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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** November 18, 2009

**CINCINNATI BALLET'S CLASSIC  
*FRISCH'S PRESENTS THE NUTCRACKER*  
SPARKLES DECEMBER 17 – 27  
AT THE ARONOFF CENTER**

**HOLIDAY PRODUCTION TO FEATURE  
TCHAIKOVSKY'S SCORE PERFORMED LIVE BY  
THE CINCINNATI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Cincinnati, OH – November 18, 2009 – Cincinnati Ballet's sparkling holiday production *Frisch's presents The Nutcracker*, set to Tchaikovsky's beloved score performed live by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and conducted by Cincinnati Ballet Music Director Carmon DeLeone, runs December 17 – 27, 2009, at The Aronoff Center for the Arts. Choreography is by Val Caniparoli.

Simply the most famous and extravagant ballet adventure in the world, each season *Frisch's presents The Nutcracker* entralls young and old alike.

Cincinnati Ballet Music Director Carmon DeLeone, who has conducted live music for Cincinnati Ballet for over 40 years, says "The Tchaikovsky score is one of the composer's most colorful and brilliant efforts. We are delighted to join once again with the talented artists of the CSO for *The Nutcracker*."

December 17<sup>th</sup> opening night tickets are \$30, and for remaining performances are \$30 - \$70 at the Cincinnati Ballet Box Office, 513-621-5282, or online at [www.cincinnatiaballet.com](http://www.cincinnatiaballet.com).

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## **CHILDREN'S CAST FEATURES 85 LOCAL CHILDREN**

Melinda Bower, in her fourth year as Children's Ballet Mistress, will coach 85 local children for this season's Nutcracker performances. Among them are kids from two families who have three performers each participating. The roles range from Baby Mouse to Drum Soldier to Guard (a walk-on role played by Dad Ray Schultz).

Cincinnati Ballet Otto M. Budig Academy students Daniel Durrett (for the third consecutive year) and Edmund Hooker (in his first year) will perform the lead children's role of Fritz.

## **SUGAR PLUM PARADE, OPEN REHEARSAL, ANNUAL GALA AND CHILDREN'S LUNCHEON OFFER MORE NUTCRACKER ACTIVITIES**

The Sugar Plum Parade is back! After matinee performances on Tuesday, December 22 and Saturday, December 26, parents can escort their children across the Aronoff stage, where they will be greeted by performers.

**SOLD OUT** December 10, 2009 at 5:15 pm, at "Ballet and Beer," Cincinnati Ballet dancers rehearse a work from *Frisch's presents The Nutcracker*. Afterwards guests and dancers mingle at an informal reception. "Ballet and Beer" occurs at The Ballet Center's Mickey Jarson Kaplan Performance Studio, 1555 Central Parkway. There is no charge, but reservations are recommended: 513-621-5219.

Cincinnati Ballet's Nutcracker "Reflections" Gala, an annual fundraising benefit, takes place Sunday, December 20 from 6 – 9 pm. The event, including an exclusive toast on the actual "Land of the Sweets" set, is themed to look back at the 35 year sponsorship of *Frisch's presents The Nutcracker*. More information and tickets are available by calling 513-621-5282.

The timeless family holiday event “The Children’s Nutcracker Luncheon” will be presented Saturday, December 19 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm in the Presidential Ballroom at The Westin Hotel on Fountain Square. Children and their companions enjoy a child-friendly menu, surprise entertainers, and selections from *Frisch’s presents The Nutcracker* performed by Cincinnati Ballet Otto M. Budig Academy students.

## **THE NUTCRACKER STORY**

### Act 1, Scene I

#### Drosselmeier’s Workshop:

Our story begins on Christmas Eve. A mysterious toy maker, named Herr Drosselmeier, is getting ready for a party. He puts finishing touches on magical toys for his godchildren, Marie and Fritz. One of the toys is not really a toy at all but a magical wooden Nutcracker.

### Scene II, The Party

The Stahlbaum home is festive with an amazing Christmas tree. Suddenly, Herr Drosselmeier bursts into the room carrying huge presents. The mischievous Fritz is presented with a gift later taken away because he is so naughty. Drosselmeier unwraps two more gifts, an unusual wooden Nutcracker, which Marie immediately falls in love with, and an especially curious doll that looks just like Marie. Drosselmeier works his magic—the Nutcracker toy and the doll grow and appear to come alive before everyone’s eyes. After the doll and Nutcracker dance, the Nutcracker is restored to its original size and presented back to Marie. After the party, Marie is very tired and takes her new Nutcracker off to bed. She quickly falls asleep and slips into a fantastic dream...

