

## NEWS

For immediate release

THE NUTCRACKER FUND FOR CHILDREN ANNUAL BENEFIT BRUNCH  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2008

# SHARING THE NUTCRACKER



**Montréal, November 19, 2008** — For 11 years now, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal's **Nutcracker Fund for Children** has given youngsters from disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Greater Montréal the chance to attend a *Nutcracker* performance free of charge, thanks to the generosity of its private and public donors.

This year, the **Nutcracker Fund**, the only charity of its kind, will bring 1,800 children from 66 elementary school classrooms (selected by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport du Québec) to a special performance of *The Nutcracker* at **2 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16**. Individuals and organizations that support the **Nutcracker Fund** can also invite children from the foundations, hospitals or organizations of their choice to the same performance.

To complement the event, three educational activities have been organized to familiarize the children from the selected schools with the world of artistic creation: **literary workshops** with writer/dance critic Aline Apostolska, **visual arts workshops** with painter Eugenia Reznik, and **introductory dance workshops** with Les Grands dancers Jean-Sébastien Couture, Émilie Durville, John Hall, Marisa Pauloni, Alisia Pobega and Rachel Rufer. The visual and literary works created during the workshops will be displayed at the **Piano nobile** of Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts, throughout the entire *Nutcracker* performance run (December 13 to 30).

### Benefit brunch on December 14, 2008

To fund its activities, the **Nutcracker Fund for Children** depends on generous corporate and individual support through its annual **Benefit Brunch**, held at the **Piano nobile**. Under the honorary chairmanship of Les Grands Artistic Director **Gradimir Pankov**, the charity event kicks off at noon on **Sunday, December 14, 2008**.

In a festive seasonal atmosphere, the brunch will bring together some 450 guests around an immense, magnificently decorated Christmas tree. Sponsors, business community members and their families, children from schools associated to the event and media personalities are expected to attend; face-painting, magicians and gifts for the kids are on the menu! It is hoped the event will raise **\$350,000**.

To date, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal's **Nutcracker Fund for Children** has brought Holiday cheer to some 11,500 disadvantaged children: an initiative of which Les Grands is very proud.

### Join in the spirit of giving!

Members of the public are encouraged to contribute to the **Nutcracker Fund for Children** by sending their **donations** to Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal at 4816 Rivard Street, Montréal, Québec, H2J 2N6. You can also download the donation form from Les Grands online at **www.grandsballets.com**. Help perpetuate this wonderful holiday tradition: give generously!

The **Nutcracker Fund for Children** would like to thank its major partners, **National Bank** and **Hydro-Québec**, for their generous contribution, along with the **Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport du Québec**.

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