty and the wisdom of the fairytales for they have stood the test of time for all the breathtaking reasons you will experience tonight.

Happy holidays from all of us at Alberta Ballet.

Jean Grand-Maître
Jean Grand-Maître

LIBRETTO

The Nutcracker first debuted at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg in 1892. While the original piece by Marius Petipa was not an instant hit, Tchaikovsky's score spread throughout the ballet community, and choreographers jumped at the challenge of creating their own version. Over the years, the ballet has been staged by some of the most well-known choreographers and ballet companies in the world, from Rudolf Nureyev at the Royal Ballet to Mikhail Baryshnikov for the American Ballet Theatre.

ACT 1

Our story begins far away in Russia, at the turn of the 19th century. It is Christmas Eve and the Vishinsky family is welcoming guests to a party at their home. Their children, Klara and Nikolai, play 'Blind Man's Buff' with the other young guests at the party. The game ends with Klara catching Nikolai. Presents are distributed and Klara and Nikolai lead the children in a boisterous dance. The parents, in turn, dance a courtly quadrille.

Suddenly, there is an interruption. It is the arrival of Drosselmeyer, Klara's godfather. He has arrived at the party with tricks and mechanical dolls to entertain the guests. His dolls perform an elaborate play, telling the story of a man who once made a mousetrap that was so successful that it enraged the Rat Tsar. The Rat Tsar took revenge on the man by turning his nephew into a hideous nutcracker. The only way to break the spell was to find someone who would love the nutcracker, not for what he looked like, but for what he was.

In the play, the young soldier, who is changed into a nutcracker, is helped by a young ballerina who falls in love with him. She defeats the toy Rat Tsar by hitting him on the head with her slipper.

After the play, Drosselmeyer invites Klara to dance with him, mysteriously presenting her with a nutcracker of her own. Nikolai accidentally breaks the nutcracker, but Klara soon forgives him. Drosselmeyer fixes the nutcracker, and Klara and the girls play with their dolls, despite some interruption by the boys and a somewhat overexcited grandfather.

Grandfather and Babushka are invited to dance, the parents and children joining in the fun. The party ends and the guests depart, the parents taking their weary children with them. Drosselmeyer also appears to leave the party. Klara looks around searching frantically for her nutcracker. But it is nowhere to be seen and Babushka packs Nikolai and Klara off to bed.

Later that night, Klara returns downstairs to the parlour to search for her nutcracker. The town hall clock strikes midnight and at once she is surrounded by mice. Suddenly, Drosselmeyer appears and sends the mice to sleep. He explains to Klara that it was actually he who was being portrayed in the play earlier that evening and it was he who had built the mousetrap that had angered the Rat Tsar. The Rat Tsar, in revenge, had transformed his nephew, Karl, into a nutcracker, the very nutcracker that Klara was now holding!



With Klara's promise to love the nutcracker, Drosselmeyer employs his magic, causing the room to grow and themselves to shrink. The nutcracker now reappears, life-size to the now tiny Klara and Drosselmeyer. An army of soldiers stream out of the fort to engage in a battle with the cossack rats that have gathered on the other side of the parlour. With the nutcracker leading the soldiers, a fierce battle ensues and eventually the Rat Tsar himself appears. With his powerful magic, he attempts to attack Drosselmeyer, but the nutcracker intervenes to save his uncle.

Klara remembers the play that Drosselmeyer had presented in the parlour that evening and how the ballerina defeated the Rat Tsar by hitting him on the head with her shoe. She strikes the Rat Tsar on the head, distracting him long enough for the nutcracker to attack him with his own sceptre.

The Rat Tsar is mortally wounded and the nutcracker collapses in pain at the feet of Klara and Drosselmeyer. Drosselmeyer realizes that his plans, and his magic, are still not enough to transform his nephew. Klara and Drosselmeyer sense that their surroundings are changing and as Klara seeks help, she encounters wolves that she thinks are there to devour her precious nutcracker. However, the wolves are the attendants of the Snow Tsarina who appears in her sleigh. She instructs Drosselmeyer to stand the nutcracker up and with a wave of her hand, casts a spell that transforms the nutcracker back into Karl. It takes a moment or two for Karl to realize that he is human again. Once he does, he

embraces Drosselmeyer and Klara, and thanks the Snow Tsarina for her life-restoring spell.

The Snow Tsarina summons her Snow Princesses and as Klara and Karl frolic in the snow, she guides them towards a mysterious palace far away in the distance.

ACT II

The Snow Tsarina leads the sleigh to the gates of the Palace of the Sugar Plum Fairy. There they are greeted by the Palace Pages and are introduced to the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. The Sugar Plum Fairy introduces guests from all over the world and one by one they dance for Klara and Karl in celebration. There are dancers from Spain, Arabia, China and Russia. Klara and Karl dance and are then entertained by the Palace Pages and the Waltz of the Flowers. The celebrations continue with the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier dancing for their honoured guests, concluding in a rousing finale.

EPILOGUE

Very early the next morning, Klara answers a knock at the front door. It is Drosselmeyer. He bids her good morning and, from under his cape, produces a nutcracker. A young man, who seems strangely familiar to Klara enters, and as he and Drosselmeyer depart together, Klara begins to wonder whether it was all a dream after all.



ARTISTIC TEAM



JEAN GRAND-MAÎTRE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Jean Grand-Maitre is widely recognized as among the most successful Canadian choreographers and artistic directors of his generation.

Born in Hull, Quebec, Grand-Maitre began his dance training at York University in Toronto and continued at Montreal's L'École Supérieure de Danse du Québec. He later danced with Ballet British Columbia and Theatre Ballet of Canada.

Since joining Alberta Ballet in 2002, he has elevated the profile of the organization to a global position. Under his tenure, Alberta Ballet caught the world's attention for its 'portrait ballets' – collaborations with popular music icons including Joni Mitchell, Sir Elton John, Sarah McLachlan, k.d. lang, Gordon Lightfoot and this year The Tragically Hip.

Prior to Alberta Ballet, he worked internationally as an independent choreographer and has created new works for many of the world's most prestigious ballet companies such as the Opéra National de Paris, the Teatro alla Scala in Milan, the Stuttgart Ballet, the National Norwegian Ballet, the National Bavarian State Ballet, the National Ballet of Canada, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Ballet British Columbia, the National Ballet of Cuba, Ballet Jörgen and the Hartford Ballet.

