

# LES GRANDS

BALLETS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL

GRADIMIR PANKOV DIRECTEUR ARTISTIQUE  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Photo : John Hall Danseuse : Aline Schurger

## CASSE-NOISETTE THE NUTCRACKER

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DECEMBER 3-6 DÉCEMBRE 2009 À QUÉBEC  
SALLE LOUIS-FRÉCHETTE, GRAND THÉÂTRE DE QUÉBEC  
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14 H ET 19 H 30 / 2 AND 7:30 P.M.

  
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## NEWS

For immediate release

# LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL PRESENTS THE 46<sup>th</sup> SEASON OF FERNAND NAULT'S *THE NUTCRACKER*

**Montréal, November 11, 2009** — Long live *The Nutcracker*! In what has become a beloved tradition, *The Nutcracker* will light up the Holiday season once again with its dazzling splendour. Since 1964, this Christmas classic has enchanted some millions of Montrealers, providing many of them with their first ballet experience. In the process, it's also shattered a few national records: *The Nutcracker* is officially the longest-running show in the performing arts to be staged at any one venue in Canada. From **December 3 to 6, 2009**, hop aboard Les Grands Ballets express to **Salle Louis-Frédette of Grand Théâtre de Québec**, and from **December 12 to 30, 2009**, to **Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier of Place des Arts** for a memorable rendezvous with an unparalleled family entertainment event.

With your young guides Clara and Fritz and a throng of youngsters, discover a world of pure phantasmagoria. On the program: a stopover in the legendary Land of Snow, an unforgettable stay in the Kingdom of Sweets, an audience with His Majesty, the King of Sweets, and an encounter with the Sugarplum Fairy! This feast for the eyes — legacy of the late Fernand Nault (1920–2006) — sparkles as brightly as ever, 46 years after he created it.

### E.T.A. HOFFMANN'S NUTCRACKER

At a Christmas Eve family party, young Clara receives a handsome Nutcracker as a present from her godfather, Doctor Drosselmeyer, who is rumoured to have magical powers. In a fit of jealousy, Fritz, Clara's brother, seizes the Nutcracker and accidentally breaks it. The good doctor hastens to repair the toy.

When the party is over and everyone has gone to sleep, Clara tiptoes downstairs to the living room and falls asleep, clutching her Nutcracker. Mice and Rats invade the room and engage in battle with Tin Soldiers. Suddenly, the Nutcracker, brought to life by Doctor Drosselmeyer, comes to Clara's rescue. When the battle ends, the Nutcracker, magically transformed into a handsome Prince, whisks Clara off to the Land of Snow and the Kingdom of Sweets. Accompanied by her Prince and the Sugarplum Fairy, Clara discovers a realm of fantasy and delight.

### AN EXTRAORDINARY THEATRICAL ADVENTURE

Fernand Nault's *The Nutcracker* is one of the most ravishing versions of Hoffmann's tale ever produced, with sets by Peter Horne, costumes by François Barbeau and lighting by Nicholas Cernovitch. The story is set to a musical score by Tchaikovsky, performed by the Orchestre symphonique de Québec and by the Orchestre des Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, both under the direction of Les Grands Ballets Resident Conductor Allan Lewis.

### MOUSE OF THE DAY: A MEMORY TO CHERISH FOREVER!

At every performance, the *Nutcracker* cast is joined by a special guest: the Mouse of the Day! As a prelude to the show, Hoffmann's tale will be read by actor Jacques Piperni to children aged 5 to 12 one hour before the show starts. The reading is followed by a random draw to select the name of the child who gets to be Mouse of the Day. The lucky winner will appear in the show's first act before resuming his or her seat at intermission.

### OTHER NUTCRACKER EVENTS

Starting **November 21**, a special exhibition on *The Nutcracker* will be presented at Complexe Desjardins. On **December 5**, members of the public can go to Les GBCM information booth, where balloons will be given to the children.

### FERNAND NAULT

First a dancer, then Ballet Master of American Ballet Theatre, Québec choreographer Fernand Nault became Co-artistic Director and special choreographer for Les Grands Ballets Canadiens in 1965, as well as being a choreographer and Ballet Master at École supérieure de danse du Québec. He added numerous ballets to Les Grands' repertoire besides *The Nutcracker*, including the highly successful works *Carmina Burana* and *Tommy*. Nault created choreographies for American Ballet Theatre, Joffrey Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, Delta Festival Ballet and Washington Ballet. He received many awards and distinctions, among them the Prix Denise-Pelletier for the performing arts, given by the Government of Québec, in 1984. In 1990, he was named Choreographer Emeritus of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal.



**NEW**

**The book *Casse-Noisette – L'histoire d'un ballet***

*The Nutcracker* is also a magnificent children's book that makes a great gift. The book *Casse-Noisette – L'histoire d'un ballet* by Sylvie Roberge, Director of the "Curieux de savoir avec liens Internet" series at Les Éditions Dominique et Compagnie, is available in all good bookstores and at Place des Arts during performances of *The Nutcracker*. Author and host Sylvie Roberge will also give a reading at a Salon du livre workshop on **November 22**.

In the company of Clara, Fritz, the Sugarplum Fairy, Mice and Tin Soldiers, young readers aged six and older will discover the magic of *The Nutcracker* ballet and its dazzling dance numbers. In addition to learning about basic ballet positions and key figures in the dance world, youngsters will get a backstage glimpse of the show.

**Gift ideas for the Holidays**

For other Holiday gift ideas, make your way to Les Grands Ballets kiosk located in Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier of Place des Arts, during any performance of *The Nutcracker*. There, you can purchase the books, as well as bags, posters, and *The Nutcracker* music CD.

**Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal**  
Fernand Nault's *The Nutcracker*

Duration: 2 hours, including a 20-minute intermission

**Performance dates and times**

**QUÉBEC CITY**

**December 3 (e), 4 (e), 5 (m+e) and 6 (m+e), 2009**

Salle Louis-Frédette, Grand Théâtre de Québec  
with Québec Symphonic Orchestra

**Tickets**

Adults : starting at \$35 / Children 12 and under: starting at \$22.75  
On sale at Grand Théâtre de Québec, 418-643-8131 or [www.grandtheatre.qc.ca](http://www.grandtheatre.qc.ca)

**IN MONTRÉAL**

**December 12 (m+e), 13 (m), 17 (e), 19 (m+e), 20 (m+e), 26 (m+e), 27 (m), 28 (m), 29 (m) and 30 (m), 2009**

Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts  
with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal Orchestra

**Tickets**

Adults: starting at \$35 / Children 12 and under: starting at \$20  
On sale at Place des Arts, 514-842-2112 or [www.pda.qc.ca](http://www.pda.qc.ca).  
Gift certificates, group rates and private boxes available on request: 514-849-0269

Prices include taxes, service charges and a \$2 donation to The Nutcracker Fund for Children.

Recommended for ages 5 and up  
M: matinee at 2 p.m. / E: evening at 7:30 p.m.

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal gratefully acknowledges the generosity of **Cinémas Guzzo**, this Season's Sponsor, as well as **Air Canada**, Associated Sponsor, **Great West Life, London Life and Canada Life**, Sponsor for the Educational Matinées, **La Presse and cyberpresse.ca**, Evening Sponsor for December 12, 2009, **Rio Tinto Alcan**, Matinée Sponsor for December 20, 2009, as well as **Investors Group Financial Services**, Financial Partner of *The Nutcracker*.

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal would also like to thank the **Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec**, the **Canada Council for the Arts** and the **Conseil des arts de Montréal**.

- 30 -

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