

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **SUSAN JAFFE**
PITTSBURGH BALLET THEATRE

Fireside **NUTCRACKER**



STREAMING
DEC. 17-31, 2020

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Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre was founded by Loti Falk Gaffney and Nicolas Petrov in 1969.

PBT's Artistic Directors

Nicolas Petrov
1969-1977

John Gilpin
1977-1978

Patrick Frantz
1978-1982

Patricia Wilde
1982-1997

Terrence S. Orr
1997-2020

Susan Jaffe
2020-present

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RUNNING TIME: 75 minutes

MISSION STATEMENT

To be Pittsburgh's source and ambassador for extraordinary ballet experiences that give life to the classical tradition, nurture new ideas and, above all, inspire.

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency; the Allegheny Regional Asset District and Allegheny County.

Cover artists: PBT Company Members and PBTS Students
Cover photos: Kelly Perkovich
Program design: Kelly Perkovich



Photo: Duane Rieder



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Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre in
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MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Susan Jaffe
Artistic Director

Welcome and thank you so much for joining us for Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's *Fireside Nutcracker*! In this unprecedented year of new norms in the theater world, we are thrilled to offer a virtual adaptation of this beloved ballet. For the first time ever, we were able to record our *Nutcracker* production and make it available to stream into homes everywhere. We filmed in October, in two locations over the period of just one month – a pretty incredible effort on the part of the dancers and our production team! Act 2 was shot at the award-winning Pittsburgh Playhouse at Point Park University, which was perfect for staging the spectacular dances in the Kingdom of the Sweets. For Act 1 our set was the historic Hartwood Acres Mansion – what a lovely and authentic location for the Stahlbaum's home! And our story this year includes a narrator – a grandfather spinning a tale for his granddaughter, taking us along with them on an enchanted journey from the festive holiday party to a beautiful and magical land.

We would not have been able to create this production without the steadfast support of our friends at Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. We are so grateful for their annual support of the production and of the student matinee, as well as for the recurring support of Giant Eagle and Clearview Federal Credit Union over the years. Our opening night sponsors, led by UPMC and UPMC Health Plan, brought the community together for a virtual celebration in anticipation of the first stream of the production. We so appreciate these organizations and their willingness to innovate with us in this new world. And we are thankful for you – subscribers, patrons and friends old and new – for lifting us up this year. We are humbled by your support and love. We wish you a warm fireside this holiday season and a healthy and happy New Year.



Never underestimate
the power of a
great performance.

We are proud to support Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre
and this year's *Fireside Nutcracker* performance.

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SYNOPSIS

ACT 1

It is a very special Christmas Eve in Pittsburgh many years ago. This is no ordinary Christmas Eve. This is a night full of magic.

The Stahlbaums are having their annual Christmas Eve party. Everyone looks forward to the festivities each year – especially the Stahlbaum children. Marie, the Stahlbaum's daughter, has grown into a lovely young lady, and her little brother, Fritz, is as mischievous as ever.

Tonight, Marie receives two special gifts from her parents: a beautiful blue scarf from her father and, from her mother, her very first pair of pointe shoes. These shoes are extra special, because they mean that Marie is growing up.

Herr Drosselmeyer, Marie and Fritz's godfather, is a watchmaker and magician. Each year, he dazzles and delights party guests with his magic, leaving everyone in wonder.

This year, Herr Drosselmeyer brings a guest: his nephew, who hides his face behind a mask to conceal an evil curse cast upon him by a vengeful Mouse Queen.

Herr Drosselmeyer feels responsible for this curse. Long ago, while living in Germany, the king ordered him to hunt down the mice living beneath the palace floors and trap them! The clever Mouse Queen was able to escape the traps with one of her sons.

Later, when Drosselmeyer and his nephew were visiting the castle, the Mouse Queen popped up through the boards of the floor! This startled the nephew, causing him to step on her.

With her dying breath, she cursed him. She told him her son would grow up to be the mighty Mouse King, and he would find the nephew to enact his revenge. The only way to break the curse is for a young maiden to fall in love with the nephew, despite the curse. With that, she marred his handsome appearance, knowing that finding such a girl would be nearly impossible.

