

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

EXCITEMENT IN THE REALM OF *THE NUTCRACKER*

A HOST OF ACTIVITIES REVOLVING AROUND THE FAMOUS BALLET

Montreal, November 15, 2010 — Christmas would not really be Christmas without *The Nutcracker*, one of the most beautiful celebrations of childhood, performed for children and for all those who have retained a small part of their childhood. This beloved ballet by Fernand Nault, based on a Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann tale and set to music by Tchaikovsky, returns once again to Place des Arts—for its 47th season. While this is a much-anticipated event in itself, there are many other activities orbiting around *The Nutcracker*.

The Nutcracker Market, a stop on the way to the land of giving!

The Nutcracker Market, an initiative of Les Grands Ballets and Montreal's first philanthropic market, will take place **from November 25 to December 5, 2010** at the **Palais des congrès de Montréal**. Featuring some **70 exhibitors** in **six categories (Fashion and accessories; Home and decoration; Gourmet pleasures; Beauty and well-being; Kids and toys; Other gifts to discover)**, the event, whose spokesperson is Dorothée Berryman, offers an exclusive shopping experience, enticing activities and a truly enchanting setting. The public will be able to discover numerous gift ideas for the holiday season! All profits from the Market will go to The Nutcracker Fund for Children.

The Nutcracker by Fernand Nault, performed by Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, based on the story by E.T.A. Hoffmann. Music by Tchaikovsky performed by the Orchestre des Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, under the baton of conductor-in-residence Allan Lewis.

Accompany little Clara on her journey to the Lands of Snow and Sweets. This exquisitely charming tale has become a timeless holiday classic, an unforgettable experience that will delight the entire family. By public demand, it has returned every year since 1964! Not to be missed, from **December 11 to 30, 2010**, at the Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier of Place des Arts. Matinées at **2:00 p.m.**, evening performances at **7:30 p.m.** Box office: 514-842-2112 / www.laplacedesarts.com.

A Mouse Is Born!

One hour before each performance, actor Jacques Piperni will read *The Nutcracker* story to children, after which the **Mouse of the Day** will be randomly selected. The lucky winner will then dress up as a mouse and appear on stage in the first act, joining the dancers and playing the role of a mouse in a scene with rats, before returning to his or her seat during intermission!

Here are the starring mice that the Mouse of the Day will join:

TOP ROW / LEFT TO RIGHT: Justine Grenier, Juliette Chouanière, Sophie Lacroix, Marie-Pierre Lacroix, Alicia Rose Couvrette, Victoria Chartier. BOTTOM ROW / LEFT TO RIGHT: Aurélia Kioko Varano, Anna Garon, Mia Calandriello, Julia Gouëlle, Annabelle Michaud, Emma Wolfe, Karina Graton-Downs, Jacqueline Gisbona.



PHOTO JOHN HALL

The Nutcracker at the Grande Bibliothèque

Young children (5 years and over) and adults can also attend the reading of *The Nutcracker* by Jacques Piperni at the Grande Bibliothèque. Auditorium, Grande Bibliothèque, **Saturday, December 4** and **Sunday, December 12, 2010** at **2:30 p.m. Free admission.**

The Nutcracker will have your kids dancing in the métro!

Things are moving in the métro! Children between the ages of 4 and 10 are invited to a Nutcracker dance workshop, presented in collaboration with the Montreal Transit Corporation. Door prizes. **Place des Arts métro, Sunday, December 5, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.**



The Nutcracker Fund for Children: the magic of *The Nutcracker* within every child's reach

With *The Nutcracker*, Les Grands Ballets celebrates the spirit of Christmas and the values associated with it, including **generosity, tradition and sharing**. The **Nutcracker Fund for Children**, established thirteen years ago, allows 1,800 schoolchildren from disadvantaged communities in Greater Montreal to attend a performance of *The Nutcracker* each year.

To support this wonderful initiative, companies and individuals making donations are invited to attend The Nutcracker Fund's **Annual Benefit Brunch** for children. This year, it will be held under the honorary chairmanship of Bernard Letendre, Regional Vice-President, Eastern Canada, Wealth Management, Manulife Financial, on **Sunday, December 12, 2010 at noon, at Piano nobile** of the Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts. On the menu: a family atmosphere, a giant illuminated Christmas tree, face painting, magicians and gifts galore for children. This year's goal is to raise **\$300,000**. **Information:** Judith Bourassa, Funding Assistant, 514-849-8681, ext. 229, jbourassa@grandsballets.com.

Associated with The Nutcracker Fund are educational workshops to develop creativity and stimulate the imagination.

As a prelude to the performance, educational and artistic activities are being offered to children in some 68 classes from 35 schools in Greater Montreal this autumn. The aim is to familiarize young people with the world of art and to help them express their creativity. These workshops are divided into three sections:

- **literary workshops**, given by writer and dance critic Aline Apostolska;
- **visual art workshops**, conducted by artists Lucie Hamel and Eugenia Reznik;
- **introductory dance workshops**, graciously offered by dancers from the company and hosted by Simon Appleman.

Exhibition of the children's works at Piano nobile

The visual and literary works created by these budding artists during the workshops will be exhibited at **Piano nobile**, Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, beginning **December 11, 2010**. Well worth the detour!

Casse-Noisette, L'histoire d'un ballet

Casse-Noisette – L'histoire d'un ballet is a magnificent book for children written by Sylvie Roberge, director of the documentary collection *Curieux de savoir avec liens Internet*, published in 2009 as part of this collection with Éditions Dominique et Compagnie. On sale at all fine bookstores, as well as at Place des Arts during performances of *The Nutcracker*.

In the company of Clara, Fritz, the Sugar Plum Fairy, the little mice and toy soldiers, young readers aged six and over can discover the magic of *The Nutcracker* ballet and the dazzling dance numbers. They will also be able to learn certain basic positions and figures of classical dance, in addition to observing behind-the-scenes action.

Gift Ideas for the Holiday Season

For more Christmas gift ideas, visit the GBCM booth at the Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier of Place des Arts during performances of *The Nutcracker*. You will be able to obtain books, bags, posters and a CD of the music from *The Nutcracker*.

Sponsors and Partners

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal gratefully acknowledges the generosity of **Cinémas Guzzo**, this Season's Sponsor, as well as **Radio-Canada**, Title Sponsor of *The Nutcracker*, for its considerate contribution, and **La Presse**, media partner, for its special collaboration.

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal would in addition like to thank **Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life**, Sponsor for the Educational Matinées, **Rio Tinto Alcan**, Matinée Sponsor, as well as **Investors Group Financial Services**, Financial Partner of *The Nutcracker*. The company also thanks **Hydro-Québec** and **National Bank** for their generous support to The Nutcracker Fund for Children.

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal receives the financial support of the **Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec**, the **Canada Council for the Arts**, and the **Conseil des arts de Montréal**.

Information: Isabelle Gagnon, Media Relations
514 849-8681, ext. 230
igagnon@grandsballets.com

Francine Arsenault, Director of Communications
514 849-8681, ext. 227
farsenault@grandsballets.com

www.grandsballets.com