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

Edmonton, AB – **Canada's Ukrainian Shumka Dancers** are thrilled to announce the return of **Clara's Dream**, Edmonton's Ukrainian Nutcracker. In celebration of the Christmas season, *Clara's Dream* takes to the stage of the **Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium – December 29 & 30, 2015**. (December 29 at 7:30pm; December 30 at 2pm & 7:30pm.) Tickets are available now at **Ticketmaster** (www.ticketmaster.ca or 1-855-985-5000).

Joining Shumka are guest artists from **Edmonton's Citie Ballet** and **Viter Ukrainian Folk Choir**, and Ukraine's **Virsky** and **Kyiv Ballet** companies. Not only is *Clara's Dream* a luxurious production loved by all ages, backgrounds and ethnicities, it is 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.

Ukrainian Christmas traditions and symbols are woven into the lavish sets and costumes of this full-length production. In addition, this Nutcracker is the first to incorporate a Ukrainian Christmas carol, a grand orchestral and choral version of *Shchedryk (Carol of the Bells)*, arranged by renowned Ukrainian composer Yuri Shevchenko.

Based on **E.T.A. Hoffman's** beloved tale **The Nutcracker**, set to **Tchaikovsky's** iconic composition, *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.

The key creative forces behind *Clara's Dream* are Kyiv Ballet 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**.

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Clara's Dream Creative Producer is Shumka alumnist **Michael Sulyma**. Artistic Consultants include former Shumka Artistic Director **Dave Ganert**, and Shumka Creative Director **John Pichlyk**. New choreographic elements for the 2015 production are being added by Citie Ballet Artistic Director **Jorden Morris**.

Clara's Dream, Edmonton's Ukrainian Nutcracker, runs **December 29 & 30, 2015**. Tickets start at \$20, and are available via Ticketmaster. For more information about *Clara's Dream*, please visit www.clarasdream.ca.

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