

LES  
GRANDS  
BALLETS

GRADIMIR PANKOV  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

# THE NUTCRACKER



## NEWS

For immediate release

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# THINGS ARE MOVING IN THE REALM OF *THE NUTCRACKER*

## A WHIRLWIND OF ACTIVITIES WILL SURROUND THE POPULAR BALLET

**Montreal, November 14, 2011**—Capturing the essence of the holiday season, *The Nutcracker* has never ceased to enchant. The return of Fernand Nault's popular ballet to Place des Arts for a 48<sup>th</sup> season, with the music of Tchaikovsky, is an eagerly anticipated event—but there are many other activities orbiting around it. This fall, in fact, the **spirit of *The Nutcracker*** will invade Montreal long before Christmas day!

### Shopping adventures at the Nutcracker Market, a gift-hunter's paradise!

A small market gets bigger! The **Nutcracker Market**, Montreal's first philanthropic Christmas market, launched last year by the GBCM, will take place from **November 24 to December 4, 2011** at the **Palais des congrès de Montréal**. This year's Market will dazzle one and all with **77 exhibitors**, each more enticing than the next, featuring new and exclusive items. Several special events have also been planned. A wealth of original, fabulous and exclusive gift-ideas can be found—in all price ranges! Admission: \$2. Website: [marchecassenoisette.com](http://marchecassenoisette.com).

### *The Nutcracker, the one and only!*

**A production of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, choreographed by Fernand Nault, adapted from a story by E.T.A. Hoffmann. Music by Tchaikovsky performed by the GBCM Orchestra, conducted by Allan Lewis.**

**December 1-4, 2011**, Grand Théâtre de Québec

Box office: 1-877-643-8131 or [billetech.com](http://billetech.com)

**December 10-30, 2011**, Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts

Box office: 514-842-2112 or [laplacedesarts.com](http://laplacedesarts.com)

Special group rates on request (20 or more people): 514 849-0269.

Follow the adventures of Clara, Fritz and a parade of children; immerse yourself in a world of enchantment and magic; travel to the unforgettable Lands of Snow and Sweets; meet the Mouse King and the Sugar Plum Fairy! Is there anything better for the eyes and heart than to see this legacy of the late Fernand Nault (1921-2006)—to celebrate Christmas? To be seen and re-seen with the entire family, this classic never fails to create a sensation.

### A little mouse will become a star!

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

### A reading of "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" at the Grande Bibliothèque

Young children (5 years and up) and adults can also attend a reading of Hoffmann's famous tale by Jacques Piperni at the Auditorium of the Grande Bibliothèque. In French.

**Berri-UQAM Metro Station, Saturday, December 17, 3 p.m. Free admission.**

### Join the dance!

Things will be moving in the métro! Dancers from Les Grands Ballets will be giving a class for children ages 4 to 10 on December 4.

**Place des Arts Metro Station, Sunday, December 4, 2 to 3 p.m. Free admission.**



### **Casse-Noisette, L'histoire d'un ballet**

This magnificent book written by Sylvie Roberge and illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard makes a perfect gift for children. Published by Éditions Dominique et Compagnie in the À pas de loup découverte collection, it is on sale at bookstores and at the Grands Ballets kiosk in Place des Arts. **Reissued in a 6" x 8" edition in the fall of 2011**, the book includes such sections as **Ouvre l'œil !, Le Ballet Casse-Noisette (Acte 1), le Ballet Casse-Noisette (Acte II), les figures, Imagine** and **Vérifie ce que tu as retenu**. In French.

In the company of Clara, Fritz, the Sugar Plum Fairy, the little mice and toy soldiers, young readers can thus discover the magic of *The Nutcracker* ballet and its dazzling dance numbers. They will also learn more about the basic positions and figures of classical dance, and get glimpses of life behind the scenes.

### **The Nutcracker Fund for Children: the magical *Nutcracker* offered as a gift**

It is through *The Nutcracker* that Les Grands Ballets celebrates the spirit of Christmas and the values associated with it, including **generosity, tradition and sharing**. These are the values enshrined by **The Nutcracker Fund for Children**, established 14 years ago. Today, it allows 2,800 schoolchildren from disadvantaged communities in Greater Montreal to attend a performance of *The Nutcracker*. In total, 16,300 children have benefited from this Fund, travelling to the realm of *The Nutcracker* during the Christmas season.

To support this initiative, Les Grands Ballets is appealing to the generosity of companies and individuals. By way of thanks, donors are invited to attend The Nutcracker Fund's **Annual Benefit Brunch**, to be held on **Sunday, December 11, 2011 at noon**, immediately preceding a performance of *The Nutcracker*, under the honorary chairmanship of Bernard Letendre, Vice President and Managing Director, High Net Worth Market, Canadian Division, Manulife Financial. The festivities will unfold around a giant illuminated Christmas tree, with face painting, magicians and gifts galore for children! This year's goal is to raise **\$300,000**. **Information:** Luce Caillères, Assistant, Fundraising, 514-849-8681, ext. 229 / lcailleres@grandsballets.com

### **Educational workshops affiliated with The Nutcracker Fund: developing creativity and stimulating the imagination**

As a prelude to the performance, various workshops will be offered to children this fall in some eighty classrooms throughout Montreal. Designed to teach them more about the world of *The Nutcracker* 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 Eugenia Reznik and Marie-Line Leblanc;
- **introductory dance workshops**, led by dancers from the company in the GBCM's rehearsal studios.

### **Exhibition of the children's works at Piano nobile**

The visual art created by the budding artists at the workshops will be exhibited at **Piano nobile** of Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, and the literary works will be bound in a book, beginning **December 10, 2011**. Well worth a look!

#### **Sponsors and Partners**

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal would like to thank its season sponsor, **Cinémas Guzzo**, as well as **Radio-Canada**, its season partner, and the **Bank TD Group**, official sponsor of *The Nutcracker*, for their generous participation. In addition, the company is grateful to **Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life**, sponsors of the educational matinées, **Rio Tinto Alcan**, matinée sponsor of December 18, as well as **Groupe Investors Financial Services**, partner of *The Nutcracker* ballet.

Finally, the company would like to thank **Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, Canada Council for the Arts** and **Conseil des arts de Montréal** for their financial support..



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