

# Clara's Dream

A Ukrainian Folk Ballet based on Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker"

**For immediate release: November 19, 2012**

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## CLARA'S DREAM

### A WORLD PREMIERE UKRAINIAN FOLK BALLET BASED ON TCHAIKOVSKY'S NUTCRACKER

Edmonton, AB – **Canada's Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, Virsky - The Ukrainian State Folk Dance Company** and **The Kyiv Ballet** join forces for the world premiere of *Clara's Dream: A Ukrainian Folk Ballet*. In celebration of Ukrainian Christmas, *Clara's Dream* brings this Canadian-Ukrainian artistic collaboration to the **Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium January 11 & 12**. Tickets are available now at Ticketmaster ([www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca) or 1-855-985-5000).

Based on **E.T.A. Hoffman's** beloved tale *The Nutcracker*, set to **Tchaikovsky's** iconic composition, and told through Ukrainian and character dance, *Clara's Dream* begins when the young girl receives a Nutcracker doll from her godfather, Dr. Drosselmeier one Christmas Eve. As the clock in the Staulbaum home strikes midnight, the Nutcracker springs to life in a battle against the Mouse King. With Clara's help, the Nutcracker and his battalion of toy soldiers defeat the Mouse King and his army, breaking a spell and returning the Nutcracker to his human form: a handsome prince. As a gesture of his gratitude, the prince takes Clara on a magical journey, where they meet a cast of unforgettable characters.

"This unique and groundbreaking production brings an entirely new concept to the world of Ukrainian dance, as well as dance in general," says **Michael Sulyma, Sulyma Productions Inc.** "The world of Nutcracker productions varies from classical ballet, to all male casts, to Jazz, Klezmer and Chinese dance and musical styles. This is the first time *The Nutcracker* story will be created in the Ukrainian folk ballet style."

The world's two foremost Ukrainian dance companies, Edmonton's **Ukrainian Shumka Dancers** and Kyiv's **Virsky Ukrainian State Folk Dance Company**, perform together for an historical first in this production's world premiere. This Ukrainian Nutcracker is the first to incorporate a Ukrainian Christmas carol, a grand orchestral version of *Shchedryk (Carol of the Bells)* arranged by renowned Ukrainian composer Yuri Shevchenko. Ukrainian Christmas traditions and symbols are woven into the lavish sets and costumes of this ground breaking production.

The key creative forces behind *Clara's Dream* are the Kyiv Ballet's Resident Choreographer and long time Shumka choreographer, **Viktor Lytvynov**; award winning set and costume designer **Maria Levitska** of the National Opera of Ukraine (Kyiv Ballet) and renowned Ukrainian composer **Yuri Shevchenko**. Artistic Consultants include guest choreographer and former Shumka Artistic Director **John Pichlyk** and Shumka Artistic Director **Dave Ganert**.

*Clara's Dream: A Ukrainian Folk Ballet* runs **January 11** and **January 12** at 7:30pm. Tickets start at \$25, and are available via Ticketmaster. For more information about *Clara's Dream*, please visit [www.clarasdream.ca](http://www.clarasdream.ca).