



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CINCINNATI BALLET MAKES MEMORIES WITH  
THE RETURN OF *FRISCH'S PRESENTS THE NUTCRACKER* DECEMBER 16-26**

*This season, Cincinnati Ballet has this suggestion for families:  
Don't just spend. Spend time – together!*

CINCINNATI –*When I was little, my parents took me to see The Nutcracker every year. It's one of my favorite holiday memories.*

This refrain is almost as familiar to the staff and dancers of Cincinnati Ballet as the soaring notes in Tchaikovsky's beloved ballet score *The Nutcracker*. Thirty-six years and five different productions of *The Nutcracker* later have brought Cincinnatians close to the magic of this familiar story, the grandeur of the sets and costumes and the fantasy lands young Marie visits during her dream-like voyage.

"*The Nutcracker* is a way for us to connect, reach to the community, bring dance to families from all over the region," says Victoria Morgan, Cincinnati Ballet Artistic Director and CEO.

"Nowhere else in the world is this ballet so beloved as in the United States," writes Alastair Macaulay in *The New York Times*.

"If you ask our dancers or our board, 'What was the moment you first fell in love with dance?' Most will say the first time they saw *The Nutcracker*. For many people in our region, *The Nutcracker* is their first arts experience," says Morgan.

Through *Frisch's Presents The Nutcracker*, Cincinnati Ballet continues to offer young people their first encounter with dance, creating an enchantment and traditions that last a lifetime. Cincinnati Ballet presents this annual ballet fantasy December 16 – 26 at the Aronoff Center for the Arts. Tchaikovsky's famous score is performed live by Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, thanks to the generosity of the Louise Dieterle Nippert Musical Arts Fund.

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## **YOUNG DANCERS GREW UP ON THE NUTCRACKER STAGE**

Joseph Cox, Cincinnati Ballet's CBII Manager, coaches 85 local children for this season's *Nutcracker* performances. The roles range from Baby Mouse to Drum Soldier to Guard. Cincinnati Ballet Otto M. Budig Academy students Zajuan Wheeler and Edmund Hooker will perform the lead children's role of Fritz.

In an interview for a *Cincinnati Enquirer* story, Wheeler, 13, said, "It's my first year doing Fritz. The people at the ballet are depending on me doing a great job. And see me do my best onstage. It's a great show. It's magical for kids."

Annie Honebrink has seen Cincinnati Ballet's *Nutcracker* every year of her life. She's danced almost every children's cast role and even performed in corps de ballet roles as a snowflake and a flower.

"Performing the children's roles, you're seeing how a ballet company operates," says Honebrink. "Even as a Baby Mouse, you see all the work behind the scenes." Honebrink now dances as a trainee with Louisville Ballet.

*For performance dates and times, ticket prices, a list of events surrounding the season and a story synopsis, please see below.*

## **MORE WAYS TO CELEBRATE AND SPEND TIME TOGETHER**

*Meet The Nutcracker, watch rehearsal, join the Sugar Plum Parade, attend the Children's Nutcracker Luncheon*

- **Thursday, December 9** at 5:15 pm, at "Ballet and (Root)beer," Cincinnati Ballet dancers rehearse a work from *Frisch's Presents The Nutcracker*. Then guests and dancers mingle at an informal reception. Cincinnati Ballet Center Mickey Jarson Kaplan Performance Studio, 1555 Central Parkway. There is no charge, but attendants **MUST** make a reservation. This event fills up quickly. Call 513-621-5219.
- **Opening Night December 16** all tickets are \$40. This is a great way for families to see *The Nutcracker* from a closer seat than they otherwise would.
- The Sugar Plum Parade returns. After matinee performances **Sunday, December 19** and **Thursday, December 23**, parents can escort their children across the Aronoff stage to meet cast members.
- **The Children's Nutcracker Luncheon** is presented **Saturday, December 18**, 11 am to 1 pm. Enjoy a child-friendly lunch and scrumptious ice cream sundaes. This event features ballet selections from *Frisch's Presents The Nutcracker* performed by Cincinnati Ballet's Otto M. Budig Academy students. Sponsored by Pampers and Kroger. More information: <http://www.cballet.org/events/1011NCLuncheon>
- **MEET THE NUTCRACKER:** The Nutcracker is tweeting from @CincyNutcracker and posting his adventures to Foursquare. Follow him and find out where he's appearing next. Enter to win tickets or get your photo taken with The Nutcracker. (<http://www.cballet.org/events/meetthenutcracker>)

