

# WORLD BALLET SERIES NUTCRACKER



BY GORSKAYA-HARTWICK





**World Ballet Series** is a unique concept combining the world's beloved ballets performed live on the most celebrated stages across the nation.

Gathered to bring the breathtaking beauty of classical dance to the audiences, a multinational cast of 50 professional ballet dancers represents 10 countries united by the passion for enriching classical ballet traditions through brilliant and critically acclaimed new productions of the world classics.

World Ballet Series is a family-friendly experience accompanied by the timeless score, over 150 hand-sewn costumes, hand-crafted sets, and the most talented dancers for you to enjoy the four iconic ballets: *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, and *Romeo and Juliet*.

Presented to you  
by **Gorskaya-Hartwick Productions.**

# Running times

**Act One** is *45 minutes*,  
followed by *20 minutes* of **intermission**.  
**Act Two** will last *40 minutes*.

Music:  
**Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**

Choreography:  
**Lev Ivanov**,  
lovingly retouched by:  
**George Birkadze and Marina Kesler**

# Synopsis

## Act I

### Scene 1

It's Christmas Eve and the Stahlbaum house is sparkling with decorations and lights, ready for the celebrations to begin. The guests are arriving and admiring the beautiful ornaments on the tree, chatting and dancing. The Stahlbaum children, Fritz and Marie and their friends are anxious for the arrival of Drosselmeyer – Marie's beloved godfather, quirky inventor and toymaker. Drosselmeyer is always full of surprises and brings unusual trinkets and oddities to show them, so children are always happy to see him.

Drosselmeyer arrives and brings lots of presents. Everyone rushes to find out what is inside the beautiful wrappers and start opening the gifts. Among the shiny gifts Marie notices a wooden

Nutcracker. It is a clumsy doll with a wide friendly smile and the girl is charmed by the toy at once.

Seeing how distracted his sister is with her present, Fritz tries to take the doll from Marie, accidentally breaking it. Seeing how upset the girl is Drosselmeyer quickly fixes The Nutcracker and gives it back to Marie.

As the evening comes to an end, the guests start departing and it is time for the children to go to bed. Marie says good night to her new friend and goes to sleep.





# NUTCRACKER



# Nutcracker

## Scene 2

Marie is fast asleep. As the clock strikes midnight the girl finds herself in the living room by the Christmas tree. Suddenly she hears a weird rustling sound all around and the room starts filling up with mice. Mice are everywhere around her, a whole army!



Marie looks up to realise that the tree has become very big. It's not just the tree. When she looks around, Marie sees that everything around her turned enormous.

At the head of the mice army is the Mouse King himself. The Nutcracker awakens and leads his army of toy soldiers into the battle. As the fierce battle goes on, Marie sees that the toy soldier army is outmatched and throws her slipper at the Mouse King to help the beloved Nutcracker. The slipper hits the Mouse King straight on the head distracting him from the battle. It helps The Nutcracker to win the fight. The mice scatter from the battlefield, carrying their leader away with them.

Drosselmeyer appears and turns The Nutcracker into a prince. The prince thanks Marie for her help in winning the battle against the evil Mouse King and invites her to the Magic Land. They are welcomed by snowflakes fluttering and waltzing all around.

## Intermission

## Act II

Marie and the prince find themselves in the Land of Sweets, where they meet all different characters. How wonderful this land is! Marie has never seen anything like it! Everything is made of candy, chocolate and toffee, of every colour and flavour possible!

Mother Ginger is there to greet them as well. Impressed by The Nutcracker's battle with the Mouse King and how Marie has saved him with her bravery the Drosselmeyer decides to throw a ball in their honour. Everyone is celebrating the victory and dancing. Marie is turned into a princess for her courage in battle. She and the prince are presented with a kaleidoscope of magical, dizzying dances from every corner of the world. Even the flowers are dancing in this Magical Land!

The ball has been so much fun that Marie completely lost track of time! She suddenly remembers about her family and wonders if she has been away for too long. Right at this moment Marie wakes up with The Nutcracker doll next to her. She realises this has all been a wonderful magical dream.





# Characters

## Marie

The eldest child of the Stalhbaum family. She is the heroine of our story. She gets a Nutcracker doll for Christmas and dreams that he comes to life. Marie is kind and gentle, friendly and brave, curious and courageous.







# The Nutcracker

Marie's toy that comes to life.  
He is transformed into a handsome  
Prince and accompanies Marie  
on her adventure.



# Drosselmeyer

Marie's godfather and a magician.  
He is mystical, funny, and kind, and loves  
Marie very much.



# Fritz

Fritz is Marie's mischievous younger brother. It is Fritz who, in a fit of jealousy, breaks Marie's beloved Nutcracker.