His experience in staging multidisciplinary dance and theatre is extensive and includes special creations for film, theatre festivals, circus performers, opera, musicals, television specials and large scale outdoor events. In 2010, he was Director of Choreography for the Opening Ceremonies of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. In 2017, he was part of a landmark commission by the National Arts Centre (NAC). The production, entitled *Encounters*, celebrated Canada's sesquicentennial by pairing three of Canada's most notable choreographers with three of Canada's brightest composers.

Alberta Ballet's dancers, whether on stage, film or television, have become renowned for their technical virtuosity, versatility and ability to communicate with audiences across Canada and abroad.

He has made ballet relevant to Albertans and has played an instrumental role in showing a different side of their culture to the world. By his judicious selection of dancers and strategic development of the repertoire, Grand-Maitre has enabled Alberta Ballet to become a company capable of performing everything from the most avant-garde contemporary works to the most demanding classical masterpieces.

During his tenure he has curated more than 80 different programs, highlighted by a growing presence of 20th and 21st century dance makers. He has commissioned 38 one act ballets, as well as 21 full length works. He has also revived 21 one act ballets and 14 full length ballets from the company's repertoire. All were created or revived for the Alberta Ballet by more than 35 highly established and/or emerging choreographers mainly from Canada.



EDMUND STRIPE CHOREOGRAPHER

A prolific and award-winning choreographer, Edmund has established a notable career in both contemporary and classical ballet fields as dancer and ballet master.

Edmund Stripe was born in London, England and trained at the Royal Ballet School where his distinguished teachers included Walter Trevor, Nancy Kilgour, Piers Beaumont, and Richard Glasstone. He has danced with Ballet Gulbenkian (Portugal), London City Ballet, and the West Australian Ballet, where he created many major works for the company. He was appointed Ballet Master for West Australian Ballet in 1998.

He joined Singapore Dance Theatre as Ballet Master in 2000: there he assisted in the mounting and re-creation of works by such noted choreographers as Jiří Kylián, Nacho Duato, and Goh Choo San. In 2002 he moved to Alberta Ballet as Ballet Master and over the next decade, assisted with works by George Balanchine, Agnes de Mille, Christopher Wheeldon and Jean Grand-Maitre. His works for Alberta Ballet include *Unquiet Light* (2003), *Swelter* (2005), *Alice in Wonderland* (2006) and *The Nutcracker* (2008). He continues creating with Alberta Ballet as Choreographic Associate/Artist in Residence.



PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY COMPOSER

Tchaikovsky was a leading Russian composer of the late 19th century whose works are notable for their melodic inspiration and their orchestration. He is regarded as the master composer for classical ballet, as demonstrated by his scores for *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*. Among the most subjective of composers, Tchaikovsky is inseparable from his music. His work is a manifestation, sometimes charming, often showy, of repressed feelings that became more and more despairing in his later years and were most fully expressed in his Sixth Symphony. Though his later work rejected conscious Russian nationalism, its underlying sentiment and character are as distinctively Russian as that of the Russian nationalist composers.



ZACK BROWN COSTUME & SCENERY DESIGN

Zack Brown is one of the most versatile theatrical designers in the United States with a career that has spanned Broadway, opera, ballet, and television. Since obtaining his degree from the Yale School of Drama, he has designed the sets and costumes for over 150 productions. From the Metropolitan Opera to the Spoleto Festival; from the Hamburg Ballet to the Circle

in the Square in New York; from the San Francisco Opera to the Maly Theatre in Moscow, Mr. Brown's talents have been employed throughout the world. Washington, D.C., however, has seen the greatest body of his work with over 40 productions for the Washington Opera at the Kennedy Center, and numerous plays and musicals at Arena Stage and The Shakespeare Theater. He designed the scenery and costumes for the Tony Award-winning revival of *On Your Toes*, and he is the recipient of two Emmy Awards for the broadcast of *La Gioconda* from the San Francisco Opera. Alberta Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, and Pittsburgh Ballet, all have productions of *The Nutcracker* designed by Mr. Brown. For American Ballet Theater, he has created productions of *Swan Lake*, *Raymonda*, *Gaite Parisienne*, *Jardin Aux Lilas* and *Dim Lustre*, Lowell Liberman's *Piano Concerto #1* and *Dorian* based on "The Picture of *Dorian Gray*." Most recently for American Ballet Theatre he designed a new *Theme and Variations*. He has also designed the settings for Suzanne Farrell's staging of Balanchine's *Don Quixote* for her own company and the National Ballet of Canada.



PIERRE LAVOIE LIGHTING DESIGN

Pierre Lavoie has been active in dance since 1982, first in Toronto as stage manager for most of the city's modern dance companies, then in Montréal for Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. There he had the great opportunity to work

closely with his mentor, lighting designer Nick Cernovitch. Lavoie started designing lighting in the 1990s for Margie Gillis and has since designed every new work in her repertoire. He also created lights for many independent modern dance artists in Montréal. Lavoie's versatility is evident in how easily he can sustain both modern and classical vocabulary. He has designed to rave reviews at Alberta Ballet where he is resident lighting designer. Lavoie has also designed works for Shumka Dancers, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Ballet BC, Boston Ballet and many others. For opera, Lavoie designed at Pacific Opera Victoria, Opera New Brunswick, Opéra de Québec and Tapestry Singers.



PETER DALA MUSIC DIRECTOR, CONDUCTOR

Born in Toronto, Peter Dala studied piano and conducting at England's Royal College of Music. While in London he worked at the Royal Ballet School as a répétiteur which led to become

Conductor and Pianist of the Basel Ballet in Switzerland in 1984. He also worked at the International Opera Studio, Zurich Opera, Switzerland where he conducted his first opera, and guest conducted for the Zurich Ballet. In 1988, Dala joined the Hungarian State Opera in Budapest where he conducted both opera and ballet performances. Career highlights include performances of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, and Mendelssohn's ballet *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the Singapore and Hong Kong Festival of Arts. He joined Edmonton Opera as Chorus Director/Répétiteur, where he made his debut conducting Gounod's *Romeo and Juliette* (1997).

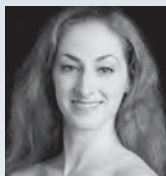
He is presently Resident Conductor. Mr. Dala started conducting for Alberta Ballet in 2001 with *The Nutcracker*, and was appointed Music Director in 2005.



CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Christopher Anderson joined Alberta Ballet after retiring from a lengthy and successful career with both Boston Ballet and Ballet West. With a professional career that spanned 16

years, he built an extensive repertoire of both classical and contemporary work. He danced leading roles nationally and internationally, including several roles created for him by some of today's most exciting choreographers. While dancing with Ballet West, he also had the opportunity to create his own work for the company, having a total of 3 works commissioned. He joined Alberta Ballet in 2015 as Associate Artistic Director and has added two new full-length ballets to the company's repertoire: *Cinderella* which premiered in March 2018, and *The Sleeping Beauty* which premiered in October 2018.



CHRISTIANA BENNETT BALLET MISTRESS

Christiana Bennett is in her fourth season working as part of Alberta Ballet's artistic team. Previous to her position as Ballet Mistress at Alberta Ballet, she was a Principal with Ballet West for 16 years. While dancing with

Ballet West, Bennett was given the opportunity to dance throughout the United States, Europe and Asia where she was met with international acclaim. As a native of Massachusetts, most of her training was along the Eastern seaboard at prestigious schools. However, she attributes her career to the training received at Pacific Northwest Ballet School under the tutelage of Franca Russell.



ROXANNE PROKOP MILLER STAGE MANAGER

Roxanne has been a stage manager for over 20 years in all forms of theatre and is very pleased to be returning to Alberta Ballet for *The Nutcracker*. As a dance stage manager, credits include Martha Clarke's *Vers la flamme* in New

York and at the Bergen International Festival in Norway, Aszure Barton's *Awaá* at The Banff Centre and *Romeo & Juliet* for Alberta Ballet. For opera, she was a resident stage manager for New York City Opera, as well as productions with the Mark Morris Dance Company, Opera Colorado, The Canadian Opera Company, Teatro de la Opera in Puerto Rico and many others. She has also stage managed for musicals such as *Les Misérables* for Mirvish Productions in Toronto and the Broadway production in New York City, *Forever Plaid* in Toronto, and *Jeanne la Pucelle* in Montreal.

CAST LIST - CALGARY

KLARA

Jennifer Gibson: Dec 13E

Gabrielle Chenard: Dec 15M, 22M, 23M

Alexandra Gibson: Dec 14M, 24M, 20E

Luna Sasaki: Dec 14E, 21E

Sayuri Nakani: Dec 15E, 21M

KARL, THE NUTCRACKER

Yoshiya Sakurai: Dec 13E, 15M, 22M, 23M

John Canfield: Dec 14M, 20E, 24M

Alan Ma: Dec 14E, 21E

Kuu Sakuragi: Dec 15E, 21M

DROSSELMAYER

Zacharie Dun: Dec 13E, 15M, 22M

Kelley McKinlay: Dec 14M, 20E, 24M

Eli Barnes: Dec 14E, 21E

Garrett Groat: Dec 15E, 21M

John Canfield: Dec 23M

SNOW TSARINA

Heather Thomas: Dec 13E, 15M, 22M

Jennifer Gibson: Dec 14M, 20E, 24M

Mariko Kondo: Dec 14E, 15E, 21M, 21E

Reilley McKinlay: Dec 23M

ACT I

MOTHER

Reilley McKinlay: Dec 13E, 15M, 22M

Mariko Kondo: Dec 14M, 20E, 24M

Heather Thomas: Dec 14E, 21E

Taryn Nowels: Dec 15E, 21M

Seira Iwamoto: Dec 23M

FATHER

Kelley McKinlay: Dec 13E, 15M, 22M

Zacharie Dun: Dec 14M, 20E, 24M

Garrett Groat: Dec 14E, 21E

Eli Barnes: Dec 15E, 21M

William Sheriff Jr: Dec 23 MAT

NIKOLAI

Kuu Sakuragi: Dec 13E, 15M, 22M

Liam Reid: Dec 14M, 20E, 24M

William Sheriff Jr: Dec 14E, 21E

Alan Ma: Dec 15E, 21M

Scotto Hamed-Ramos: Dec 23 MAT

BABUSHKA

Tanya Chumak: Dec 13E, 15M, 22M, 23M

Laura Vande Zande: Dec 14M, 20E, 24M

Taryn Nowels: Dec 14E, 21E

Melissa Eguchi: Dec 15E, 21M

GRANDFATHER

Eli Barnes: Dec 13E, 15M, 22M

Yoshiya Sakurai: Dec 14M, 20E, 24M

John Canfield: Dec 14E, 21E

Liam Reid: Dec 15E, 21M

Kolbie Edwards: Dec 23M

HUSSAR DOLL

Yoshiya Sakurai: Dec 13E, 15M, 22M, 23M

John Canfield: Dec 14M, 20E, 24M

Alan Ma: Dec 14E, 21E

Kuu Sakuragi: Dec 15E, 21M

BALLERINA DOLL

Sayuri Nakanii: Dec 13E, 15M, 22M

Brittany Broussard: Dec 14M, 20E, 24M

Allison Perhach: Dec 14E, 21E

Kira Anderson: Dec 15E, 21M

Shiori Otsu: Dec 23M

RAT DOLL & RAT TSAR

Scotto Hamed-Ramos: Dec 13E, 15M, 22M

Garrett Groat: Dec 14M, 20E, 23M, 24M

Zacharie Dun: Dec 14E, 21E

William Sheriff Jr: Dec 15E, 21M

PARTY GUESTS, CALVARY, WOLVES AND SNOWFLAKES:

Artists of Alberta Ballet

ACT 2

SUGAR PLUM FAIRY AND CAVALIER

Mariko Kondo & Garrett Groat: Dec 13E,
15M, 22M

Luna Sasaki & Alan Ma: Dec 14M, 20E, 24M

Jennifer Gibson & Yoshiya Sakurai: Dec 14E, 21E

Alexandra Gibson & Kelley McKinlay:
Dec 15E, 21M

Heather Thomas & Kelley McKinlay: Dec 23M

SPANISH

Alexandra Gibson & John Canfield: Dec 13E,
15M, 22M

Heather Thomas & Garrett Groat: Dec 14M,
20E, 24M

Seira Iwamoto & Garrett Groat: Dec 14E, 21E

Brittany Broussard & William Sheriff Jr:
Dec 15E, 21M

Laura Vande Zande & Liam Reid: Dec 23M

ARABIAN

Reilley McKinlay, Kelley McKinlay &

William Sheriff Jr: Dec 13E, 15M, 22M

Mariko Kondo, Eli Barnes & Zacharie Dun:

