A Victorian Nutcracker

Portland Ballet Company

Eugenia L. O'Brien,
Artistic Director

Lawrence Golan,
Music Director

December 26 and 27, 1998
Merrill Auditorium
A Victorian Nutcracker

Artistic Director: Eugenia L. O'Brien
Music Director and Conductor: Lawrence Golan
Choral Director: Mark Nordli
Music: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Choreography: after Celli, Potter, Bossov & Santos
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
The Maid: Lynn Moran
Mr. Ruggles Morse: Gregory Harrison
Mrs. Morse: Jessica Stephenson
Olivia Higgins, the niece: Sarah Lemont
Frank Higgins, the nephew: Sebastian Albrecht
Grandmother: Thomasine Burke
Mayor-Elect James Phinney Baxter: Daniel Fournier
Mrs. Baxter: Lori Harrison
Hermann Kotzschmar: Russell Burleigh
Mrs. Kotzschmar: Patricia Burrows
John Bundy Brown: David Smith
Mrs. Brown: Tamara Gutierrez
Family Members: Kelly O'Donnell and Cameron Bowen with Whitney Harrison, Rachael Hayden, Jacqueline Terrano, Tyler Burrows, Richard Gatcomb, and Samuel O'Brien

* 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 but 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 The Nutcracker: The Mouse King: Mice:

Captain of the Battalion: Toy Soldiers:

Captain of the Cavalry: Cavalry:

The Snow Kingdom

The Eccentric ensures Olivia's safety by creating a magical Snow Kingdom where she is protected by a Snow King and his Queen. Olivia is enchanted by the exquisite scene Snow King: Snow Queen: Snowflakes:

Chorus: Portland-Deering Chamber Choir

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 Snow King 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 now 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 did it really happen after all...

Melissa Hamilton, Emily Hricko, Kimberly Kelley, Meghan Phaneuf, and Marit Wilson
Kelsea Brennan-Wessels, Whitney Harrison, Rene Johnson, and Sarah White
Marjorie Grundvig
Valerie Lantratov
Katherine Cabral, Vanessa Gutierrez, and Jessica Stephenson
Lindsay Burrows and Courtenay Greenleaf
Lynn Moran, Kelly O'Donnell, and Taureen Green
Karen Hurl Montanaro and Michael Bolger
Melissa Hamilton and Jacqueline Terrano
Taureen Green, Vanessa Gutierrez, and Gregory Harrison
Patricia Burrows with Ricky Gatcomb, Samantha Gilligan, Whitney Harrison, Claire Maurey, Jordan Milling, and Samuel O'Brien
Erin Crotty and Jessica Stephenson
Lindsay Burrows, Katherine Cabral, Vanessa Gutierrez, Melissa Hamilton, Rachael Hayden, Lynn Moran, Kelly O'Donnell, and Jacqueline Terrano
Ashley Emerson, Elizabeth Goulet, Melissa Hamilton, Rachael Hayden, Jacqueline Terrano, and Marit Wilson
# Portland Ballet Orchestra

**Violin 1**
- Greybert Beacham
- Olga Golan
- Ferdinand Liva
- Joanne Schnell
- Maria Lin
- Jessica Stensrud

**Violin 2**
- Joseph Golan
- Stanley Silverman
- Clorinda Noyes
- Rachael Noyes
- Carlos Romero

**Cello**
- Benjamin Noyes
- Joel Noyes
- Richard Noyes

**Bass**
- George Calvert
- Lynn Hannings

**Harp**
- Jara Goodrich

**Tympani**
- Nancy Smith

**Flute**
- Theresa Patton
- Krysia Tripp

**Oboe**
- Stephanie Burk
- Julianne Verret

**Clarinet**
- Karen Beacham
- Thomas Parchman

**Bassoon**
- Ardhith Keef
- Wren Saunders

**Horn**
- John Boden
- Ken Pope
- Scott Burditt

**Trumpet**
- John M. Schnell
- Elizabeth Rines

**Tuba**
- Chip Halt

**Trombone**
- Mark Manduca
- Sam Woodhead
- Nicolas Orovich

**Percussion**
- Richard Kelly

**Celest**
- David Maxwell