At the Stahlbaum's party, the children of the neighborhood dance and play while the adults enjoy holiday drinks and share stories with one another.

SYNOPSIS

Marie has put on her pointe shoes and cannot wait to show them off at the party.

The party becomes even more lively and festive as the guests laugh and dance the night away. One guest wears a kilt made from the traditional tartan of the famous Carnegie family and dances with his son to everyone's delight.

Drosselmeyer and his nephew arrive at the party. He has special plans for the evening. He has brought an extraordinary gift that he has hidden from the guests. It is a small wooden soldier with a large head, striking teeth and shiny boots.

Now the magic begins.

Marie is drawn to the small wooden soldier and asks Godfather Drosselmeyer about the mysterious gift.

"Aha!" He tells her. "It is a nutcracker! He will protect your home and bring good luck."

Marie is captivated by the little soldier and vows to be the Nutcracker's protector.

The nephew's kind and gentle soul, his compassion and respectful manner, go straight to Marie's heart, and a great love is born.

As the evening comes to a close, the Stahlbaum's guests say their goodbyes and wish one another happy holidays.

Marie sees that the nephew has vanished and Godfather Drosselmeyer won't reveal where he went. Drosselmeyer's plan is unfolding just as he had hoped.

Marie cannot stop thinking about Godfather Drosselmeyer's nephew. Realizing she has forgotten the Nutcracker, she runs downstairs to find it. But something is happening. The house is changing before her eyes.

Marie is not alone - as the clock strikes midnight, giant mice skitter after her! Everything has grown bigger. Marie's book of Christmas stories opens and characters from the stories come out of the book; toy soldiers come out of the book too to help the Nutcracker. Then the mice come back with the Mouse King to battle the Nutcracker and the toy soldiers! The Mouse King attacks the Nutcracker but Marie takes off her shoe and knocks the Mouse King to the ground.

SYNOPSIS

Marie's unwavering love for the Nephew and her courage in helping the Nutcracker vanquish the Mouse King has broken the spell. Marie is now able to see that the Nephew and the Nutcracker are one in the same.

The radiant Winter Fairy guides Marie and the Nephew through the glistening realm of the Snow King and Queen.

Snowflakes float from the sky and all of Marie's worries melt away. She and her Nutcracker prince are whisked away on a magical journey.

ACT 2

The Nutcracker Prince takes Marie to the Kingdom of the Sweets, where he introduces her to the queen of the land, the Sugar Plum Fairy. People from different cultures around the world inhabit this magical land and greet Marie and the Prince.

Everyone rejoices and thanks Marie for saving the Nutcracker Prince. Guests from across the land dance to honor Marie and the Prince, and the beautiful flowers of the garden bloom with gratitude.

As Marie's childhood dreams come to life, she is overwhelmed by the generosity of spirit, grace and beauty of the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. They represent everything sweet and wonderful in the world.

It is time for Marie to leave the Kingdom of the Sweets. Suddenly she finds herself drifting back into her bedroom. Was it a dream?

Outside, the Nephew is leaving the house with Drosselmeyer when suddenly he realizes that the spell has been broken. He is finally free from the Mouse Queen's curse!

What a wonderful adventure! The love between Marie and the Nephew's flourishes and the Stahlbaum's Christmas party continues, even to this very day.

And don't be surprised if you have magical dreams where visions of sugar plums dance in your head.

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre thanks the following organizations and individuals for their support of *Fireside Nutcracker's* Opening Night Celebration on December 17.

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Cinematography.....Christian Lockerman
Nicolas Lockerman
Lighting and Grip ServicesShadow Light
Gaffers.....William Holman, Travis Johnston
Camera Operators.....Christian Lockerman, Nicolas Lockerman,
William Holman
First Assistant Camera.....Justin Illig
Swing.....Josh Corcoran
Grips.....William Holman, Travis Johnston, Justin Illig
Production Services.....LOOK Creative Guild
Equipment Rentals...Resolution Rentals, Justin Illig, LensRentals
Production Supervisor.....Marianna Tcherkassky
Post-Production SupervisorChristian Lockerman
Editors.....Vanessa Sprando, Christian Lockerman
Special Effects.....Steven Annegarn, Bradley OConnell
Visual Effects.....Vanessa Sprando, Christian Lockerman
Media Management.....Vanessa Sprando, Christian Lockerman
Audio Mixing and Color Correction.....Christian Lockerman
Deliverables.....LOOK Creative Guild
Special thanks.....Terrence S. Orr, Marianna Tcherkassky,
Nicolas Lockerman, William Holman, Travis Johnston, Justin Illig