Dec 14M, 20E, 24M

Heather Thomas, Kelley McKinlay &

Scotto Hamed-Ramos: Dec 14E, 21E

Allison Perhach, Eli Barnes & Liam Reid:

Dec 15E, 21M

Seira Iwamoto, Garrett Groat & Zacharie Dun:

Dec 23M

CHINESE

Luna Sasaki & Alan Ma: Dec 13E, 15M,
22M, 23M

Sayuri Nakanii & Kuu Sakuragi: Dec 14M,
20E, 24M

Melissa Eguchi & Kuu Sakuragi: Dec 14E, 21E

Kira Anderson & Alan Ma: Dec 15E, 21M

RUSSIAN

Eli Barnes & Liam Reid: Dec 13E, 15M, 22M

William Sheriff Jr & Scotto Hamed-Ramos:
Dec 14M, 20E, 24M

Kolbie Edwards & Zacharie Dun: Dec 14E, 21E

John Canfield & Scotto Hamed-Ramos:
Dec 15E, 21M

Eli Barnes & Kurt Grimaldi: Dec 23M

FLOWERS AND FLOWER CAVALIERS:

Artists of Alberta Ballet

E = Evening performances

M = Matinee performances

*Subject to Change

PRODUCTION TEAM

KELLIE D. KNIGHT

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION

JAMES THURMEIER

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

RAVEN HEHR

DIRECTOR OF COSTUME PRODUCTION

D.A. SMURLICK

HEAD CARPENTER

TIM MOORE

ASSISTANT CARPENTER

THOMAS GIROUX

HEAD ELECTRICS

ALEXANDRA CARRUTHERS

ASSISTANT ELECTRICS

COURTNEY CLARKE

HEAD PROPS

SYLVIA PROCHOWNIK

HEAD OF SCENIC ART

MICHELLE WARREN

TOURING WARDROBE SUPERVISOR

KARI WILLCOCKS

INTERIM HEAD OF WARDROBE,
WARDROBE SUPERVISOR

SHAWNTE BURRELL

TOURING WARDROBE ASSISTANT

JULI ELKIW

CHILDREN'S WARDROBE SUPERVISOR

CALGARY PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

PETER DALA, CONDUCTOR

VIOLIN 1

DONOVAN SEIDLE, BONNIE LOUIE, HOJEAN YOO,
ERICA HUDSON

VIOLIN 2

STEPHANIE SOLTICE-JOHNSON, JEREMY
GABBERT, HYEWON GRILLET-KIM, THERESA LANE

VIOLA

LAURENT GRILLET-KIM, PETER BLAKE

CELLO

ARNOLD CHOI, KATHLEEN DE CAEN

DOUBLE BASS

KYLE SANBORN

FLUTE

SARA HAHN-SCINOCO, GWEN KLASSEN

OBOE

ALEX KLEIN, DAVID SUSSMAN

CLARINET

SLAVKO POPOVIC, JOCELYN COLQUHOUN

BASSOON

ANTOINE ST-ONGE

HORN

ROBERT MCCOSH, WILLIAM HOPSON,
JENNIFER FRANK, HEATHER WOOTTON

TRUMPET

ADAM ZINATELLI, MATTHEW ROSS

TROMBONE

DAVID REID

TIMPANI

ALEX COHEN

PERCUSSION

JOSHUA JONES

HARP

TISHA MURVIHILL

PIANO

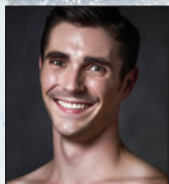
ROLF BERTSCH

CHILDREN'S CAST CALGARY

FLORIAN ADDISCOTT	EMILY FLYNN	NOEMI EMILIE MOE
AMELIE ANSELL	CAITLIN FOODY	SOFIA MORAN
AIDEN BAZYLINSKI	MYA FREE	YOUNWOO PARK
BRYNN BELECKI	KYLIE FREEMAN	DECLAN PEARCE
DENNIELA BELEN	ANNA FUTAMURA	KATELYN PLIVA
STELLA SAFARIS	FRANCA GIANOMASO	ALEXIA MARIE POPA
CHRISTIAN BENSON	VIVIENNE GOOI	MARIN RITCHOT
JULIET BENSON	CAMELIA HANNON- RUIZ	CATHERINE ROUSSEAU
ESTHER CLAIRE BENSON	EVA HAYTER	STELLA ARISTEA SAFARIS
RACHEL ISABELLE BENSON	ANYA-RAE HAYTER	SARAH SCHULTZ
BRYSON ALLAN BOOGAART	GABRIELLA HODEL	CAMILA SERRANO
TATYANA BORYS	MIKAYLA HODGSON	SOPHIE SHEAF-MORRISON
ELLA BRAY	KATE HOS	SOFIA SMITH
KATHERINE CARRIERE	NAMI HOSOKAWA	NICOLE STONE
TALULAH CHAN	EVAN JACKSON	LEWIS JACK SYMINGTON
SARAH CHENWANG	AYA KAWAKAMI	MILA ROSALIE JUDITH TAIT
WILLA JAMES CLARK	CATE KIM	GABRIELA TARBAY
LILY MAE COLLINS	LOUISE KOSLOSKI	ANAËL TIGIFFON
EMMA COOK	SARAH KOSLOWSKY	HANNAH GRACE TONG
SAWYER CRAWFORD-CLARKE	AUDREY KRUGER	SAVHANNA RUBY TOWNSEND
SOPHIE CRUZ	MARLENA KURET	MARLEA WANG
MAGGIE CUNNINGHAM	VIOLET LEE	YISHUI XU
PASCALE DECELLES	ANNA LI	KAREN YAMAMOTO
VIENNA DERKITT	KIANA LINDBERG	ZILAN YE
NIAMH DRAPER	EMMA (ZIXUAN) LIU	GABRIELLA ZUNIGA
KATELYN A DUTEAU	HAILEY GA-YUN MAH	
BRYNN EISLER	ESMERALDA MARTINEZ	
INAS EL MAYS	NOELLE MARIE MCLEOD	
ANALISE EVANS	NANAKO MIYAZAWA	
	MIRI MOCHIZUKI	

ALBERTA BALLET DANCERS

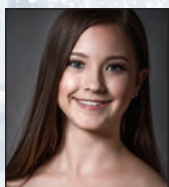
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ELI BARNES SANTA FE, NM USA EIGHTH SEASON

Eli Barnes' ballet training began in his hometown of Santa Fe at the age of 15. He trained with both Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle as well as

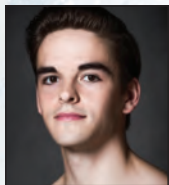
Cincinnati Ballet. Some of the roles that Eli has danced in his previous seven seasons with Alberta Ballet are Roman in *All of Us*, Tweedledee in *Alice in Wonderland*, and the Pink Couple in *Forgotten Land*. Favourite productions include George Balanchine's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Christopher Anderson's *Cinderella*, and Jiri Kylian's *Forgotten Land*.



