

December, 15-30, 2017

## George Balanchine's "The Nutcracker"

Company: Miami City Ballet

Venue: Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

Location: Miami, FL

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Ruben Toledo

Miami City Ballet's new redesign of the magical George Balanchine's The Nutcracker® will feature enchanting new costumes and sets by the designer-artist power couple Isabel and Ruben Toledo, Balanchine's glorious choreography and Tchaikovsky's beloved score. The production, co-commissioned by The Music Center in Los Angeles, will run at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in Miami from December 15 – 24, 2017. All performances will feature live music performed by the Miami City Ballet's Opus One Orchestra, conducted by Gary Sheldon. The production will have its world premiere in Los Angeles on December 7, 2017.

Isabel and Ruben Toledo's fanciful new sets and costumes will enhance this classic holiday tale of a young girl and her magical Nutcracker Prince, who journey to an enchanted kingdom where heroic toy soldiers battle giant mice, and a glittering Sugarplum Fairy dwells in a magical Land of Sweets.

Miami City Ballet is one of the few companies in the country to continuously perform George Balanchine's The Nutcracker®, which it has done for almost 30 years. The production features a cast of over 100, including 70 children. Following the Miami engagement, the new production will run at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach from December 28 – 30, 2017, opening with a special family-friendly afternoon performance.

Lourdes Lopez, Miami City Ballet's Artistic Director, said, "There's no more popular ballet than George Balanchine's The Nutcracker®, and no more brilliant and magical a ballet narrative. Audiences – grownups as well as children – come back to it again and again, for Tchaikovsky's great score, for its stage magic, and for its profound insight into childhood. What an honor to work with Isabel and Ruben Toledo, two great artists who understand the importance and impact of this work through generations, and with a great artistic team that includes Wendall Harrington and James Ingalls. They will create a new production that uniquely belongs to Miami City Ballet and will become the highlight of the holiday season in Florida."

"We are inspired by Balanchine's elegant, witty vision and Tchaikovsky's lush compositions," said Ruben Toledo. "The story's links between the mystical human imagination, the language of dreams and the power of transformation influenced our designs, and allowed us to imagine worlds of moonlit landscapes, frozen wonders, and a light-filled Caribbean paradise, reflecting our Cuban heritage."

Isabel and Ruben Toledo are internationally renowned artists in the worlds of high fashion, style and design. The couple has strong ties to Miami and South Florida: In 2012, MDC's Freedom Tower hosted "Toledo/Toledo: Full Circle," a retrospective of three decades of their creative collaboration; they received a Lifetime Achievement Award by Fashion Group International, presented in Miami in 2011; and are currently collaborating on design elements for the new Park Grove Residential Towers in Coconut Grove. They are recipients of the 2005 National Design Award from the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum.

Isabel Toledo was nominated for a 2014 Tony Award for her costume designs for the Broadway musical revue *After Midnight* and designed costumes for Christopher Wheeldon's *Commedia* and Twyla Tharp's *Yemayá*. Toledo, who has been described as a radical classicist, has been designing and exhibiting her collections twice-yearly since 1984 and became an international household name when she created the lemongrass lace coat dress worn by former First Lady Michelle Obama at President Obama's first inauguration in 2009.

Ruben Toledo has created illustrations for such prestigious publications as *The New Yorker*, *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Town & Country* and *The New York Times*, among others. His work has been exhibited at prestigious institutions including The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute, Victoria and Albert Museum in London and Pitti Palace in Italy.

Wendall K. Harrington is an award-winning projection designer, known as the godmother of modern projection design. Her work has been seen in a range of diverse disciplines, including theater, multi-media design, opera, ballet and concert production. Lighting designer James K. Ingalls is known for his work on Broadway and with international and national ballet and opera companies. Both Harrington and Ingalls most recently worked with Miami City Ballet on the projections and lighting for Alexei Ratmanský's *The Fairy's Kiss*, which had its world premiere during the 2016-17 season.

