

HOLIDAY  
UNDER THE  
**PALMS**  
AT BROOKFIELD PLACE

Keith Michael's *THE*  
**NUTCRACKER**

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

Nov. 22 | 7pm

Nov. 23 | 1pm + 7pm

Nov. 24 | 1pm

Presented by New York Theatre Ballet  
and Brookfield Properties Arts & Events

**BFPL**



**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

STEVEN MELENDEZ

**MANAGING DIRECTOR**

SOPHIE BLUE

**ARTISTS**

WONJIN CHANG

GIULIA FARIA

DANIELLE GUIRMA

ETHAN HUFFMAN

JONATHAN LEONARD

KIERAN MCBRIDE

GIANA PARLIN

RICHEL RUIZ

KRISTINA SHAW

SARAH STAFFORD

MITCHELL WELSH

GRACE WIECHART

DAISY YE

WITH CHILDREN FROM  
NEW YORK THEATRE BALLET SCHOOL

Keith Michael's *THE*  
*NUTCRACKER*

**CHOREOGRAPHY BY**

KEITH MICHAEL

**MUSIC BY**

PETER TCHAIKOVSKY

**COSTUME DESIGN BY**

SYLVIA TAALSOHN NOLAN

**SCENERY DESIGN AND ORIGINAL PAINTING BY**

GILLIAN BRADSHAW-SMITH

**PROPERTIES DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION BY**

HERBERT KUHN

**CONSTRUCTION AND PAINTING BY**

ADIRONDACK STUDIOS

# THE NUTCRACKER COMPANY

## THE OVERTURE

Godmother Drosselmeyer's Nephew Nathaniel  
Godmother Drosselmeyer  
The Tick Tocks

Ethan Huffman/Mitchell Welsh  
Wonjin Chang  
Audrey Cen\*, Claire Li\*/Chenyi Fang\*,  
Ludovica Russo\*

## THE PARTY

Marie Stahlbaum  
Mother Stahlbaum  
Doctor Stahlbaum

Sarah Stafford  
Giulia Faria  
Jonathan Leonard

## THE BATTLE

The Mice  
Queen Mouserinks  
The Mounted Soldiers  
Nutcracker Prince

Children from NYTB School  
Kristina Shaw  
Children from NYTB School  
Ethan Huffman/Mitchell Welsh

## THE LAND OF SNOW

Snow Pas de Deux  
Marie and The Nutcracker Prince  
Snowflakes and Frost

Sarah Stafford  
Ethan Huffman/Mitchell Welsh  
Giana Parlin, Kristina Shaw,  
Grace Wiechart, Daisy Ye,  
Richel Ruiz, Ethan Huffman/Mitchell Welsh

## THE LAND OF SWEETS

The Sugar Plum Fairy  
Her Cavalier  
The Sugar Plumlets

Giulia Faria  
Jonathan Leonard  
Children from NYTB School

## THE DIVERTISSEMENTS

Lace  
Shadows  
Chopsticks  
Boules

Kieran McBride/ Danielle Guirma  
Daisy Ye, Ethan Huffman/Mitchell Welsh  
Giana Parlin, Kristina Shaw  
Audrey Cen\*, Claire Li\*/Chenyi Fang\*,  
Ludovica Russo\*

Harlequin & Arlequina

Grace Wiechart,  
Richel Ruiz

Marzipan Shepherdess and Marzipan Sheep

Giana Parlin with Children from NYTB School

Waltz of the Flowers

Daisy Ye, Kieran McBride/Kristina Shaw,  
Grace Wiechart

## GRAND PAS DE DEUX

The Sugar Plum Fairy & Her Cavalier

Giulia Faria  
Jonathan Leonard

## FINALE

The Company

*\*New York Theatre Ballet School students*

# THE STORY

## THE CLOCK IS TICKING.

It is Christmas Eve (1907) in a grand house on a grand street in a grand city. We are looking in on the Stahlbaum's elaborate Art Nouveau mantelpiece – a clock, a ceramic Christmas tree, a framed photograph. Godmother Drosselmeyer's nephew Nathaniel, an enchanted young man, is tidying up before the evening festivities. He fantasizes, "When will I return as Crown Prince to my beloved magical land? Maybe tonight!"

The clock has stopped and must be wound. Drosselmeyer, the Clockmaker, is discovered dreaming inside its gears and flywheels, as are her Tick Tock "Keepers of the Clock." With a few turns of the key, once again, time whizzes on its merry way. The photograph of Dr. and Mrs. Stahlbaum and their daughter, Marie, comes to life. Nathaniel is the newcomer to this intimate Christmas Eve party, and Marie blushes at his introduction.

Somehow, when Drosselmeyer arrives, amazing things happen. Behind a small door, one of Drosselmeyer's creations, a delightfully droll wooden nutcracker man, mesmerizes Marie.

When Nathaniel and Marie bump into each other during a round dance, the nutcracker flies from Marie's hands into the safety of Nathaniel's arms.

