

# BOSTON BALLET

MIKKO NISSINEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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## **BOSTON BALLET PRESENTS MIKKO NISSINEN'S *THE NUTCRACKER* CELEBRATED CLASSIC RETURNS TO DELIGHT AUDIENCES OF ALL AGES**

October 25, 2017 (BOSTON, MA) – Boston Ballet proudly presents the return of Mikko Nissinen's *The Nutcracker*, the cherished family-friendly holiday tradition. Since its world premiere in 2012, Mikko Nissinen's and Robert Perdziola's re-envisioned production has been delighting audiences and critics alike. *The Nutcracker* opens November 24 at the Boston Opera House with performances through New Year's Eve.

"Whether they're seeing it again or for the first time, *The Nutcracker* inspires and delights audiences of all ages with its beloved score, exquisite sets and costumes, and spectacular dancing," said Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen. "It is the cornerstone of classical ballet and the perfect way to start an exploration into the art of ballet and dance. It is also a great opportunity for growth within the Company because it is a technically challenging production that allows dancers to explore a variety of new roles and characters."

*The Nutcracker* includes the full Company of 56 dancers, 10 Boston Ballet II dancers, and 250 Boston Ballet School students. The 44-performance run will feature many dancer debuts in new roles, showcasing the vast talent within the Company, and providing many opportunities for dancers to shine in soloist and principal roles. Each performance will be accompanied by Tchaikovsky's renowned score performed by the Boston Ballet Orchestra, led by three conductors: Principal Guest Conductor Beatrice Jona Affron and guest conductors Kenneth Hsieh and Geneviève Leclair.

Nissinen's *The Nutcracker* marked the first time Boston Ballet built a new production entirely from the ground up, engaging crafts men and women from all over the United States. Robert Perdziola illustrated more than 40 sketches that were transformed into the production's larger-than-life sets that range from calm, subtle colors in the Act I party scene to vibrant colors in Act II's Land of the Sweets. The 2012 production also incorporated more than 350 beautifully intricate costumes and fine-tuned choreography. New lighting design by renowned Finnish designer Mikki Kunttu was added in 2015.

Mikko Nissinen's *The Nutcracker* is based on the libretto by Alexandre Dumas père titled *The Tale of the Nutcracker*, which is adapted from E. T. A. Hoffmann's story *The Nutcracker and*

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*the Mouse King*. The story follows the wondrous journey of young Clara, who receives a nutcracker as a gift at her family's Christmas Eve party. Later that night, her nutcracker magically transforms into a handsome prince, who leads her through an enchanted forest and on to the Nutcracker Prince's Kingdom.

For a full synopsis and additional details, visit [bostonballet.org](http://bostonballet.org).

## **Related Events**

### **LEGOLAND Live Tree Build: Saturday, December 2 at 1:30 pm**

In the Opera House lower lobby before the show and during intermission, a Master Builder from LEGOLAND Discovery Center will build a tree mosaic modeled after the growing tree in Mikko Nissinen's *The Nutcracker*. Audience members can help decorate the tree with LEGO ornaments during intermission. The tree will remain on display throughout the remainder of the run, along with a 4-foot-tall nutcracker made entirely of LEGO bricks.

### **Nutcracker Study Break Night: Wednesday, December 6 at 7:30 pm**

Boston Ballet presents the third year of the wildly popular Study Break Night, a one-night event for college students to relax during exam week with a pre-performance concert by the Boston College Acoustics and student discounts at the Boston Ballet Shop. *This year's event is sold out.*

### **Corporate Night at *The Nutcracker*: Wednesday, December 13 at 5 pm**

Business leaders, clients, and staff are invited to experience Boston Ballet's beloved holiday classic with a one-of-a-kind festive cocktail reception, character meet-and-greet, and an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour, followed by the performance of Mikko Nissinen's *The Nutcracker*. Please contact Meredith Tierney, Corporate Relations Manager, at 617.456.6238 for more information.