BRITTANY BROUSSARD HOUSTON, TX USA THIRD SEASON

Brittany Broussard is originally from Houston, TX and recently graduated from Alberta Ballet School. She performed with Alberta

Ballet in several performances in the 16/17 season, including *Dracula* and *Our Canada*. Brittany was also selected to represent Canada in the Cecchetti International Ballet Competition in Florence, Italy this past summer. She previously trained with Next Generation Ballet in Tampa, FL and Vitacca Dance Project with Phillip Broomhead. Additionally, Brittany has been fortunate to train in summer programs with San Francisco Ballet and Boston Ballet.



JOHN CANFIELD OAKLAND, MD USA FIFTH SEASON

John Canfield grew up in rural Virginia and received his early training at local studios. He then moved on to train with The

Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts and The Richmond Ballet School before coming to Canada where he attended the National Ballet School in Toronto. In 2015, John was recognized with Canada Council's Peter Dwyer Award for the Arts. Some of his favourite repertoire includes Aszure Barton's *Happy Little Things* (*Waiting on a Gruff Cloud of Wanting*) Jiri Kylian's *Lieder Eines Fahrenden Gesellen*, and *The Nutcracker*.



JASON CAO BEIJING, CHINA THIRD SEASON

Zhenghong (Jason) Cao was born in Beijing, China. He began ballet training at the Secondary School of Beijing Dance Academy at the age

of 10 and performed internationally with the Academy. He attended both Canada's National Ballet School and the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at American Ballet Theatre. Prior to his first season with Alberta Ballet, Jason danced with Washington Ballet Studio Company, dancing principal roles such as Prince Desire in *Sleeping Beauty*, Franz in *Coppelia*, and Waltz Couple in *Serenade*.



GABRIELLE CHENARD MONTREAL, QC CANADA FOURTH SEASON

Born and raised in Montreal, Gabrielle Chenard is a graduate of l'École supérieure de ballet du Québec. Additionally, she has

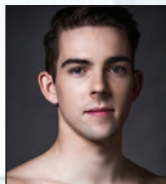
attended several intensives, including Canada's National Ballet School and Art of Forsythe workshop in Berlin, Germany. Gabrielle also danced with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens' professional corps de ballet in their annual production of *The Nutcracker*.



TANYA CHUMAK CALGARY, AB CANADA FIFTH SEASON

Born and raised in Calgary, Tanya Chumak trained at Alberta Ballet School where she completed her Advanced 2 Cecchetti Exam and was

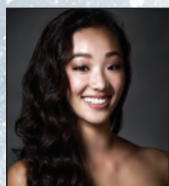
selected to compete in the Cecchetti International Classical Ballet Competition. Tanya then went on to dance professionally with New York Theatre Ballet in New York City for two years. After her time in New York, Tanya returned to Calgary and is very happy to be dancing with Alberta Ballet in her hometown. Some of Tanya's most memorable roles with Alberta Ballet include *Vice* from Jean Grand Maître's *All Of Us* and the Fairy of Bravery from Christopher Anderson's *The Sleeping Beauty*.



ZACHARIE DUN TAREE, AUSTRALIA THIRD SEASON

Zacharie originates from the Eastern coast of Australia and received his early training from Andrea Rowsell Academy of Dance within his

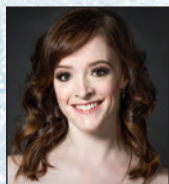
hometown of Taree, NSW. He was later accepted to train with The Australian Ballet School's full-time program prior to moving to Brisbane on scholarship from the Queensland Ballet's Pre-Professional Program. In 2016 Zacharie was promoted into the Jette Parker Young Artist Program, continuing to work with Queensland Ballet. In August of 2017 Zacharie bid farewell to the Koalas and Kangaroos and joined Alberta Ballet. Some of Zacharie's career highlights include Soloist in Amy Hollingsworth's *Til Enda*, Derek Deane's *Strictly Gershwin*, Ma Cong's *Futureland*, Jean Grand Maître's *Caelestis & Lysander* in Bruce Well's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



MELISSA EGUCHI
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA USA
FOURTH SEASON

Melissa Eguchi began training at the age of three at California's Huntington Academy of Dance under the direction of Marnell

Himes-Ushijima and has also been privately coached by artist Jayne Persch. After completing Cecchetti exams, Primary through Grade 10 with honours, Melissa furthered her training at the School of Alberta Ballet. She has received numerous scholarships to institutions such as Marin Dance Theatre, the Elmhurst School of Dance and the School of Alberta Ballet. She is a two-time finalist for the Youth American Grand Prix and the Cecchetti International Ballet Competition and winner of the CICB Audience Choice Award 2014.



ALEXANDRA GIBSON
CALGARY, AB CANADA
ELEVENTH SEASON

Alexandra Gibson was born in Toronto and moved to Calgary as a young child. She spent 12 years at Alberta Ballet School and joined the

company after completing her ballet training. This will be Alexandra's eleventh season with the company. She takes pride in every role she dances, both on and off the stage, but some of her favourites include the role of Myrtha in *Giselle*, the Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella*, the Lover in *Ballettjah!*, Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and the Lilac Fairy in *The Sleeping Beauty*.



JENNIFER GIBSON
CALGARY, AB CANADA
ELEVENTH SEASON

Jennifer Gibson was born in Toronto and moved to Calgary with her family at a young age. She received twelve years of training at Alberta

Ballet School and is now in her eleventh year with the company. She has enjoyed performing a wide variety of roles during her time with Alberta Ballet, most notably as Princess Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Cinderella in *Cinderella*, as well as the Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*.