ABOUT MIAMI CITY BALLET

Miami City Ballet, now in its 32nd season, has been led by Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez since 2012. Lopez was recently named one of "The Most Influential People in Dance Today" by Dance Magazine. MCB was founded in 1985 by Miami philanthropist Toby Lerner Ansin and Founding Artistic Director Edward Villella. The Company has 52 dancers and a repertoire of more than 100 ballets. MCB performs for nearly 100,000 patrons annually during its South Florida home season in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and Naples, and tours to top theaters domestically and internationally.

Miami City Ballet School, the official school of Miami City Ballet, is one of the most respected ballet training academies in America. The School's renowned faculty, challenging syllabus and affiliation with Miami City Ballet make it a place where all students – from children to adults – can receive comprehensive dance training. The School trains approximately 400 students, ages 3-18, in its year-round program, and 400 during its summer programs, granting nearly \$500,000 in scholarships annually. More than 500 adults participate in a vibrant community division.

Miami City Ballet is headquartered in Miami Beach, Fla., at the Ophelia & Juan Js. Roca Center, a facility designed by renowned architectural firm Arquitectonica.

The company's 2017-18 roster includes several promotions, including Jennifer Lauren to principal, Lauren Fadeley to principal soloist and Ashley Knox to soloist, and the addition of seven new dancers: former longtime MCB dancer Katia Carranza will return as a principal dancer, Alexander Peters as a principal soloist and Eric Beckham, Julia Cinquemani, Aaron Hilton, Harrison Monaco and Alyssa Schroeder as corps de ballet dancers. A complete list of company members can be found here: [MCB 2017-18 Company](#)

#### TICKETS

Premier Subscribers receive advance access to the best seats for all four repertory productions, save up to 15% off the regular ticket price, including priority seating to George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*®, get free ticket exchanges and more. Subscriptions are available by calling 305.929.7010 or toll-free 877.929.7010, or online at [miamicityballet.org/subscribe](#)

Single tickets for the 2017-18 season, including performances of George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*® will go on sale on July 10 and will be available at MCB's box office, by calling 305.929.7010 or 877.929.7010 (Monday – Friday, 10 am – 5 pm) or online at [miamicityballet.org](#). For more information, visit [miamicityballet.org](#)

#### GEORGE BALANCHINE'S THE NUTCRACKER®

December 15 – 24 at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, Miami

December 28 – 30 at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, West Palm Beach

Music: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Choreography: George Balanchine © The George Balanchine Trust

Staging: Lourdes Lopez

Scenic & Costume Design: Isabel and Ruben Toledo

Lighting Design: James F. Ingalls

Projection Design: Wendall K. Harrington

Original Balanchine Premiere: 1954, New York City Ballet

Length: 90 minutes (approximate)

Performance Schedule: Adrienne Arsht Center, Miami

8 pm | Friday, December 15

2 pm | Saturday, December 16

7 pm | Saturday, December 16

1 pm | Sunday, December 17

6:30 pm | Sunday, December 17

7 pm | Tuesday, December 19

7 pm | Wednesday, December 20

7 pm | Thursday, December 21

2 pm | Friday, December 22

7 pm | Friday, December 22

2 pm | Saturday, December 23

7 pm | Saturday, December 23

12 pm | Sunday, December 24

Performance Schedule: Kravis Center, West Palm Beach

3pm | Thursday, December 28

2pm | Friday, December 29

7pm | Friday, December 29

2pm | Saturday, December 30

7pm | Saturday, December 30

#### FUNDING

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#### MIAMI CITY BALLET - HOME THEATER ADDRESSES:

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County

Ziff Ballet Opera House

1300 Biscayne Boulevard

Miami, FL 33132

Broward Center for the Performing Arts

Au-Rene Theater

201 S.W. Fifth Avenue

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312

Kravis Center for the Performing Arts

Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. Concert Hall

701 Okeechobee Boulevard

West Palm Beach, FL 33401

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Programs and Dates subject to Change

#### MCB ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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Miami City Ballet  
1300 Biscayne Boulevard  
Miami, FL, 33132

Schedule  
December 15, 2017: 8:00pm  
December 16, 2017: 2:00pm, 7:00pm

