A Victorian Nutcracker

Portland Ballet Company

Eugenia L. O’Brien, 
Artistic Director

December 27 and 28, 1997
Merrill Auditorium

Costumes, sets, and staging inspired by Portland’s own Victorian Mansion
A Victorian Nutcracker

Music: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Choreography: Scott Potter after Celli/Ivanov/Petipa & Bossov
Staged with additional choreography by: Nicole Sanschagrin Getchell
Costume Design: Jacqueline LeClair
Scenic Design: Tom and Susan St. Laurent (Scene I); Michael Reidy & Depenbrock (Tree); Lisa Bess and Zafra Whitcomb (Scene II); Michael Reidy (Act II)
Lighting Design: Joseph Futral

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ACT I
Christmas Eve at the Victoria Mansion

It is the late 1800s, and Mr. and Mrs. Ruggles Morse have recently returned from New Orleans to spend the holiday season at their elegant Italianate mansion on Danforth Street in Portland, Maine. Staying with them for the holidays are their niece, Olivia, and nephew, Frank Higgins.

The Morses have decided to host a splendid Christmas Eve party to which they have invited the families of Mayor-elect James Phinney Baxter, Hermann Kotzschmar, and John B. Brown.* Held in the magnificent drawing room, gifts are presented to the children, who dance in their delight and excitement over this holiday evening.

Olivia's Godfather, affectionately known as "The Eccentric," arrives late, and proceeds to entertain the children with delightful diversions. Two immense wrapped packages are brought into the sitting room, and thus the magic begins to unfold which will captivate Olivia for the remainder of this special Christmas Eve.

As a finale, The Eccentric has two remaining gifts for Frank and Olivia. He gives Frank a small wooden soldier and, to Olivia, a unique Nutcracker which causes wonderment amongst the other children. Frank's jealousy provokes an accident, and the beloved toy is broken. Olivia is comforted by her Godfather, who magically seems to repair the Nutcracker. Soon after, the party draws to a close. Frank and Olivia retire for the night, the guests bid their hosts goodnight, and the Nutcracker is placed under the Christmas tree with the other presents to await the anticipated morning.

The Governess: Erin Crotty
Mr. Ruggles Morse: Kourtii Brown
Mrs. Morse: Gregory Harrison
Olivia Higgins, the niece: Courtenay Greenleaf
Frank Higgins, the nephew: Patricia Gatcomb
Grandmother: Tauren Green
Mayor-Elect James Phinney Baxter: Jacqueline LeClair
Mrs. Baxter: David Devine
Hermann Kotzschmar: Kate McKenney
Mrs. Kotzschmar: Patrick Williams
John Bundy Brown: Olga Wartenberg
Mrs. Brown: Taylor Marble
Family Members: Jessica Stephenson
Vanessa Gutierrez and Mark Keller with Rachael Hayden, Kelly O'Donnell, Melanie Randall, Sebastian Albright, Cameron Bowen, and Peter Rodriguez

The Eccentric: Andrei Bossov
The Tin Soldier: Peter Chamberlin
Vivandiere: Nicole Sanschagrin Getchell

* Portland's history comes to the stage as we introduce you to John Bundy Brown (built the 3rd sugar house in America and developed a refining process that made him the richest man in Maine); James Phinney Baxter (Mayor-elect and owner of the Portland Packing Co. that created safe canning for corn during the Civil War, giving him a fortune he spent his life giving away); Hermann Kotzschmar, recognized in music circles during his lifetime as a composer of well-known music (befriended by Cyrus Curtis, who gave the organ at City Hall named for Kotzschmar); and Ruggles Morse, from Leeds, Maine, who became a botelier in New Orleans and owner of the Victoria Mansion.
The Battle

The house is still, but Olivia, unable to sleep, returns to the front room in her excitement over the unusual gift which she has received from The Eccentric. Contentedly, she drifts asleep with her beloved Nutcracker safely by her side, but is awakened to discover oversized mice running into the room. They scurry about and take all in their path. She is terrified—everything seems to be growing in the room... even her Nutcracker! The Eccentric and Olivia watch as a battalion of soldiers and a captain with his cavalry enter the room, and a great battle ensues. The Nutcracker is anxious to protect Olivia against the powerful and wicked Mouse King. Can he do this alone?