- Tuesday, 11/ 23, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm: Turkey Bowl at Fountain Square
- Wednesday, 11/ 24, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm: Findlay Market
- Friday, 11/ 26, 7 – 9 am: Black Friday - Meet the Nutcracker with Warm 98 at Kenwood Towne Center
  
- Friday, 11/ 26, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm: Light Up the Square on Fountain Square
- Saturday, 12/ 4, 12 – 2 pm: Meet The Nutcracker at IKEA West Chester
- Sunday, 12/ 5, 11 am – 1:30 pm: Warm 98 Remote at Frisch’s Restaurant. Meet The Nutcracker and the Big Boy
- Saturday, 12/4, 6:30 – 8 pm: Macy’s Downtown Dazzle at Fountain Square
- Thursday, December 9, 5 – 7 pm, Frisch’s Presents The Nutcracker - Ballet & (Root)Beer at Cincinnati Ballet Center
- Saturday, 12/11, 11 – 12 pm: Findlay Market
- Saturday, 12/11, 6:30 – 8 pm: Macy’s Downtown Dazzle at Fountain Square
- Sunday, 12/ 12, 11 am – 12:30 pm: Warm 98 Remote at Frisch’s Restaurant. Meet The Nutcracker and the Big Boy

## **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.

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*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, DeLeone conducted the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra for Cincinnati Ballet's *The Sleeping Beauty* at Music Hall.

**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.

## PERFORMANCE DATES AND INFORMATION

- WHO:** Cincinnati Ballet  
Choreography: Val Caniparoli  
Music: Tchaikovsky, performed by Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra conducted by Carmon DeLeone
- WHAT:** *Frisch's Presents The Nutcracker*
- WHEN:** Thursday, December 16, 2010 7:30 PM\*\*  
Friday, December 17, 2010 7:30 PM  
Saturday, December 18, 2010 2:00 PM  
Saturday, December 18, 2010 7:30 PM  
Sunday, December 19, 2010 1:00 PM\*  
Wednesday, December 22, 2010 2:00 PM  
Wednesday, December 22, 2010 7:30 PM  
Thursday, December 23, 2010 2:00 PM\*  
Thursday, December 23, 2010 7:30 PM  
Sunday, December 26, 2010 1:00 PM  
Sunday, December 26, 2010 5:30 PM  
\*Sugar Plum Parade: Meet the cast on stage after the show!  
\*\* Opening night: Dec. 16 all tickets are \$40
- WHERE:** Aronoff Center for the Arts  
650 Walnut Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202
- HOW:** Call 513-621-5282 or visit [cballet.org](http://cballet.org) to purchase tickets.  
\$30 - \$70 at the Cincinnati Ballet Box Office, 513-621-5282

## **About Cincinnati Ballet**

Since 1963, Cincinnati Ballet has been the cornerstone professional ballet company of the region, presenting a mix of important classical full-length ballets and an adventurous, 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 is "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 more than a thousand participants in multi-level programs across two studio campuses. BRAVO! is the Ballet Resource and Volunteer Organization committed to the financial stability and the artistic excellence of Cincinnati Ballet.

Cincinnati Ballet's 2010-2011 Season is generously sponsored by Season Sponsor The Otto M. Budig Family Foundation, Music Sponsor The Louise Dieterle Nippert Musical Arts Fund, Associate Sponsor Rhonda and Larry A. Sheakley Family Foundation and Season Funder ArtsWave.

Cincinnati Ballet gratefully acknowledges support from organizations and individuals throughout the Tri-state region including Cincinnati Bell, Bill & Sue Friedlander, Mr. & Mrs. Lorrence T. Kellar, Norma Peterson, Doris M. and Charles B. Levinson Fund of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Mr. & Mrs. John Boorn and Mona S. Foad, M.D. Cincinnati Dermatology Center.

Additional funding is provided by Ohio Arts Council and the Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission.

*Frisch's Presents The Nutcracker* is sponsored by Frisch's Restaurants, Inc., Coca Cola and Trish and Rick Bryan.

### Special Thanks to

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