### **All-access Nutcracker: Tuesday, December 19 at 7:30 pm**

This season, Boston Ballet is proud to present the first ever all-access performance of *The Nutcracker*. This performance will feature additional accommodations, events, and supports designed to make the show more accessible and enjoyable for the community, including: large print programs, live audio description, audio-enhanced equipment, ASL interpretation, specialized seating options, and a digital "social story" to preview the Opera House experience and story of *The Nutcracker*. In conjunction with the all-access performance, there will be a Touch Tour at Boston Ballet's headquarters (19 Clarendon Street, Boston) on Sunday, December 17, which will allow participants to physically and tactilely experience elements of the show such as props, costumes, characters, and movement. Please contact the Box Office at 617.695.6955 or [tickets@bostonballet.org](mailto:tickets@bostonballet.org) to order tickets.

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## **New Year's Eve at *The Nutcracker*: Sunday, December 31 at 7 pm**

Boston Ballet celebrates New Year's Eve with a special, one-night-only version of Mikko Nissinen's *The Nutcracker*. This New Year's Eve edition will include an all-star cast and added twists and treats to the Boston Opera House stage and patron experience. Tickets at [bostonballet.org](http://bostonballet.org).

### **All 44 performances of *The Nutcracker* will take place at the Boston Opera House (539 Washington St. Boston, MA 02111):**

Friday, November 24, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Saturday, November 25, 2017 at 1:30 pm  
Saturday, November 25, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Sunday, November 26, 2017 at 1:30 pm  
Sunday, November 26, 2017 at 6:00 pm  
Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Friday, December 1, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Saturday December 2, 2017 at 1:30 pm  
Saturday December 2, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 1:30 pm  
Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 6:00 pm  
Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Friday, December 8, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 1:30 pm  
Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 1:30 pm  
Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 6:00 pm  
Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Friday, December 15, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 1:30 pm

Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Sunday, December 17, 2017 at 1:30 pm  
Sunday, December 17, 2017 at 6:00 pm  
Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Friday, December 22, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Saturday, December 23, 2017 at 1:30 pm  
Saturday, December 23, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Sunday, December 24, 2017 at 11:00 am  
Sunday, December 24, 2017 at 3:00 pm  
Tuesday, December 26, 2017 at 1:30 pm  
Tuesday, December 26, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at 1:30 pm  
Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Thursday, December 28, 2017 at 1:30 pm  
Thursday, December 28, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Friday, December 29, 2017 at 1:30 pm  
Friday, December 29, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Saturday, December 30, 2017 at 1:30 pm  
Saturday, December 30, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Sunday, December 31, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Tickets start at \$35. For more information, visit [bostonballet.org/nutcracker/](http://bostonballet.org/nutcracker/) or call 617.695.6955.

*The Nutcracker* performance length is approximately 2 hours including one intermission.

Choreography: Mikko Nissinen  
Music: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
Set & Costume Design: Robert Perdziola  
Lighting Design: Mikki Kunttu

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## **About Boston Ballet**

*Since 1963, Boston Ballet's internationally acclaimed performances of classical, neo-classical, and contemporary ballets, combined with a dedication to world-class dance education and community initiative programs, have made the institution a leader in its field, with a 54-year history of promoting excellence and access to dance.*

*Under the leadership of Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen and Executive Director Meredith Max Hodges, the Company maintains a diverse repertoire, ranging from full-length ballets to new works by some of today's finest choreographers. Boston Ballet's second company, Boston Ballet II, is comprised of dancers who gain experience by performing with the Company and independently, presenting special programs to audiences throughout the Northeast.*

*Boston Ballet School, the official school of Boston Ballet, has a long-standing dedication to providing exceptional dance education and ballet training to students across three studios in Boston, Newton, and the North Shore. Led by Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen and Director Margaret Tracey, the School reaches more than 5,000 students (toddler to adult) each year through its four core programs: Children's Program, Classical Ballet Program, Adult Dance Program, and Pre-Professional Program.*

*Boston Ballet's Department of Education and Community Initiatives (ECI) provides programming, events, and activities that connect the community to dance. ECI reaches more than 4,000 individuals in Boston, North Shore, and the surrounding communities each year through Citydance, ECI on Location, Adaptive Dance, and other community programs.*

*For more information, please visit [bostonballet.org](http://bostonballet.org).*

Boston Ballet gratefully acknowledges the following institutional partners:

Boston Cultural Council  
The Boston Foundation  
Klarman Family Foundation  
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