GARRETT GROAT
EDMONTON, AB CANADA
TENTH SEASON

Garrett Groat was born and raised in Edmonton, AB where he trained at Dance Unlimited in various styles. At age 17, Garrett was awarded a

scholarship to train at the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at American Ballet Theatre in New York City. Some of his favourite roles with Alberta Ballet include Puss in Boots in *The Sleeping Beauty*, The Elton Fan in *Love Lies Bleeding*, White Couple in *Forgotten Lands*, Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet*, Escamillo in Yukichi Hattori's *Carmen*, and as a cast member in *Dump the Physical Memory*.



SEIRA IWAMOTO
FUKUOKA, JAPAN
FIFTH SEASON

Seira Iwamoto is from Fukuoka, Japan. Seira received her training at Fukuoka City Kawazoe Ballet Academy, Alberta Ballet School,

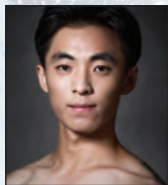
and The Dutch National Ballet Academy. In 2013/2014 she performed with the Dutch National Ballet in Sir Peter Wright's *Sleeping Beauty*, as well as in the live stream project in *Assemblée Internationale*. During her training she has had the privilege to work with Hans Van Manen, Sorella Englund, Jacquelin Barrett, and Kirk Peterson. Some of her favourite repertoires includes *Swan Lake*, *Dracula*, and *Happy Little Things (Waiting on a Gruff Cloud of Wanting)*.



MARIKO KONDO
HIROSHIMA, JAPAN
THIRTEENTH SEASON

Mariko Kondo was born in Hiroshima, Japan. She trained at Canada's National Ballet School

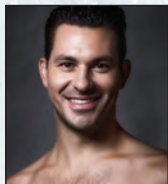
and has danced professionally with Leipzig Ballet in Germany and Opera Atelier in Toronto before joining Alberta Ballet. Mariko's repertoire includes several soloist roles including Princess Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Desdemona in *Othello*, the Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*, Cio-Cio San in *Madame Butterfly*, and Giselle in *Giselle*.



ALAN MA
HARBIN, CHINA
FOURTH SEASON

Lang (Alan) Ma is from China and began his formal training at the LiaoNing Ballet of China Academy. He continued training in Vancouver,

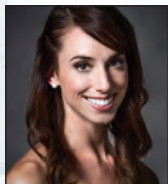
BC at the Goh Ballet Academy before joining the Washington School of Ballet in Washington, DC. Alan has won numerous awards, including a Gold Medal in the 2014 World Ballet Competition, 2015 Youth America Grand Prix Third Place Senior Division NYC, 2014 Youth America Grand Prix Finalist, 2012 China Tao Li Bei Competition First Place, and First Place in the 2010 Osaka International Youngsters Ballet Competition. Alan was with the Columbia Classical Ballet Company in Washington, DC, before accepting a contract with Alberta Ballet.



KELLEY MCKINLAY
EDMONTON, AB, CANADA
EIGHTEENTH SEASON

Kelley grew up in Edmonton, training with Dance Alberta and The Banff Centre. He would subsequently perform with DanceArts Vancouver,

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, and The Banff Centre's Festival of Dance. In 2008, Kelley performed parts of Kirk Peterson's *Othello* at the Benois de la Danse Awards Gala at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, Russia. In 2015, he was Guest Principal Artist in David Nixon's *Madame Butterfly* with the Northern Ballet in the UK. Some of Kelley's favourite Alberta Ballet repertoire includes *Winter Room*, *Futureland*, *Iago* in *Othello*, D'Artagnan in *The Three Musketeers*, Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly*, and Valmont in *Dangerous Liaisons*.



REILEY MCKINLAY
EATONVILLE, WA, USA
TWELFTH SEASON

Reiley grew up just outside of Seattle in Eatonville, WA and trained at Pacific Northwest Ballet School and Canada's National

Ballet School. In addition to attending summer programs at the School of American Ballet and the San Francisco Ballet School, she is also an alumna of Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell. Since joining Alberta Ballet, her favourite pieces to dance include Jean Grand-Maitre's *Winter Room*, Wen Wei Wang's *Futureland*, as well as dancing the roles of Queen Anne in David Nixon's *The Three Musketeers*, and Tourvel in Jean Grand-Maitre's *Dangerous Liaisons*.



SAYURI NAKANII
CHIBA, JAPAN
THIRD SEASON

Born in Japan, Sayuri Nakanii started training at age eight at Tanaka Ballet Studio and eventually moved to Canada in 2015 to begin

training at Alberta Ballet School. Sayuri was invited to join Alberta Ballet II, which then led to her dancing with Alberta Ballet. Sayuri has danced in Alberta Ballet's productions of *Dracula*, *The Nutcracker*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, *Cinderella*, and *All of Us*.



TARYN NOWELS
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA USA
SEVENTH SEASON

Taryn Nowels is in her seventh season with Alberta Ballet. She is from Huntington Beach, CA, where she attended Orange County Dance

Center from the age of three. Prior to joining Alberta Ballet, Taryn was part of the Professional Trainee Division at Ballet West under full scholarship, and was an apprentice with Oregon Ballet Theatre. In addition, Taryn has had the opportunity to perform in Germany and South Korea. Some of Taryn's favourite performances with Alberta Ballet include Ben Stevenson's *Dracula* and Jean Grand-Maitre's *All of Us*, *Fumbling Towards Ecstasy* and one of the leading roles in *BalletLujah!*.

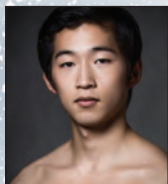


ALLISON PERHACH
LEESBURG, VA, USA
SECOND SEASON

Allison Perhach began her training in her hometown of Leesburg, Virginia. She went on to attend Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music.

While at IU, Allison had the privilege of working with Ms. Violette Verdy and performed corps and principal roles by a variety of choreographers. Following graduation, Allison joined BalletMet's second company under Edwaard Liang before

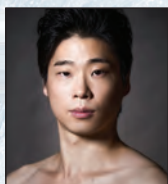
joining Alberta Ballet 2018. Allison has enjoyed dancing in a variety of works, including the Bravery Fairy in Christopher Anderson's *The Sleeping Beauty* and in Jean Grand-Maitre's *The Fiddle and The Drum*.