*The Nutcracker:*
*The Mouse King:*
*Mice:*

*Captain of the Battalion:*
*Toy Soldiers:*

*Captain of the Cavalry:*
*Cavalry:*

Gregory Harrison
Peter Chamberlin
Katherine Cabral, Amanda Fournier, Melissa Hamilton, Emily Hricko, Lynn Moran, Kristin Stephenson, and Jacqueline Terrano
Sebastian Albrecht
Kelsea Brennen-Wessels, Amy Brown, Whitney Harrison, Kimberly Kelley, Laura Kate Martineau, Pamela Price, Morgan Shepard, Rebecca Taylor, Sarah White
Cameron Bowen
Samantha Bryan, Ricky Gatcomb, Jillian Littlefield, Melanie Randall

The Snow Kingdom

The Eccentric ensures Olivia’s safety as she is escorted on her journey into a magical Snow Kingdom reigned over by a Snow Queen and her Snowflakes. Olivia is enchanted by the exquisite scene before her. Finally, she bids farewell to the Snow Queen and travels onward, with her Nutcracker leading her to the next spellbinding adventure.

*Snow Queen:*
*Snowflakes:*

Andrea Michaud
Lindsay Burrows, Kourtnti Brown, Katherine Cabral, Erin Crotty, Courtenay Greenleaf, Sarah Lemont, Kate McKenney, Olga Wartenberg

INTERMISSION

ACT II

The Enchanted Palace of the Kingdom of Sweets

The Eccentric now creates his greatest magic: an opulent Palace of Sweets which vaguely reminds Olivia of the Turkish smoking room upstairs at the Victoria Mansion. He conjures a setting of angels and heralds, then summons the Sugar Plum Fairy. She in turn welcomes her Cavalier and requests an explanation of this magical entry to her Palace. The Nutcracker graciously complies and, his duties met, relinquishes Olivia to the court where her heroism is honored with the presentation of a magical sweet. It is Olivia who commands a grand celebration of exotic characters in her honor. All the members of the court pay tribute, and Olivia’s magical journey comes to an end as the characters slowly fade into the night and Olivia is left alone to wonder—was it a dream, or, perhaps it really did happen after all...

*Angels:*

*Court Heralds:*
*The Sugar Plum Fairy:*
*The Cavalier:*
*Spanish Chocolate:*

*Chinese Tea:*
*Ribbon Candy:*
*Arabian Coffee:*

*Arabian Attendants:*
*Mother Ginger and her Polichinelles:*

*Russian Trepak:*

*Waltz of the Flowers—Rosebuds:*
*Flowers:*

Lindsay Burrows, Katherine Cabral, Erin Crotty, Lynn Moran, Renee Paradis
Shelby Dycr, Amanda Fournier, Jacqueline Terrano, Marit Wilson
Pollyana Ribeiro
Valerie Lantratov
Daielma Santos (Kate McKenney 12/28 7:30 p.m.), Jessica Stephenson, Olga Wartenberg
Lindsay Burrows and Sarah Lemont with Peter Chamberlin
Kourtnti Brown and Andrea Michaud
Daielma Santos with Ed Blank (Courtenay Greenleaf 12/28 7:30 p.m., Olga Wartenberg 12/28 Finale)
Katherine Cabral and Erin Crotty
Patricia Burrows with Jillian Littlefield and Sebastian Albrecht, Melanie Randall and Cameron Bowen, Samantha Bryan and Ricky Gatcomb
Nicole Sansachgrin Getchell with Gregory Harrison and Peter Chamberlin
Courtenay Greenleaf and Kate McKenney
Kourtnti Brown, Lindsay Burrows, Katherine Cabral, Erin Crotty, Vanessa Gutierrez, Sarah Lemont, Renee Paradis and Olga Wartenberg
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<th>Instrument</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flute</td>
<td>Theresa Patton</td>
<td>Krysia Tripp</td>
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<td>Oboe</td>
<td>Stephanie Burk</td>
<td>Julianne Verret</td>
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<td>Karen Beacham</td>
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<td>Bassoon</td>
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<td>Alex Shuhan</td>
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<td>John M. Schnell</td>
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<td>Richard Kelly</td>
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<td>Violin 1</td>
<td>Greybert Beacham</td>
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