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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CINCINNATI BALLET AND FRISCH'S PRESENT WORLD PREMIERE OF NEW NUTCRACKER**

***Artistic Director Victoria Morgan Debuts All-New Production Featuring New  
Choreography, 200 Costumes, 20 Elaborate Sets, 15 Scenes And More Than 150  
Children's Roles***

**CINCINNATI, OH.** Cincinnati Ballet, its Board of Trustees and Frisch's Restaurants debut the world premiere of *Frisch's presents The New Nutcracker* December 15-24, 2011 at the Aronoff Center for the Arts in Cincinnati. The production features all new sets and scenery, costumes and choreography by Cincinnati Ballet Artistic Director and CEO Victoria Morgan.

*"I began contemplating this New Nutcracker four or five years ago. I started watching our 2001 version, thinking 'What if we added this, or reinterpreted this character, or added new ones?' I have loved our old version but there are fresh ways to interpret great master works to this gorgeous Tchaikovsky music. The music is the base, but the way we see it and feel it changes with our experiences and with the technical capabilities of our artists,"* Morgan said. *"This New Nutcracker will be simply spectacular, with vivid colors and whimsical design, quick-moving action, and lively, entertaining, even surprising moments,"* Morgan added. *"Ballet is often so serious. My intention is to bring more humor and a lot of magic to this family holiday tradition."*

*"I come from a long line of multiple Nutcrackers spanning from age 8 to when I retired from dancing at 35,"* says Morgan. *"I have not only been in multiple versions, I've also danced every female role from Party Scene to Snow to Sugar Plum Fairy. There will be parts of that long history that I will be running away from, and sections that hopefully will surprise me, you, the audience and our dancers."*

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Morgan promises that many beloved aspects of *The New Nutcracker* will not change. *"There will be a Nutcracker who comes magically to life; there will be snow ... lots of it! And the Christmas tree will grow giving the young heroine the curious feeling that she is shrinking while everything around her grows larger. When the tree grows – it is one of my favorite moments in the music, and visually it's astounding,"* says Morgan. *"That's the moment when the stage really does become a world of magic, and we're all transported to another land."*

The production features entirely new sets of full-stage, seamless drops by renowned set designer John Ezell and hand-painted by scenic artists at Michael Hagan studio. Cincinnati Ballet's local I.A.T.S.E. union will fabricate 15 large deck units and hundreds of props. More than 200 new costumes designed by Tony Award-nominated designer Carrie F. Robbins are being constructed by Cincinnati Ballet's wardrobe department, Playhouse in the Park and Madcap Puppets workshop. Swirling special effects, lighting and projected images will add to the visual excitement.

The first Cincinnati Ballet's *Frisch's Presents The Nutcracker* debuted in 1974 and has been seen by over 1,000,000 people since its inception. It has traditionally been the most opulent production of the company's annual season known for ornate costumes and sets and an enormous cast which includes international dancers, supernumeraries from the community and over 100 children.

*Frisch's Presents The New Nutcracker* is generously sponsored by Frisch's Restaurants, Inc., with additional support from PNC and the Robert H. Reakirt Foundation and Great American Insurance Group.

Cincinnati Ballet 2011-2012 Season Sponsors are The Otto M. Budig Family Foundation, Rhonda & Larry A. Sheakley Family Foundation, Rosemary & Mark Schlachter, The Louise Dieterle Nippert Musical Arts Fund, ArtsWave, Ohio Arts Council, Mona S. Foad, M.D., and Mr. Ali Kerr, Cincinnati Dermatology Center.

Tickets start at \$40 and are available through the Cincinnati Ballet box office (513) 621-5282 or in person at 1555 Central Parkway, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. All programming is subject to change. For additional information or to purchase tickets online visit [www.cballet.org](http://www.cballet.org).

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