

The Story Of
The Nutcracker
Germany, Christmas Eve, One Hundred Two Years Ago

It is Christmas, but the great flu pandemic has meant the grand party held every year at Clara's home could not take place. Still, she received a wonderful present - a Nutcracker Doll sent by her mysterious Uncle Drosselmeyer. After a big dinner with her family, Clara fell asleep hugging her new favorite doll.

But such dreams! Clara dreamt she was surrounded by horrible mice, taunting her and threatening to make her sick, but just as they closed in, her Nutcracker Doll magically came to life, and made mice scurry away!

The Battle

The Nutcracker leads Clara outside, fleeing the mice, but there are followed and the mice threaten them again. As the Nutcracker battles them to protect Clara, the mice's leader, the evil Rat Queen, appears and engages the Nutcracker in combat, The Nutcracker slips and falls. Desperately, Clara takes off her shoe and smacks the threatening the Rat Queen, who is then slain by the brave Nutcracker.

The Kingdom of the Snow

After the battle is won, more magic: the Nutcracker turns into a Prince, and he invites Clara to travel with him to his home. The young couple come first through the Kingdom of the Snow. There they are greeted by the Snow Queen and the Snow Flakes and Icicles who flutter down from the sky dance an icy waltz to send Clara and her Prince on their way to the Kingdom of the Sweets.

The Kingdom of the Sweets

The Kingdom of the Sweets is a magical place. There is no sickness, angels drift everywhere, flowers dance, and happiness is almost complete, except that the Sugar Plum Fairy wishes for the return of her lost son, the Prince, who had been turned into a Nutcracker doll by the evil Rat Queen. When the Dew Drop Fairy announces the arrival of two young travelers, everyone hopes that the wishes of the Sugar Plum Fairy have come true.

And they have! For the arrivals are the Clara and the lost Prince.

The Prince tells the story of how the Rat Queen was killed, and all are grateful and proud of little Clara, who dances her own sweet solo. Then all in the realm dance their special dances for Clara.

At the end of the celebration, they tell Clara it is time to go home. But not without more presents: The Nutcracker Prince gives Clara her real Nutcracker Doll, and the Sugar Plum Fairy gives Clara a beautiful new mask to help keep her safe at home.

Pontecorvo ballet studios

Barbara Pontecorvo, Director



The Nutcracker

Stuart Sebastian Performance Space
November 20-23, 2020

Pontecorvo Ballet Studios presents

The Nutcracker

Music. . . . Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Staging. . . . Barbara Pontecorvo

Choreography:

Opening, Arabian, Chinese,

Spanish, Mother Ginger, Finale Barbara Pontecorvo

Russian Tea Cakes. . . . Christiana Coover

Angels. . . . Kaylie Thompson

Italian Ice. . . . Stephanie Smith

English Ribbon Candy. . . . Estelle Bean

Waltz of the Flowers. . . . Peter LeBreton Merz

Grand Pas. . . . Traditional

About the Production

While the information below usually applies, this year, like everything else, The Nutcracker is different. To avoid the larger stage scenes (such as the party) and to shorten everyone's time together, we have adapted the PBS Nutcracker production to one act, keeping all of the other favorite scenes and dances. We hope to be back with the full-length version in November 2021.

The PBS production of The Nutcracker premiered in December 1992. PBS founder and director Barbara Pontecorvo conceived it as a school-wide recital in the form of a full-length, staged ballet. While more challenging for the school staff, dancers, and volunteers than a standard school recital program, the educational advantages of presenting and appearing in a full-length production, involving all levels of dancers at the same time, far outweigh the difficulties. Though there are many Nutcrackers performed in the area in recent years, the PBS production, to our knowledge, was the first full-length in the Dayton region!

The ballet was rehearsed on weekends and evenings, beginning in September, never interfering with regular studio classes. The production you are about to see is the result of an enormous commitment of time and energy by all the dancers, their families, and the innumerable but unforgettable corps of volunteer stitchers, organizers, and chauffeurs.

Enjoy the Show!

Warm Thank-Yous to . . .