CASTING

Drosselmeyer.....	Steven Annegarn
Mr. Stahlbaum.....	Alejandro Diaz
Mrs. Stahlbaum.....	Marisa Grywalski
Marie.....	Diana Yohe
The Nephew.....	Joseph Parr
Auntie.....	Caitlyn Mendicino
Mr. Kauffman.....	Josiah Kauffman
Mrs. Kauffman.....	Erin Casale
Mr. Heinz.....	Jonathan Bright
Mrs. Heinz.....	Christian García Campos
Butler.....	Sam DerGregorian
Harlequin.....	Tommie Lin Kesten
Columbina.....	Colin McCaslin
Pirate.....	Lucius Kirst
General.....	Corey Bourbonniere
McTavish.....	Masahiro Haneji
Grandma.....	Amanda Morgan
Grandpa.....	Kurtis Sprowls
Rat King.....	Cooper Verona
Rats.....	Jonathan Bright, Sam DerGregorian, Jack Hawn, Josiah Kauffman, Colin McCaslin, Kurtis Sprowls,
Snow King.....	William Moore
Snow Queen.....	Gabrielle Thurlow
Winter Fairy.....	Alexandra Kochis
Snowflakes.....	Christian García Campos, Erin Casale, Danielle Downey, Tommie Lin Kesten, Caitlyn Mendicino, Amanda Morgan, Grace Rookstool, Victoria Watford
Spanish.....	Jonathan Bright, Christian García Campos, Erin Casale, Josiah Kauffman, Cooper Verona, Victoria Watford
Russian.....	Corey Bourbonniere, Masahiro Haneji, Lucius Kirst
Arabian.....	Alejandro Diaz and Marisa Grywalski
Sugar Plum Fairy.....	Jessica McCann
Cavalier.....	Yoshiaki Nakano

CASTING

WALTZ OF THE FLOWERS:

The Garden Fairy.....Hannah Carter
Soloist Flowers.....Amanda Cochrane and JoAnna Schmidt
Flowers..... Christian García Campos, Erin Casale,
Danielle Downey, Tommie Lin Kesten, Caitlyn Mendicino,
Amanda Morgan, Grace Rookstool, Victoria Watford
The Grandfather Narrator.....Brett Sullivan Santry
The Little Girl.....Olivia Scott Lockerman

STUDENT CAST

Little Girl.....Kate Schaarsmith
Party Girls.....Layla Gustin, Fiona McCarthy
Fritz.....Georgy Pistsov
Young McTavish.....Ava Durigon
Party Boys.....Thurston Day, Ryan Sharp, Ezra Teter
Mice.....Elaine Blumenfeld, Annabelle Chernyshev,
Abby Moyer, Eden Piekut
Soldiers.....Lucijan Huckle, Ava Liscotti,
Madison Milkovich, Karly Trezza
Clara Doll.....Hannah Kramer
Teddy.....Layla Gustin
Pierrot.....Ava Kresak
Gingerbread.....Ava Durrigon
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[Yoshiaki Nakano](#)

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Principal Pianist/ Music Administrator

[Yoland Collin](#)

Soloist Dancers

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[Marisa Grywalski](#)

[Masahiro Haneji](#)

[Tommie Lin Kesten](#)

[Lucius Kirst](#)

[Jessica McCann](#)

[William Moore](#)

[JoAnna Schmidt](#)

[Gabrielle Thurlow](#)

[Diana Yohe](#)

Principal Character Dancers

[Eun Young Ahn](#)

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The artists in this performance are members of the American Guild of Musical Artists AFL-CIO, the labor union representing dancers, singers and stage personnel in the U.S.A.

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Eun Young AhnStudent Division Principal
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Christine SchwanerFull-Time Ballet
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