## THE PARTY ENDS. MARIE AND NATHANIEL COYLY SAY GOODNIGHT.

In the darkened house, Marie sneaks back into the living room and drifts off to sleep enamored of her new nutcracker. But she is not alone. A band of mice scavenge for holiday crumbs. The room soon shudders as Queen Mouserinks bursts in, grabbing for the potentially tasty nutcracker. Marie bravely protects the mustachioed little man, and this spark of love frees the Nutcracker Prince from within the nut-cracking wood! Now the Nutcracker Prince protects Marie. The Queen and the Prince snatch the hands from the Clock – minutes and hours clash in the air. Marie tangles Queen Mouserinks in her own tail, giving Nutcracker the split-second chance to "dispatch" her.

## THE STORY

As Nutcracker pledges his devotion to Marie for saving his life, the mantel clock, already freed of its hands, freezes over with glistening icicles. With time stopped, the midnight living room fades away. Nutcracker and Marie thrill to their fantastic journey through the Land of Snow and onward to the delectable Land of Sweets.

### **NUTCRACKER'S KINGDOM REJOICES IN HIS RETURN AND CELEBRATES MARIE'S VALOR.**

Nutcracker is the Crown Prince, but the undisputed rulers of the Land are The Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. A surprise cornucopia of entertainment has been prepared and, indeed, surprises they are - transporting Marie to that neverland reached only just before waking from a delightful dream.

Even wonderful journeys must end. It is Christmas morning. Marie awakes. Can she possibly have traveled to all of those delicious places while she slept? It WAS real. Wasn't it?

- KEITH MICHAEL

Keith Michael conceived and choreographed New York Theatre Ballet's productions of *The Nutcracker*, *Mother GOOSE!*, *The Alice-in Wonderland Follies*, and *L'Histoire du Soldat*. He was the Manager of Dance Production at The Juilliard School (NYC) 1997-2023, and has facilitated thousands of performances nationally and internationally wearing a large variety of production hats. He is also an urban naturalist, leading New York City WILD! nature walks throughout the environs of NYC, is a monthly contributor to *The Village View: Voice of the Village* and the Lower West Side, and has published four books of writing and photography. [www.keithmichaelnyc.com](http://www.keithmichaelnyc.com) and Instagram | @newyorkcitywild.

This production of *Keith Michael's The Nutcracker* for NYTB, premiered at Florence Gould Hall, New York, NY, December 9th, 2011. Keith Michael's previous production of *The Nutcracker* was presented annually by NYTB for 26 years—1985–2010.

## *ABOUT NYTB*

Founded in 1978, New York Theatre Ballet performs small classic masterpieces and new contemporary works for adults and innovative hour-long ballets for young children, all at affordable prices. The mission is carried out in the work of the Professional Company, its Ballet School, and its LIFT Program. Together these divisions reach adults and family audiences across the country building a love for dance and diverse audiences for the future.



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## *ABOUT NEW YORK THEATRE BALLET SCHOOL*

NYTB School was founded in 1978 as the official training school of New York Theatre Ballet. Graded classes are offered at the pre-ballet through advanced levels. Teaching assistants guarantee highly individualized instruction. The school teaches dance as a total art form, developing strong technical skill and discipline. Following the Cecchetti syllabus, classes emphasize music, theatricality, gesture and style. For qualified students, the school's unique relationship with NYTB provides performing experience throughout the year in ballets featuring roles for children.

## *MEET OUR ARTISTS:*

[NYTB.ORG/ABOUT](http://NYTB.ORG/ABOUT)

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# THANK YOU TO NEW YORK THEATRE BALLET DONORS

New York Theatre Ballet thanks the individuals, corporations, foundations, and government agencies whose contributions support our dancers, new ballets by emerging choreographers, restaging classic masterpieces, and the LIFT and Between the Acts community engagement programs.

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

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*New York Theatre Ballet is a registered 501(c)3. If our mission to build a love for dance and diverse audiences for the future resonates with you, please consider making a donation today.*

## *BROOKFIELD PLACE*

Brookfield Place (BFPL) New York is one of Brookfield's most iconic place making destinations that brings together modern office space, cultural experiences, curated dining, and world-class shopping. One of New York City's most dynamic districts, Brookfield Place is a step away from the everyday and in step with the latest in global and local culture. The 14-acre, 5-building complex on the Hudson River in Lower Manhattan is home to some of the world's most innovative companies and one of New York's most celebrated experiential, culinary and shopping destinations. Brookfield animates its grand indoor and outdoor public spaces year-round through a mix of culture and events, bringing together a diverse array of New Yorkers and visitors. From waterfront cafes along the North Cove Marina to palm trees inside the famed Winter Garden, art installations to live music, Brookfield Place New York is a setting for discovery and inspiration, savoring and indulging, relaxing, and socializing. Learn more at [BFPLNY.com](http://BFPLNY.com).

### **BROOKFIELD PLACE**

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## *BROOKFIELD PROPERTIES ARTS & EVENTS*

Brookfield Properties Arts & Events supports innovation in music, dance, theater, film, and visual art by pushing boundaries to create unique works of art and cultural experiences presented for free. Thriving for over three decades, the program gathers communities around creativity by animating the public spaces of Brookfield Properties.

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