



CANADA'S ROYAL  
WINNIPEG BALLET

ANDRÉ LEWIS, O.M.  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CEO

# NUTCRACKER TAKES CENTRE STAGE

Watch children live the dream of performing on stage alongside the RWB's Company artists!



Michel Lavoie, Company Artist, Nutcracker | Photo by David Cooper

**WINNIPEG, December 15, 2022.** The Royal Winnipeg Ballet's homegrown, ever-popular *Nutcracker* returns to the Centennial Concert Hall stage from December 21-28 to add splendid sparkle to everyone's holiday season. Artists, musicians, stagehands, children, along with our walk-on role cast, come together once again to make each performance magical and memorable.

What a spellbinding treat to join young Clara in her fairytale fantasy - where an enchanted nutcracker becomes a valiant soldier, the mischievous Mouse King wreaks plenty of havoc and the dazzling Sugar Plum Fairy holds court in an exotic land. To top it off, the dessert-stealing Filbert the Bear and the scene-stealing Hazel the Polar Bear, coupled with her furry polar cubs, will surely warm your heart and every child's heart.

*Nutcracker* opens an audience's eyes to a charming tale while it opens the doors to students from the RWB School to live the dream of performing on stage alongside the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's Company artists. 78 angels, polar bears, reindeer, and party kids will be played by students from the Recreational Division, while young Clara, Julien and Dieter are portrayed by students from our Professional Division. "We're a Company and a School at the same time, so adding in characters, such as reindeer and polar bear cubs, gives students the opportunity to dance in *Nutcracker* and experience what it's like to be in a professional production," stated Jaime Vargas, Ballet Master.

Patrons, guests and families will be wowed by the brilliant and beloved score of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, led by Julian Pellicano, Principal Conductor and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the wonder and whimsical choreography of the late Galina Yordanova and Nina Menon, as well as the spectacular costumes and stunning sets. The elaborate stage elements and breathtaking visual effects, including intricate lighting and glittering Canadian winter landscapes, will beautifully infuse energetic crescendos into the unforgettable story. *Nutcracker* will illuminate your world with glorious imagination and spirit.

"The Royal Winnipeg Ballet's *Nutcracker* has become a holiday tradition for many families," said André Lewis, the RWB's Artistic Director & CEO. "*Nutcracker* represents the culmination of nearly a year of hard work by everyone at the RWB. Winnipeg is the last stop on our 2022 *Nutcracker* tour that included highly successful performances in Fayetteville, Arkansas, as well as Victoria, Vancouver, and Nanaimo, British Columbia."

This year, we are returning to the treasured tradition of the RWB asking business/community leaders, media personalities, actors, musicians, and more, to take part in the *Nutcracker's* party scene walk-on roles. Below are the new additions to the *Nutcracker* 2022 cast!

#### **DECEMBER 21**

**Dan Cannon, Ryan Spracklin & Ivanka Watkin**  
Dust Rhinos

**Jen Zoratti**  
Winnipeg Free Press

#### **DECEMBER 22**

**Isha Khan**  
Canadian Museum for Human Rights

**Ainsley McPhail**  
CTV

**Simeon Rusnak**  
Classic 107 FM

**Lennard Taylor**  
Lennard Taylor Design Studio

#### **DECEMBER 23 - MATINEE**

**Juliette Schroeder-Suss**  
RWB School Recreational Division Alumna

**Janet Stewart**  
CBC

#### **DECEMBER 23 - EVENING**

**Blair Doell & Robyn Hughes**  
Bank of Montréal

**Jason Petric, Tom Petric & Jordan Day**  
Petric

#### **DECEMBER 24**

**AV Kitching & daughter Faith**  
Winnipeg Free Press

**Clay Young**  
Global News

#### **DECEMBER 27**

**Natalie Bell**  
PegCityLovely

**Nicholas Palaschuk**  
University of Waterloo student and family recipient of Rusalka Gala dinner auction prize

**Brandi Vezina**  
Entertainer/Author/Speaker

#### **DECEMBER 28**

**Barbara Best**  
CJNU 93.7 FM

The RWB expresses its deep gratitude to Production Supporter – Richardson Foundation; Live Music Benefactor – The Asper Foundation; and Arts Partner – the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

*Nutcracker* takes centre stage from December 21-28, 2022 at the Centennial Concert Hall. Get your seats online now at [rwb.org](http://rwb.org) or call 204.956.0183 to buy tickets before we are sold-out. Kids 12 and under pay only \$25. Don't miss out!

# RWB MEDIA CALL

## *Nutcracker*

Get a sneak preview of our Company artists performing at the [dress rehearsal](#) and an opportunity to chat with them and members of the artistic staff.

### WHEN

Tuesday, December 20, 2022 6:30pm

### WHERE

Centennial Concert Hall 555 Main Street, Winnipeg MB

**Please enter through the front doors only.**

### PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILMING OPPORTUNITIES

Non-flash photography and filming is permitted – maximum five minutes for filming

### INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

André Lewis, Artistic Director & CEO, Tara Birtwhistle, Associate Artistic Director, Company artists (English & French)

### CONTACT

All media report to Jo Magnifico, Communications & Public Relations Specialist

### About Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet

The heart of dance in Canada and the world, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet teaches, creates and performs, enriching lives through the power of exceptional dance. As a result of the outstanding leadership of Artistic Director & CEO André Lewis, versatility, technical excellence, and a captivating style have become the trademarks of the RWB, qualities that have garnered both critical and audience acclaim. The RWB's superlative standards keep the Company in demand across North America and beyond. In addition to the Company, the RWB is home to the RWB School, consisting of both the Professional Division, our internationally renowned dance education and training centre designed to attract, nurture and develop highly trained, classical ballet dancers and dance teachers, and the Recreational Division, one of Winnipeg's largest dance schools for all ages, levels and interests.

- 30 -

[www.rwb.org](http://www.rwb.org)

For interview requests please contact:

Jo Magnifico | Communications & Public Relations Specialist  
204.957.3456 or [jmagnifico@rwb.org](mailto:jmagnifico@rwb.org)