# Mouse King

Leader of the army of mice who battle The Nutcracker. An evil, scary creature. He is large and wears a crown. You can't miss him!





# Cast

## 1st soloists

### Ekaterina Malkovich

#### Marie

The former Ural Opera Ballet star and two-time nominee for the coveted Golden Mask Award was born in Abakan. Ekaterina says of the role: "I think that my own character and worldview are somewhat similar to that of Marie. She looks at the world with kindness and optimism, and believes that the wildest dreams can come true."

Ekaterina graduated from Novosibirsk State Choreographic College (class of the Honored Artist of Russia Galina Vedenina). She joined the Yekaterinburg Opera and Ballet Theater in 2013. Malkovich has danced numerous soloist and principal roles including Giselle in *Giselle*, Gamzatti in *La Bayadere*, Kitri in *Don Quixote*, and Paquita in *Paquita*.

Ekaterina took up gymnastics at five years old and began dancing a year later. Her professional ballet career started when she was ten.

After completing her training at the Novosibirsk State Choreographic College, she went on to perform at Yekaterinburg Opera and Ballet Theatre for over nine years.

Ekaterina performed on the main stages of the Bolshoi Theatre, Stanislavsky Theatre, and Alexandrinsky theatre, as well as the Samara Theatre and Kyrgyz National Opera and Ballet Theatre as a guest Prima.

Ekaterina's favorite character is Alice in Wonderland – she is strong and brave but at the same time naive and honest. She is very smart despite her young age.



# Konstantin Geronik

## Nutcracker Prince



Konstantin Geronik was born in Kyiv, Ukraine, and graduated from the Belarusian State Choreographic College in 2010 with distinction. He immediately joined the Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre of Belarus, where he has danced numerous leading roles. His repertoire includes Basilio in *Don Quixote*, Ali in *Le Corsaire*, The Bronze Idol in *La Bayadère*, James in *Sylphide*, Prince in *The Nutcracker*, Siegfried, Joker and Pas-de-trois in the *Swan Lake*, Chipolino in *Chipolino*, Desire, Blue Bird in *Sleeping Beauty*, Peasant Pas de deux in *Giselle*, Frondoso in *Laurencia*, Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*. Konstantin Geronik has toured Germany, France, Spain, China, Japan, The Netherlands, Belgium, Mexico, and Poland as a principal dancer.

He has received multiple international awards and nominations, including: 1st Prize at the Young Ballet of the World competition in Sochi (2010), 1st Prize at the Tanzolymp competition in Berlin (2011), 1st Prize winner of The 4 Beijing International Ballet Contest (2012), the 2017 National Theatre Award as the best male dancer for his lead role in *Le Petit Prince*.

Konstantin also had an artistic collaboration with the founder and director of the international festival World Ballet Stars Vadym Pysarev and has performed as a guest artist at Nina Ananiashvili's Gala Concert, who has been described by the Daily Telegraph as one of the twelve greatest ballerinas of all time.



## Andrea Lassakova

### Sugar Plum Fairy



Andrea Lassakova was born in Slovakia, and received her dance training exclusively with Klara Skodova at the Eva Jacz Dance Conservatory in Bratislava, the primary training facility for the Slovak National Ballet. She graduated in 2011, and joined the Slovak National Theatre as a demi-soloist.

In 2013, Andrea moved to Finland and became a dancer of the Finnish National Ballet. In 2015, Andrea was invited to join Mikhailovsky Ballet as a soloist, and was promoted to the rank of First Soloist in 2021, dancing major principal repertoire. Andrea was one of the few ballerinas to work under the tutelage of Madame Tatiana Legat.

Andrea's favorite fairy tales involve a princess with picture-perfect, dreamy endings, like *Sleeping Beauty*.

She has always aspired to foster a deep appreciation for the arts and cultivate excitement among people to attend performances, and her dream involves making ballet more accessible, ensuring that ballet dancers receive the financial support they deserve.

To her younger self she would say – Embrace your grand aspirations and ambitious goals. Remember that hard work is the key to success. Avoid comparing yourself to others, as each of us is unique. Lift and support your peers, remaining both humble and courageous in your journey.

# Cast

## Soloists



### Maksim Vlas

Drosselmeyer

Maksim was born in Minsk, Belarus, and started dancing when he was 6. His dance career began in a ballroom dancing class, but after a while, Maksim found himself in the world of ballet. He received his training at the Belarusian State Choreographic College and was invited to the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus. Since then, Maksim has performed on various stages across the world.

Maksim does not have the least favorite dance moves; there are only those he is yet to master. His least favorite character is Crassus in *Spartacus* – he is vain, full of hubris, and thinks he is invincible out of ignorance.