KUU SAKURAGI
BELLEVUE, WA, USA
THIRD SEASON

Kuu Sakuragi was born in Bellevue, WA and started his training at the Pacific Northwest Ballet School where he danced on full scholarship

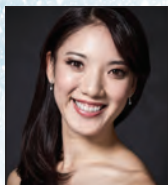
for 10 years. He has also attended numerous summer programs, such as Pacific Northwest Ballet, School of American Ballet, Houston Ballet, Canada's National Ballet, Royal Danish Ballet, and San Francisco Ballet. In 2016, Kuu received a winner's award from the National Young Arts Foundation and continued his training at the Pacific Northwest Ballet School until graduation. His favourite role to dance is Romeo from *Romeo and Juliet*. He also enjoys dancing in *Giselle*, and *Valse Fantasie* by George Balanchine.



YOSHIYA SAKURAI
NIIGATA, JAPAN
FOURTH SEASON

Yoshiya Sakurai began training with Niigata Ballet School in his hometown. He subsequently began training at John Cranko Ballet

School, and Canada's National Ballet School. In 2008, Yoshiya joined Boston Ballet II, and later Kansas City Ballet in 2010. He has performed several lead and soloist roles including Benno in *Swan Lake*, Peasant Pas de Deux in *Giselle*, Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Porthos in *The Three Musketeers*. With Alberta Ballet, he has performed White Rabbit in *Alice in Wonderland*, Frederick in *Dracula*, and Prince in *Cinderella*.



LUNA SASAKI
KANAGAWA, JAPAN
SEVENTH SEASON

Luna Sasaki began her dance training at local studios in Japan. At the age of 16, she received full scholarship to the professional

program of Houston Ballet Academy. She continued her training at Boston Ballet as a trainee before joining Alberta Ballet. Some of her favourite roles include Juliet in *Romeo & Juliet* and Alice in *Alice in Wonderland*. She has also performed as Klara and the Sugar Plum Fairy in

Edmund Stripe's *The Nutcracker*, Svetlana in Ben Stevenson's *Dracula*, "She" in Jean Grand-Maitre's *Balletlujah!*, Red Couple in Jiri Kylian's *Forgotten Land* and Suzuki in Stanton Welch's *Madame Butterfly*.



WILLIAM SHERIFF JR.
DALLAS, TX, USA
SECOND SEASON

William Sheriff Jr. is from Dallas, Texas where he began his formal ballet training at the age of 14. After applying to college, William

attended Texas Christian University's School for Classical and Contemporary Dance before moving to Seattle, Washington. William recently graduated from the Pacific Northwest Ballet's Professional Division, and completed several summer training programs with Pacific Northwest Ballet, Houston Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Boston Ballet, and Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre. His favourite ballet is *Emeralds* by George Balanchine, and his favourite roles include George Balanchine's *Diamonds*, Stanton Welch's *Waltz of the Flowers*, and *Splendid Gershwin*.



HEATHER THOMAS LEWISBERRY, PA, USA
SEVENTH SEASON

Originally from Lewisberry, PA, Heather Thomas began dancing with Pennsylvania Regional Ballet before moving to Toronto and

graduating from Canada's National Ballet School. She has trained and worked with the Joffrey Academy of Dance in Chicago, Cincinnati Ballet, and BalletMet Columbus. Some of her favourite performances with Alberta Ballet include Ben Stevenson's *Dracula* and Christopher Anderson's *Cinderella*.



LAURA VANDE ZANDE
CALGARY, AB, CANADA
EIGHTH SEASON

Laura was born and raised in Calgary. She trained locally and in 2010 was a recipient of the RAD Solo Seal Award. She has furthered

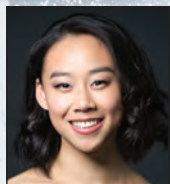
her studies training at the Alberta Ballet School, The Banff Centre, and Arts Umbrella. Her most memorable performances with Alberta Ballet includes *Swan Lake*, *Forgotten Land*, *Happy Little Things* (*Waiting On a Gruff Cloud Of Wanting*), and *Futureland*.

ALBERTA BALLET APPRENTICES

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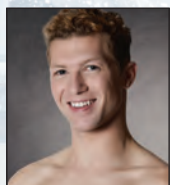
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KIRA ANDERSON ALLENDALE, NJ, USA SECOND SEASON

Originally from Allendale, New Jersey, Kira began her training at Kozlov Dance Academy. She trained at Irene Folkline School of Dance, Petrov Ballet,

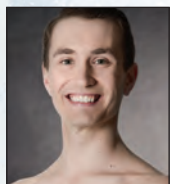
and Manhattan Youth Ballet. In 2008 she participated in the Youth America Grand Prix and was awarded a scholarship to the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at American Ballet Theatre. Most recently, Kira was with BalletMet in Columbus, Ohio as a second company dancer. Her favourite roles to dance include Bluebird from *Sleeping Beauty*, Rubies by George Balanchine, and Edward Liang's *Art of War*.



KOLBIE EDWARDS KELOWNA, BC CANADA FIRST SEASON

British Columbia-born Kolbie began his training with the RWB School Professional Division in 2013. Upon graduating, Kolbie danced with the

RWB as an Apprentice. Kolbie has had the privilege of dancing with the RWB Company in *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, *Romeo and Juliet*, Twyla Tharp's *The Handmaid's Tale* and the Canadian premiere of *The Wizard of Oz* by Septime Webre. Some of the lead roles Kolbie has danced in are *Raymonda*, *Pinocchio*, *La Fille Mal Gardée*, *Le Sylphide* and *Carmina Burana*.



KURTIS IVAN GRIMALDI TORONTO, ON CANADA FIRST SEASON

Kurtis began his ballet training at the age of 18 at the Oakville School of Classical Ballet. After a year of training at OSCB, Kurtis received a

full scholarship to attend Ballet Academy East in New York City, where he remained for two years. During his time at BAE, Kurtis was awarded the Prestigious David Howard Scholarship and performed leading roles such as George Balanchine's *Elegie* and Prince Désiré in *Sleeping Beauty* - staged by Maina Gielgud. Other roles that Kurtis has performed include Colas in *La fille mal gardée*, White Swan

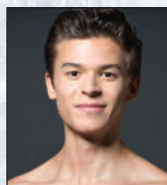
Pas de deux, and Cavalier in *The Nutcracker*. In addition to attending summer programs at Ellison Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Kurtis has suited in other styles of dance including jazz, contemporary and musical theatre.



