

NEWS

For immediate release

**LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL
ANNUAL NUTCRACKER FUND FOR CHILDREN
BENEFIT BRUNCH**

THE MAGIC OF *THE NUTCRACKER* IS WITHIN THE REACH OF ALL CHILDREN



Montréal, November 11, 2009 — The Nutcracker Fund for Children Benefit Brunch, the annual festive family gathering, will take place on **Sunday, December 13, at noon, at the Piano nobile** of Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier at Place des Arts. It will be followed by a performance of *The Nutcracker* by Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal.

Created 12 years ago, Les Grands Ballets' Nutcracker Fund for Children collects donations to help disadvantaged youngsters attend a matinée performance of *The Nutcracker* for free. The children are selected by the ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Transport du Québec, which holds a random draw to determine which Montréal schools will take part in the program. This year, the Fund will help 1,800 students from some 60 elementary school classes see the show on Tuesday, December 15, at 2 p.m. To date, 13,000 children have benefited from the program.



The Fund's originality lies in its major educational component. Activities are set up to complement *The Nutcracker* performance in order to stimulate young people's interest and curiosity and to acquaint them with the artistic world. Three types of workshops are given:

- **Literary workshops** led by writer and dance critic Aline Apostolska, who tells children about the history of dance, the crafts involved, and the origins of *The Nutcracker* ballet up to the version created by Fernand Nault. She then leads them through their own collective re-writing of the tale's history;
- **Visual arts workshops** given by artists Lucie Hamel and Eugenia Reznik, who this year will invite the children to experience an artistic practice based on the theme of the environment. Using recycled materials, the children will create miniature works inspired by a scene from the ballet;
- **Introductory dance workshops** given by the company's dancers, who talk about the troupe, their careers and the show's characters, and perform a short excerpt from the ballet. The children are then invited to experience the battle scene through movement.





The visual and literary works created by the students will be exhibited in the Piano mobile from December 12 to 30, 2009.

The December 13 brunch will bring together more than 450 people in a Holiday atmosphere around a huge light-festooned tree. Sponsors, businesspeople and their families, children from the participating schools, and other personalities will all be in attendance. Makeup, magicians and gifts galore for the children will also be on the menu!

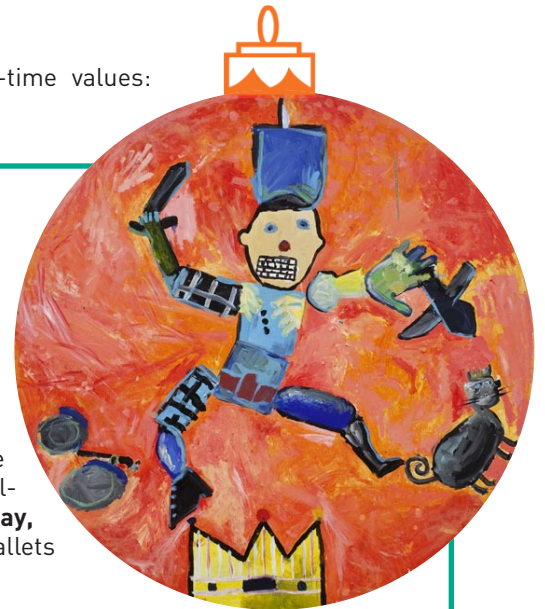
The Nutcracker Fund for Children's brunch evokes traditional Holiday-time values: **generosity, tradition and sharing**. The fundraising goal for 2009 is **\$350,000**.

GIVE GENEROUSLY!

The **public** is also encouraged to contribute to the **Nutcracker Fund for Children** by sending donations to Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal at 4816 Rivard Street, Montréal, Québec H2J 2N6. It is also possible to download the donation form from the Grands Ballets website at www.grandsballets.com.

SHOPPING DAY AT KIEHL'S

In partnership with Kiehl's Since 1851, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal is organizing a **shopping day** to benefit the Nutcracker Fund for Children at the **Kiehl's store** at 760 Sainte-Catherine Street West, on **Tuesday, November 24** from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. A special cocktail with Grands Ballets dancers will take place from 6 to 9 p.m.



The Nutcracker Fund for Children would like to thank its major partners, **National Bank of Canada**, the **Fondation J. A. DeSève**, **Great West Life**, **London Life and Canada Life** and **Hydro-Québec** for their generous contributions.

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