

The Nutcracker

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The Nutcracker

Joburg Ballet

A Ballet in Two Acts

Choreography and Production

Angela Malan

Assistant Producer

Shannon Glover

Rehearsal Coaches

Thabang Mabaso,

Craig Pedro, Ivan Domiciano,

Sanmarie Kreuzhuber-Hagler,

Nicole Ferreira-Dill and

Natasha Ireland

Additional choreography by

Shannon Glover

Music

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Scenery and Lighting Designer

Wilhelm Disbergen

Costumes

Joburg Ballet

The Teatro, Montecasino

1, 2, 9 December at 20h00

2, 9 December at 15h00

3, 8, 10 December at 14h00

3 December at 18h00

6, 10 December at 11h00

2023

Cover:

Monike Cristina and

Ivan Domiciano

This page:

Cristina Nakos and

Revil Yon

Programme photographs

Lauge Sorensen





From Elroy Fillis-Bell | CEO

Very few things evoke the festive spirit like *The Nutcracker* does. This timeless ballet, a true holiday tradition, comes to life through the dedication, passion, and exceptional talent of the entire Joburg Ballet team. We welcome you as we accompany Clara on this awe-inspiring journey to the Kingdom of the Sweets.

I would like to acknowledge the brilliant Angela Malan, our choreographer and guest producer, whose artistry can be felt in every part of her interpretation of this classic family ballet. Angela's vision and commitment have elevated *The Nutcracker* to new heights, captivating audiences of all ages. Angela has been greatly assisted by her Assistant Producer, Shannon Glover, who has been instrumental in the staging of this production. They have been supported by a strong team of rehearsal coaches working with the company, thanks to Thabang Mabaso, working with our guest coaches Sanmarie Kreuzhuber-Hagler and Natasha Ireland. A special note of appreciation is extended to Nicole Ferreira-Dill, Ivan Domiciano and Craig Pedro, who, in addition to their demanding workloads as dancers, also stepped in to share their knowledge and skill as rehearsal coaches for this season.

Thank you to the City of Joburg, for the continued support of Joburg Ballet's work and productions. We are glad to create the opportunities for young performers to share the stage with our professional dancers. Not only are the Joburg Ballet Academy dancers performing, our own Joburg Ballet School learners also form part of this cast, performing in rotation with students from Carstens-Ireland Ballet School.

For this season, we are overjoyed to return to the beautiful Teatro at Montecasino after a four-year pandemic-related break. Thank you to Bryan Hill and the broader Montecasino team for the invitation and your professionalism throughout this season. Finally, thank you to our media partner for this season, Hot 102.7, we are proud to be associated to another proudly Johannesburg brand such as yours. We close this year with a tour of *The Nutcracker* to The Playhouse in Durban from 15 to 17 December.

The search for Joburg Ballet's new Artistic Director is still ongoing. In the interim, our Ballet Mistress/ Master will be appointed in the coming weeks, and we have been grateful for the support and counsel of great artistic minds, both locally and internationally, as we finalised our artistic programme for 2024. As such, we are excited to introduce a triple bill of dance works from international and South African choreographers under the season Scarcity, opening 15 March 2024 on the Mandela Stage at Joburg Theatre. Bookings are now open.



From Angela Malan | Guest Producer

The Nutcracker – the world's most magical classical ballet – is set to transport audiences to a fairytale world as Clara and her Nutcracker Prince journey through sweets, snowflakes and waltzing flowers to reach the enchanted realm of the Sugar Plum Fairy.

The captivating music by Tchaikovsky and the beautiful sets, costumes and lighting make *The Nutcracker* an unforgettable treat for children and adults alike.

With the help and support of the artistic team comprising Shannon Glover, Thabang Mabaso, Craig Pedro, Ivan Domiciano, Sanmarie Kreuzhuber-Hagler, Nicole Ferreira-Dill and Natasha Ireland, this production showcases all the wonder and magic of *The Nutcracker* and captures the timelessness of the great classical ballet tradition. Many thanks to Joburg Ballet for bringing this production back to life.

The Story

ACT I: The Stahlbaum Home

It is Christmas Eve and family and friends have gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stahlbaum and their children, Clara and Fritz, to decorate the Christmas Tree. Suddenly a mysterious figure arrives. It is Dr. Drosselmeyer, a magician and Clara's godfather. He is also a talented toy maker who has brought gifts for the children, including life-like dolls who dance to the delight of all before being put away for safe-keeping. But Dr. Drosselmeyer has yet another toy, a wooden Nutcracker carved in the shape of a little soldier which he presents to Clara. She is captivated by the Nutcracker and when Fritz breaks it, she is heartbroken. Dr. Drosselmeyer mends the Nutcracker and Clara leaves it under the Christmas Tree.

During the night, after everyone has gone to bed, Clara returns to her beloved Nutcracker and falls asleep under the Christmas Tree. The clock strikes midnight. Clara wakes up. Something mysterious has happened. She turns to the Nutcracker and as they dance together, the Christmas Tree grows to dizzying heights. A giant Rat King appears and calls on his faithful followers. To protect Clara, the

Nutcracker summons toy soldiers and a battle ensues. The Rat King wounds the Nutcracker. As the Rat King advances on the wounded Nutcracker, Clara throws a soldier's boot at him, knocking him out.

The rats retreat as the Nutcracker comes to life. The Nutcracker and Clara dance together. Clara is enthralled when Dr. Drosselmeyer appears and leads them on a journey through a moonlit forest where snowflakes and ice crystals enchant them. As the curtain falls, Clara and the Nutcracker continue on their magical journey.