### Scene III, The Battle

Marie hears the chimes of the big grandfather clock downstairs striking midnight, and finds herself in the drawing room where she is startled by the sound of scampering little feet and the flickering of many tiny eyes. The mice steal away her beloved Nutcracker. A terrible battle ensues between the mice and the toys. The Nutcracker, having escaped the clutches of the mice, challenges the Mouse King to a duel. With Marie's help, the Nutcracker is able to fatally wound his enemy. Magically, the Nutcracker is transformed into a handsome prince, who invites Marie to the Kingdom of Toys and Sweets. Together, they begin the journey as her sleigh bed flies through the swirling snowstorm.

### Act III, The Land of Toys and Sweets

Much to Marie's surprise, Herr Drosselmeier greets them on their arrival at the enchanted Kingdom. Delightful toys from foreign lands, such as Spain, Arabia, France, China and Russia are crowded in the courtyard. Drosselmeier brings them all to life to perform in a royal festival honoring his special guests. The Nutcracker Prince invites Marie to dance with him in the grandest pas de deux of all. Marie is enchanted; it is all so perfect. Now, tired from the festivities, Marie imagines she is floating away, high above the kingdom and over the mountains. When she opens her eyes, she is home, in bed, her beloved Nutcracker beside her.

## THE ARTISTS

Cincinnati Ballet's 2008-09 anniversary season marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of longtime **Music Director Carmon DeLeone**. The popular "Maestro" was specially celebrated in February 2009, when he conducted the score of his own Pulitzer Prize-nominated score during the company's staging of *Peter Pan*. Most recently, he conducted the Cincinnati Ballet Orchestra for Cincinnati Ballet's *Swan Lake*.

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**Val Caniparoli's** *Nutcracker* debuted in Cincinnati in 2001. His full-length works performed here include *Lady of the Camellias*. This prolific dance maker is most closely associated with San Francisco Ballet, his artistic home for over thirty years. He is a sought-after American choreographer in the United States and abroad.

The Russian composer **Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky** (1840 – 1893) wrote some of the most popular concert and theatrical music in the current classical repertoire, including the ballets *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty* and *The Nutcracker*. *The Nutcracker*, Op. 71, is a fairy tale ballet composed during 1891-92, based on Alexandre Dumas' adaptation of the story "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" by E. T. A. Hoffmann.

**WHAT:**

*Cincinnati Ballet's Frisch's presents The Nutcracker*

**WHERE:**

The Aronoff Center for the Performing Arts  
650 Walnut Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

**WHEN:**

Thursday, December 17, 2009 7:30 PM  
Friday, December 18, 2009 7:30 PM  
Saturday, December 19, 2009 2:00 PM  
Saturday, December 19, 2009 7:30 PM  
Sunday, December 20, 2009 2:00 PM  
Tuesday, December 22, 2009 2:00 PM  
Wednesday, December 23, 2009 2:00 PM  
Wednesday, December 23, 2009 7:30 PM  
Saturday, December 26, 2009 2:00 PM  
Saturday, December 26, 2009 7:30 PM  
Sunday, December 27, 2009 2:00 PM

**TICKETS:** \$30 - \$70 at the Cincinnati Ballet Box Office, 513-621-5282, or online at [www.cincinnatiaballet.com](http://www.cincinnatiaballet.com).

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## **About Cincinnati Ballet**

For 46 years, Cincinnati Ballet has been the cornerstone professional ballet company of the Cincinnati tri-state area, presenting a mix of important classical full-length ballets and an adventurous and vibrant mix of repertory ballets, regularly with live orchestral accompaniment. Cincinnati Ballet's mission is to inspire hope and joy in our community and beyond through the power and passion of dance. Our mantra: "Everybody dances." To that end, Cincinnati Ballet presents exhilarating performances, extensive education outreach programs (including professional lecture-demos, residencies, scholarship programs and student matinees), and offers top level professional ballet training at Cincinnati Ballet Otto M. Budig Academy, which enjoys an enrollment of over a thousand participants in multi-leveled programs at The Cincinnati Ballet Center. Cincinnati Ballet Academy's "Rhythm & Motion" classes were recently lauded nationally in "36 Hours in Cincinnati, Ohio," a *New York Times* travel article.

Cincinnati Ballet's 2009-2010 Season is generously sponsored by Season Sponsor The Otto M. Budig Family Foundation and Associate Sponsor Rhonda and Larry A. Sheakley Family Foundation

Cincinnati Ballet gratefully acknowledges support from organizations and individuals throughout the Tri-state region including Dinsmore & Shohl LLP Attorneys, Frisch's Restaurants, Hilton Hotel, Seta Music, Wellington Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine.

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*Frisch's Presents The Nutcracker* is sponsored by:  
Frisch's Restaurant Inc., Coca-Cola, and Barbara Weyand

Live Music for *Frisch's Presents The Nutcracker* is brought to you by an Anonymous supporter

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