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***“A perfect first Nutcracker for many generations .... A powerful and beautiful thing to behold.”***  
***-Edmonton Journal***

## SHUMKA Announces the 2016 Cast of *Clara's Dream*

Edmonton, AB – **The Ukrainian Shumka Dancers** are thrilled to announce the 2016 cast of *Clara's Dream*, returning to the **Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, December 29 & 30, 2016**. Featuring a talented, athletic and elegant cast, Shumka is pleased to welcome artists from Ukraine and from right here in Edmonton!

Performing the roles of Clara and the Prince, Shumka welcomes back **Tania Lozova** and **Yaroslav Tkachuk** from the **Kyiv Ballet of the National Opera of Ukraine**. Joining the cast for the first time, **Jan Vanya**, from the **National Ballet of Ukraine**, will perform as the mysterious Uncle Drosselmeier.

Making an exciting return to the Jubilee Stage, Shumka is thrilled to welcome alumnus, *So You Think You Can Dance Canada* finalist and Cirque Du Soleil performer **Jeff Mortenson**, returning to the role of Clara's mischievous brother, Fritz.

From **Virsky Ballet, The Ukrainian State Folk Dance Company, Viacheslav Ilinskyi, Andriy Demeshchuk, Maksym Karpenko** and **Nikita Litvinov** will be featured soloists in this year's production.

Shumka is delighted to once again welcome Edmonton's **Citie Ballet** and **Viter Ukrainian Folk Choir** to the cast, plus young dancers from the Shumka School of Dance, making *Clara's Dream* truly Edmonton's Ukrainian Nutcracker.

Clara's Dream Creative Team includes Producer **Michael Sulyma**, Production Artistic Director/Choreographer **Viktor Lytvynov**, Creative Director/Artistic Consultant **John Pichlyk**, Musical Arranger **Yuri Shevchenko**, Sets/Costume Designer **Maria Levitska**, Lighting Designer **Pierre Lavoie**, and Shumka Repetiteurs **Tasha Orysiuk** and **Paul Olijnyk**. Choreographic elements for the 2016 production are being added by Citie Ballet Artistic Director **Jorden Morris**.

*Clara's Dream* is a luxurious production loved by all ages, backgrounds and ethnicities – a true Edmonton Nutcracker. Reflective of the city and its ethnic vitality, the production features ballet, folk dance, and character dance in a celebration of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas classic.

*Clara's Dream*, runs **December 29 & 30, 2016**. Tickets start at \$20, and are available via [Ticketmaster](https://www.ticketmaster.com). For more information about *Clara's Dream*, please visit [www.clarasdream.ca](http://www.clarasdream.ca).