INTERVAL

Act II: The Kingdom of the Sweets

Clara and the Nutcracker arrive in the Kingdom of the Sweets where Dr. Drosselmeyer is there to meet them. The Nutcracker recounts how he was saved from the Rat King by Clara. The Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier and dancers from far and wide perform in honour of the young heroine. All joins in the festivities as they bid Clara farewell.

The Cast

Dr. Drosselmeyer	Craig Pedro / Ivan Domiciano / Revil Yon / Gabriel Fernandes
Mr. Stahlbaum	Gabriel Fernandes / Craig Pedro / Bruno Miranda / Revil Yon
Mrs. Stahlbaum	Kitty Phetla / Nicole Ferreira-Dill / Savannah Ireland / Monike Cristina / Shannon Glover
Clara, their daughter	Erica Vadelka / Chloé Blair / Alice le Roux / Darragh Hourrides
Fritz, their son	Jayden Samuels / Junior Masuku / Tshiamo Selima
Grandfather	Thabani Ntuli / Miguel Franco-Green / Mario Gaglione / Mbongeni Moyake / Neo Moloi
Grandmother	Savannah Jacobson / Josie Ridgway / Erica Vadelka / Chloé Blair
Harlequin	Tammy Higgins / Cristina Nakos / Alice le Roux / Erica Vadelka
Columbine	Ruan Galdino / Ivan Domiciano / Luhle Mtati / Tumelo Lekana
Soldier	Marlon Sales / Luhle Mtati / Mario Gaglione / Tumelo Lekana
Vivandiere	Savannah Jacobson / Josie Ridgway / Katelyn van Herk / Kate O'Donoghue
Maid	Josie Ridgway / Savannah Jacobson / Katelyn van Herk
Butler	Mbongeni Moyake / Tumelo Lekana / Luhle Mtati / Rahl Burke / Michael Constantinides
The Nutcracker	Revil Yon / Craig Pedro / Bruno Miranda / Gabriel Fernandes
Rat King	Ivan Domiciano / Bruno Miranda / Tumelo Lekana / Luhle Mtati / Kitty Phetla
Chocolate	Savannah Ireland / Tammy Higgins / Darragh Hourrides / Erica Vadelka
Coffee	Gabriel Fernandes / Revil Yon / Ruan Galdino / Bruno Miranda / Mario Gaglione
Tea	Monike Cristina / Darragh Hourrides / Alison Sischy / Chloé Blair
Shepherdesses	Ruan Galdino / Bruno Miranda / Gabriel Fernandes / Craig Pedro
Russian Dance	Mario Gaglione / Luhle Mtati / Tumelo Lekana / Thabani Ntuli
Sugar Plum Fairy	Miguel Franco-Green / Craig Pedro / Gabriel Fernandes / Mbongeni Moyake
Her Cavalier	Alice le Roux / Monike Cristina / Cristina Nakos / Tammy Higgins
Party Guests, Children,	Ivan Domiciano / Mbongeni Moyake
Rats, Soldiers, Crystals,	Luhle Mtati / Neo Moloi / Ruan Galdino / Mario Gaglione
Snowflakes, Lambs,	Marlon Sales / Tumelo Lekana / Miguel Franco-Green / Craig Pedro
Waltz of the Flowers	Thabani Ntuli / Bruno Miranda / Revil Yon / Tumelo Lekana
	Nicole Ferreira-Dill / Monike Cristina / Tammy Higgins / Shannon Glover / Cristina Nakos
	Bruno Miranda / Ivan Domiciano / Ruan Galdino / Marlon Sales / Revil Yon
	Artists of Joburg Ballet



Nicole Ferreira-Dill | Bruno Miranda



Shannon Glover | Marlon Sales



Tammy Higgins | Ruan Galdino





Chloé Blair | Craig Pedro





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Monike Cristina



Nicole Ferreira-Dill



Shannon Glover



Ivan Domiciano



Ruan Galdino



Tammy Higgins

SOLOISTS



Revil Yon



Gabriel Fernandes



Mario Gaglione



Cristina Nakos



Chloé Blair



Darragh Hourrides

SENIOR CORPS DE BALLET



Savannah Ireland



Tumelo Lekana



Alice le Roux



Bruno Miranda



Savannah Jacobson



Mbongeni Moyake

JUNIOR CORPS DE BALLET



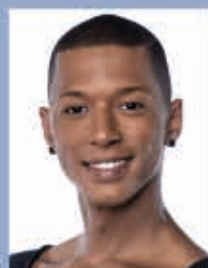
Luhle Mtati



Josie Ridgway



Erica Vadelka



Craig Pedro



Kitty Phetla



Marlon Sales

GUEST ARTISTS



Miguel Franco-Green



Thabani Ntuli



Alison Sischy

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Publications Administrator



Kabelo Modiga
General Manager



Di Sparks
PR & Publicity



Marina Korkie
Financial Accountant



Lerato Letlape
Assistant Stage Manager
& Company Assistant



Thabang Mabaso
Junior Rehearsal Coach



Clifford Malgas
Company Driver



Kenny Mbele
Company Driver



Nozipho Mhlambi
School Co-ordinator &
PA to CEO



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HR Intern



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Company Driver



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Ticketing & Office Manager



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Teacher



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Co-ordinator & Teacher

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Junior Masuku

Joburg Ballet School

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Gia Marais
Alexia Munn
Kate O'Donoghue
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Programme compiled by Jonathan Hurwitz

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