A piece of advice to his younger self: Have more confidence in yourself!



## Saadi Imankulov

### The Nutcracker Toy

Saadi is from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Together with his brother, Eldiir, he pursued ballet training rather early at the Bishkek Choreographic College. Saadi continued his education at the Kyrgyz State University of Culture and Arts, graduating in 2020.

Saadi has many favorite roles, but one character, whose life, passion, and pain he would like to experience, is Crassus in Spartacus. Saadi's least favorite ballet moves are adagio and cabriole; the roles he likes the least are those which do not give the performer much space for dramatic expression.

A piece of advice to his younger self: There are no small roles, only small actors.



## Angelina Zgurskaya

### Arabian Dance, Mrs. Stahlbaum

Angelina loves ballet for its vivaciousness. She was born in Pleshenitsy – a small town in Belarus, and took up gymnastics when she was six, then moved on to ballet by the age of ten. Angelina is a graduate of the Belarusian State Choreographic Gymnasium-College and the Belarus State University of Arts and Culture.

Angelina's least favorite parts in ballet are static roles, she loves moving and expressing herself in various characters and styles. The most challenging dance moves for her are the ones that require *turnout* – Angelina had to work hard on her *turnout* from an early age.

A piece of advice to her younger self: Always find good use for your free time. Keep improving, and never doubt yourself. You can do it!





## Ekaterina Lukianova

### Columbine, Candy Dance

Ekaterina likes trying new techniques in ballet and dreams of visiting Paris.

She started dancing when she was eight. Originally from Kaliningrad, Ekaterina moved to Minsk to receive her professional ballet training when she realized that dance was more than a hobby for her.

Ekaterina danced on the stages of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus, Royal Opera House Muscat, and other renowned venues.

Her favorite fairytale character is the Little Prince because he teaches us to look within, to be loyal, responsible, to value friendship and love. Her favorite ballet role is Giselle.

A piece of advice to her younger self: Be brave, don't be afraid of anything, because the dream is stronger than fear.



## Darya Madovskaya

### Columbine, Russian Dance

Darya was born in the town of Smorgon, Belarus, and she fell in love with dancing from a young age, taking ballroom dancing and jazz classes. She eventually graduated from the Belarusian State Choreographic Gymnasium-College the Belarus State Academy of Music.

Darya danced solo parts in every production of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus' repertoire. Her favorite ballet is Anna Karenina. Her favorite fairy tale character is Belle from *Beauty and the Beast* because she is courageous, kind to everyone, and pure of heart.

A piece of advice to her younger self: Don't hide your potential. Modesty is a virtue, but it only holds you back when it comes to ballet.



## Alina Rybakova

### Arabian Dance

Alina was born in Minsk. After graduating from the Belarusian State Choreographic College she was invited to the Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theater.

Alina's dream is to have a loving family and a house by the sea.

There is no ballet role that she doesn't love or wouldn't like to try to perform. She has a special place in her heart for the *Don Quixote* and the role of Kitri.

Alina believes that it is impossible to achieve something great without hard work, and that you need to work on yourself every day, developing both physically and spiritually.



## Yevgeniy Rybkin

### Soldier Doll, Spanish Dance

Yevheni was born in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and started dancing when he was ten years old.

He studied at the Almaty Choreographic School, and danced at the Astana Opera Theater in Astana.

Yevheni has a daring dream list and he wants to try skydiving, to swim with the whales and to star in a movie.

His favorite fairytale character is The Simpleton Dwarf in *Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs*, because he is cheerful and just enjoys what he has.

His favorite ballet and character is Spartacus.

Yevheni's advice to his younger version is: Work hard and participate in all competitions. Don't be afraid and don't complicate things in your head.



## Eldiir Marat Uulu

### Mice, Spanish Dance

Eldiir was born in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and started dancing at the age of ten at the Bishkek Choreography College. He graduated from the Kyrgyz State University of Culture and Arts in 2021.

Eldiir gained a vast performing experience at home, on the grand stage of the Kyrgyz National Opera and Ballet Academic Theatre.

His favorite ballet character is Spartacus because of the main character's will to fight for freedom. In contrast, his least favorite role is Hans from Giselle, because the love triangle between Albert, Giselle, and Hans eventually drove Giselle mad.

Eldiir hopes that one day there will be peace on Earth and wishes for more kindness in the world.

A piece of advice to his younger self: Work smarter, not harder.



## Alexandr Ishchenko

### Fritz

Originally from Kobrin, Belarus, Aleksandr moved to Ukraine at the age of two.