The costume preparation and fitting crew:

Lisa Darnell, Olena Brownfield, Charity Petrina and their crew:

Deana Allen, Kristine Buten, Carlyn Detweiler, Cydney Evans, Tara Geelhood, Jessica Miller, Teresa Minneman, Jeanne Palmer, Beatrice Sanchez, Melissa Twarek

The following individuals and families who helped set up the theatre, clean and sanitize, or are now back-stage directing traffic and putting angel wings on the little ones:

Allen, Aranda, Baldwin, Brownfield, Bobby Buten, Craycraft, Mardi Dagley, Diercks, Barbara Dunn, Tara Geelhood, Gohlke, Faisal Mehmood, Mandi Meyer, Deanne Mobley, Nassmacher, Stacy O'Diam, Jeanne Palmer, Erica Paulson, Shelly Peresie, Angie Rogers, Stephanie Smith, Tara Spohr, Stankas, Twarek, Voshall, Courtney Wical

Backstage Volunteer Coordinator . . . Jeanne Palmer

Set Up Volunteer Coordinator Olena Brownfield

. . . and especially the others who should be listed here, but were left off by accident.

Special Thanks from the Director to Gem City Ballet for supporting Will Hoppe's appearance and to Phil Detweiler for all his work with video and live streaming,

The Pontecorvo Ballet Studios production of

The Nutcracker

is dedicated in Loving Memory to

Eugene Romeo Pontecorvo

1916-1998

I know he'll still be watching every performance.

The Nutcracker

Saturday, November 21, 5:30 & 8:00pm; Sunday, November 22, 3:30 & 6:00pm

Scenes/Cast of Characters (in order of appearance)

The Battle

Clara Lily Craycraft (*Sat. 5:30pm*), Josie Jones (*Sat. 8pm.*),
Eleanor Smith (*Sun. 3:30pm*), Arabella Wical (*Sun. 6pm*)
The Nutcracker . Henry Sheridan (*Sat.*), Javier Jones (*Sun.*)
Rat Queen Carly Darnell (*Sat.*), Abbie Burns (*Sun.*)

The Kingdom of the Snow

Snow Queen . . . Kennedy Byrd (*Sat.*), Carly Darnell (*Sun.*)
Snow King Will Hoppe (*Sat. 5:30pm. Sun. 6pm*)
Snow Flakes . . . Noah Brownfield, Josie Buten, Hannah Geelhood,
Isabella Konya, Lorelei Miller, Carolyn Palmer,
Darcy Rogers, Elana Twarek, Alyson Voshall
Icicles (*Sat.*): Naomi Baldwin, Caron Cleveland, Elaine Palmer,
Madelyn Stankas
. (*Sun.*): Ani Brownfield, Hollie Montgomery, Mira Seppi,
Zoe Sweere

The Kingdom of The Sweets

Angels

Violet Aranda, Lainey Dunn, Mary Gohlke, Javier Jones (*Sat.*),
Lorelei Meyer, Khrystalle Mobley, Henry Sheridan (*Sun.*), Fern Smith

Dew Drop Fairy

Hannah McGuffey (*Sat.*), Samantha Minneman (*Sun.*)

Sugar Plum Fairy

Annie Burns

Spanish Chocolate

Lucy Arnold (*Sat.*), Zoe Sweere (*Sun.*)

Arabian Coffee

Christiana Allen (*Sat.*), Elizabeth Nassmacher (*Sun.*)
with Lorelei Miller, Carolyn Palmer, Darcy Rogers,
Elana Twarek, Alyson Voshall

Chinese Tea

Noah Brownfield, Josie Buten, Hannah Geelhood, Isabella Konya

English Ribbon Candy

(*Sat.*): Lian Detweiler, Madelyn Stankas, Ashley Zimmer
(*Sun.*): Ryese Diercks, Amelia Johnson, Hollie Montgomery

Italian Ice

Lilly Craycraft, Kennedy Egbert, Josie Jones, Eleanor Smith,
Eliza Spohr, Arabella Wical

Russian Teacakes

Abbie Burns (*Sat.*), Ava Evans (*Sun.*)
with Lorelei Miller, Carolyn Palmer, Darcy Rogers,
Elana Twarek, Alyson Voshall

Mother Ginger and her Children

Cynthia Kaney with Isabel Aranda, Shalom Baldwin, Lilly Dagley,
Zoya Faisal, Lannister Meyer, Sydney O'Diam, Isabel Spohr,
Tia Tsocaris, Piper Voshall

Waltz of the Flowers

Dew Drop Fairy with
(*Sat.*): Lucy Arnold, Naomi Baldwin, Josie Buten, Caron Cleveland,
Lian Detweiler, Elaine Palmer, Madelyn Stankas, Ashley Zimmer
(*Sun.*): Ani Brownfield, Ryese Diercks, Hannah Geelhood, Amelia Johnson,
Isabelle Konya, Hollie Montgomery, Mira Seppi, Zoe Sweere

Grand Pas de Deux

(*Sat. 8pm. Sun. 3:30pm*)

Sugar Plum Fairy with her Cavalier, Will Hoppe

Finale