

1 July 2010

***The Nutcracker*: the original toy story destined to delight new fans**

Festive favourite back by popular demand

The Australian Ballet presents an enchanting encore season of ***The Nutcracker***, an unmissable opportunity to meet the charming Clara and her sugar-coated friends.

Returning after three sold-out cities in 2007, this magical production will bring festive cheer to **Melbourne** from **11 September** at the Arts Centre and then **Sydney** from **3 December** at the Sydney Opera House.

The world's original toy story has captivated audiences for decades; a timeless classic of toy soldiers, talking mice and dancing snowflakes seen through the eyes of a little girl at Christmas.

Artistic Director David McAllister said demand for the production's return was overwhelming.

"For both fans and first-timers, *The Nutcracker* is one of those ballets you must see at least once in your lifetime. We never need an excuse to perform it, and for those that missed out last time, here is your chance!"

Originally created for the Birmingham Royal Ballet in 1990, English legend Sir Peter Wright's version is a visual treat. Featuring sumptuous sets and costumes worthy of a fairytale, *The Nutcracker* is perfectly complemented by Tchaikovsky's acclaimed score, his final ballet composition.

The *Nutcracker* is one of the most labour intensive productions to stage in The Australian Ballet's repertoire. The level of detail in bringing this ballet to life is extraordinary. There are over 10,000 hand-sewn beads on each Sugar Plum Fairy costume, the famed *Nutcracker* doll has been lovingly handcrafted, and the foliage for the five metre tall Christmas tree features no less than seven shades of green material.

Celebrated UK designer John F Macfarlane oversaw the re-creation of sets for The Australian Ballet in

2007, and his spectacular vision retains its sparkle and shine today.

The result is a breathtaking ballet that will transport even the most cynical of adults back to a childhood wonderland. Add a company of stunning dancers and the power of Tchaikovsky's immortal score, and the grand scale of this wonderful production becomes more than evident.

Acknowledged as one of the most popular ballets of all time, *The Nutcracker* has a rich history. The story first appeared in 1816 in a book of short tales by German writer Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffman under the title *Nussknacker und Mauskönig* (*Nutcracker and the Mouse King*), and it made its ballet debut in 1892 in St Petersburg, Russia.

Since then, it has been re-imagined countless times, including Graeme Murphy's uniquely Australian take in *Nutcracker – The Story of Clara*, staged to great acclaim by The Australian Ballet in 2009. Two very different interpretations illustrate the artistic depth of what appears at first glance as a simple children's tale.

Whether it's a first or fifth time, *The Nutcracker* is always enchanting, engaging and elegant, and will cast its extraordinary spell over the whole family.

What the critics said:

"It really is the perfect ballet" SUNDAY HERALD SUN 2007

"Wow. You don't have to be a fan of ballet to be overcome by *The Nutcracker*. It is rare that the planets align so perfectly to deliver a rich, brilliantly staged performance" DAILY TELEGRAPH 2007

australianballet.com.au
behindballet.com
2 Kavanagh Street Southbank Victoria
3006 Australia

For media enquiries please contact:
Nicole Lovelock, Publicist, The Australian Ballet
E: nicole@australianballet.com.au
P: (03) 9669 2771 M: 0409 359 174

NEWS FROM

The Australian Ballet



Credits

THE NUTCRACKER

Choreography Peter Wright, Lev Ivanov, Vincent Redmon

Composer Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Set and costume design John F Macfarlane

Lighting design David Finn

DATES

Melbourne 11 – 25 September (15 performances)

the Arts Centre, State Theatre

with Orchestra Victoria

Bookings: australianballet.com.au or 1300 369 741

Sydney 3 – 22 December (22 performances)

Opera Theatre, Sydney Opera House

with Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra

Bookings: australianballet.com.au or 1300 369 741

-ends-

australianballet.com.au

behindballet.com

2 Kavanagh Street Southbank Victoria
3006 Australia

For media enquiries please contact:

Nicole Lovelock, Publicist, The Australian Ballet

E: nicolel@australianballet.com.au

P: (03) 9669 2771 M: 0409 359 174

Government Partners



Principal Sponsor



The
Australian
Ballet