SHIORI OTSU SHIZUOKA, JAPAN FIRST SEASON

Shiori Otsu was born and raised in Japan and began dancing at the age of 4. Her love of dance led her to dance with local studios. When she

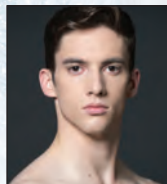
was 19 she began studying with the Alberta Ballet School and completed her training in June 2019. As a student, Shiori performed in the 2018-19 Alberta Ballet productions of the *The Nutcracker* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. This is Shiori's first season with the Alberta Ballet and she is looking forward to performing in the 2019-20 productions.



SCOTTO HAMED-RAMOS AKRON, OH, USA SECOND SEASON

Scotto Hamed-Ramos was born in Akron, Ohio. He began his ballet training at Nan Klinger's Excellence in Dance Studio at the age of four, and

continued training with Houston Ballet Academy. He joined the Houston Ballet second company (HBII) in 2018. Scotto received The Royal Ballet Achievement Award for two consecutive years with The Royal Ballet School, Covent Garden. His most memorable roles to date include dancing in the American Civil War-themed work by John Nuemier titled *Yondering*, Stanton Welch's *Brigade*, and dancing Paul Taylor's *Bugle Boy*.



LIAM REID BEDFORD, NS, CANADA SECOND SEASON

Throughout his early career Liam Reid trained in both Western and Eastern Canada. In High school he trained with Canada's National

Ballet School and then completed his development at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School, first as a student and then as a member of the Aspirant program. He performed in RWB's repertoire as an Aspirant before being offered a contract with Alberta Ballet. His favourite roles are from *Carmina Burana*, *Napoli (pas de six)*, and Jean de Brienne from *Raymonda*. His favourite all time ballet is *Serenade*.

Message

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the annual presentation of Alberta Ballet's *The Nutcracker*. This is a time of year when we gather with our loved ones to celebrate the holidays and we are thrilled you chose to spend your holidays with us.

We always love this production because it gives some of our students a chance to showcase their talent with Alberta Ballet Company dancers on the big stage in front of a big crowd. They've worked tirelessly since September, rehearsing their roles as sneaky mice, rats and soldiers, party kids and palace pages with our dedicated instructor, Ms. Nathalie Nadeau Hope. A warm thank you to Ms. Nadeau Hope for all of her hard work getting the children performance ready. We couldn't do it without you!

At Alberta Ballet School we provide professional and recreational dance training to students from pre-school to post-secondary ages in Edmonton and Calgary. Over the years we have grown our international reputation and now we receive applications from aspiring young dancers from all over the world.

The Nutcracker is an important production in a young dancer's journey to becoming a professional dancer. Ask any professional employed in a Company anywhere in the world, and they will tell you stories of how they began dancing in *The Nutcracker* at a young age. Alberta Ballet Company dancer Kelley McKinlay who is from Edmonton, for example, performed in his first *Nutcracker* at three-years-old as a mouse.

The performance you are going to see today was choreographed by Mr. Edmund Stripe, a senior Alberta Ballet School teacher and choreographic associate. Thank you, Mr. Stripe, for your incredible contributions to our students' development and your hard work on this production. It has become a cherished tradition for our ballet community as well as thousands of Alberta families over the last 11 years.

So, we hope you enjoy today's performance and are inspired by the younger members of the cast. Maybe one day you will see them filling the main character roles alongside other Alberta Ballet School alumni. Your enjoyment and applause is an incredible gift for our students and we hope they make you proud.

A portrait of Ashley McNeil, the Director of Alberta Ballet School. She is a woman with long, wavy blonde hair, wearing a black lace top. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred image of a ballet performance.

Ashley McNeil

Ashley McNeil
Director, Alberta Ballet School

Alberta Ballet School

Offering unparalleled training for dancers of all ages, levels and abilities. Our school provides professional quality programming in a warm, positive learning environment enabling students to discover and develop and life long passion for the art of dance.



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Alberta Ballet Welcomes



DIAVOLO

CALGARY JAN 16-18
EDMONTON JAN 21-22

ALBERTA BALLET

UNLeashed



CALGARY FEB 12-15
EDMONTON FEB 21-22

Alberta Ballet In
Septime Webre's

Peter Pan



CALGARY MAR 18-21
EDMONTON MAR 27-29

Alberta Ballet's

Swan Lake



CALGARY MAY 6-9
EDMONTON MAY 15-16

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Alberta Ballet began presenting

The Nutcracker more than 28 years ago. Since then there have been four unique versions. The productions today is Edmund Stripe's creation, which has been performed since 2008. Since starting in 1990, *The Nutcracker* has become a traveling show of festive magic, shared by thousands of Canadians in cities like Vancouver, Victoria and Ottawa.



Young at heart

Nearly 100 local dance students round out *The Nutcracker* cast. Alberta ballet dancers Alexandra and Jennifer Gibson, both cherished their memories dancing as students in *The Nutcracker*. Being able to dance with the professional company solidifies your desire to be a dancer, says Alexandra. "I was always so inspired watching them practicing and rehearsing steps that I one day hoped to be able to achieve."





All Dolled Up

All costumes are hand made including the Rat Tsar headpieces with real hair woven into them. Masks are incredibly realistic, yet they still allow the dancers to see and move. While many of the dancers can get into costume in just minutes, the Grandfather takes longer to prepare for the stage. To age this character to look as if he's in his 80s, an aging makeup is used – then his wig, sideburns and moustache and eyebrows are added.



Mrs. Mary Anne Sabourin
Mr. Samy Salloum
Louise Saloff
Elizabeth Salter
Ms. Elizabeth Salter
Mr. Evan Sampson
Gilda Sanders
Ms. Carole Savage
Alana Sawyer
Mr. Barry & Maureen Schloss
Nah Schuurmans
Jennifer Scott

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**ORS BY
DAY.**

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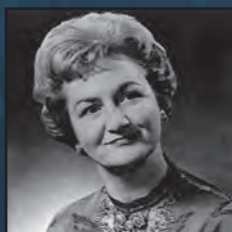
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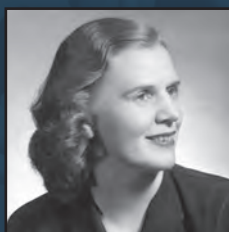
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