

BOSTON BALLET

MIKKO NISSINEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

BOSTON BALLET PRESENTS MIKKO NISSINEN'S *THE NUTCRACKER*

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF NISSINEN'S REIMAGINED CLASSIC

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November 7, 2016—(Boston, MA) Boston Ballet proudly presents Mikko Nissinen's *The Nutcracker*, marking the five-year anniversary of Nissinen's re-envisioned family-friendly tradition. From sumptuous sets and sensational costumes by award-winning designer Robert Perdziola, to innovative and enticing lighting design by Mikki Kunttu, Nissinen's production of the timeless and beloved holiday classic is "an immediate plunge into theatrical splendor" (Karen Campbell, *The Boston Globe*). The critically-acclaimed production "tinkers and twinkles with youthful joy" and has been delighting audiences young and old since its premiere in 2012 (Paul Robicheau, *The Improper Bostonian*). *The Nutcracker* opens November 25 at the Boston Opera House with performances through New Year's Eve, December 31.

"Every year I hear from audiences that they cannot miss *The Nutcracker*—the holiday season simply doesn't feel complete without it," said Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen. "*The Nutcracker* has become one of Boston's treasures; it's a tradition for our patrons, our students, and our dancers. The magic of the theater—the live music, exquisite sets and costumes, and brilliant dancing—continues to enthrall audiences year after year."

Boston Ballet premiered Nissinen's *The Nutcracker* in 2012, which Nissinen described as "a completely new visualization" of the production that would exponentially enhance the audience's experience. The Company's previous production ran for 17 years and was set in 1835 during the Biedermeier period, while Nissinen and Perdziola reimagined the story 20 years earlier, resetting it in the Regency period, commonly referred to as the Jane Austen era of the early 1800s. 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 new production also incorporated more than 350 beautifully intricate costumes and fine-tuned choreography, as well as introduced audiences to a new and now beloved character—the Bunny. 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.

The Nutcracker includes the full company of 57 dancers, 13 Boston Ballet II dancers, and 224 Boston Ballet School students. The 43-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 Boston Ballet Orchestra, led by five conductors: Music Director Emeritus Jonathan McPhee, Principal Guest Conductor Beatrice Jona Affron, and guest conductors Geneviève Leclair, Ming Luke, and Craig Edwards.

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 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/nutcracker/.

All 43 performances of *The Nutcracker* will take place at the Boston Opera House (539 Washington St, Boston, MA 02111)

Friday, November 25, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Saturday, November 26, 2016 at 1:00 pm
Saturday, November 26, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Sunday, November 27, 2016 at 1:00 pm
Sunday, November 27, 2016 at 5:30 pm
Thursday, December 1, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Friday, December 2, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Saturday December 3, 2016 at 1:00 pm
Saturday December 3, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 1:00 pm
Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 5:30 pm
Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Friday, December 9, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Saturday, December 10, 2016 at 1:00 pm
Saturday, December 10, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 1:00 pm
Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 5:30 pm
Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Thursday, December 15, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Friday, December 16, 2016 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, December 17, 2016 at 1:00 pm
Saturday, December 17, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Sunday, December 18, 2016 at 1:00 pm
Sunday, December 18, 2016 at 5:30 pm
Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Thursday, December 22, 2016 at 1:00 pm
Thursday, December 22, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Friday, December 23, 2016 at 1:00 pm
Friday, December 23, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Saturday, December 24, 2016 at 11:00 am
Saturday, December 24, 2016 at 3:00 pm
Tuesday, December 27, 2016 at 1:00 pm
Tuesday, December 27, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Wednesday, December 28, 2016 at 1:00 pm
Wednesday, December 28, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Thursday, December 29, 2016 at 1:00 pm
Thursday, December 29, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Friday, December 30, 2016 at 1:00 pm
Friday, December 30, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Saturday, December 31, 2016 at 7:30 pm

Tickets start at \$35. For more information, visit bostonballet.org or call 617.695.6955.

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

Choreography: Mikko Nissinen

Set & Costume Design: Robert Perdziola

Music: Peter Illyich Tchaikovsky

Lighting Design: Mikki Kunntu

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 53-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 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.

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Barr Foundation

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