He studied at the Kiev State Choreographic School until the 9th grade and completed his education at the Belarusian State Choreographic Gymnasium-College.

His biggest dream is peace in the world. His favorite hero is The Little Humpbacked Horse, because he is very kind, cheerful and devoted to his owner-friend.

A message that he would like to pass on to his younger self is: You will succeed, just start stretching right now.



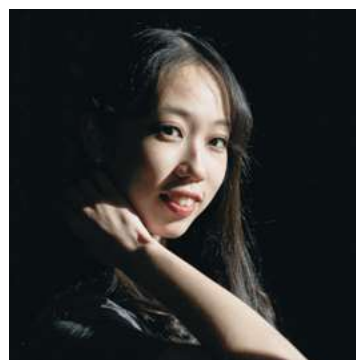


## Edyta Russ

### Candy Dance

Edyta was born in Wrocław, Poland. She began dancing when she was four years old and completed her training at the State Ballet School in Berlin, Germany. She has gone on to perform at the Wrocław Opera, Theater Dortmund and Theater Magdeburg. Her favorite ballet role is Giselle – a beautiful story teaching us that one should never play with the feelings of others.

A piece of advice to her younger self:  
Never give up.



## Haruka Nomura

### Chinese Dance

Haruka was born in Japan and started studying ballet in Kyoto from the age of seven.

A Vaganova Academy graduate, she worked at the Astrakhan State Theater of Opera and Ballet for several years and toured extensively through Germany, England, Spain, and China.

Haruka's dream is to have her own big book library. She likes a good choreographic challenge, and prefers complicated parts which allow for a range of movement. Her favorite ballet and role is Giselle: "When I dance Giselle, I can feel her emotions, happiness, pain, sadness and love... and I want to convey these emotions to the audience" – she says.

Her advice to an aspiring ballet dancer is: Have no fear, dance with your soul, express your emotions, and have fun!

# Corps



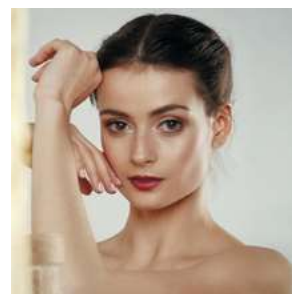
Aisalkyn  
Suiumbaeva



Aleksandra  
Morozova



Erlan  
Mederbekov



Alexandra  
Rakovskaya



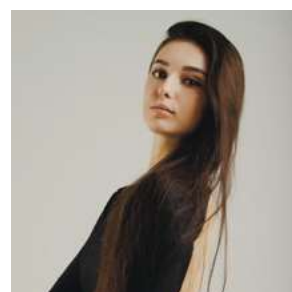
Anastasia  
Pavlova



Diana  
Semisokha



Ekaterina  
Artemenko



Victoriia  
Mazina



Alexandr  
Korobtsov



Galina  
Yanovskaya



Haruka  
Nomura



Ilya  
Turock

# Nutcracker



**Lubov  
Geronik**



**Joy Gillian  
Redington**



**Liia  
Biisheva**



**Irina  
Dovidovskaya**



**Makiko  
Miyasho**



**Maksim  
Alasheev**



**Mizuki  
Matsumoto**



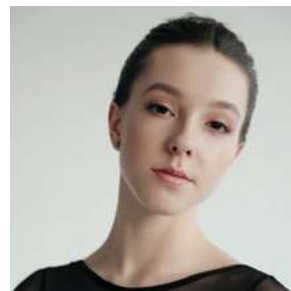
**Nurbol  
Marlisov**



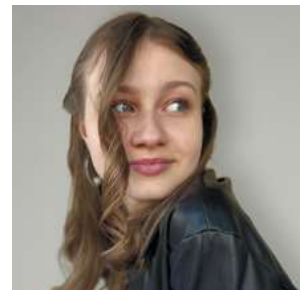
**Tatyana  
Suliak**



**Vagiz  
Sultanov**



**Valeriya  
Dyshlevaya**



**Elizaveta  
Blinova**





«One of the most transcendent  
cultural experiences  
I have had in a long time»

Times-Advocate  
(Escondido, CA)

Nutcracker

# Creative Team

Producers:

**Sasha Gorskaya**  
**Gulya Hartwick**

Choreographer:

**George Birkadze**  
**Marina Kesler**

Set & Costume Designer:

**Sergey Novikov**

Stage Manager:

**Alexey Nazarov**

Principal Ballet Mistress:

**Tatyana Linnik**

Wardrobe:

**Nina Lavrinovich**

Lighting Designer:

**Mark Stavtsev**

Sound Engineer:

**Victor Malkovich**

Lighting Engineers:

**Tatyana Savina**  
**Pavel Irlanov**

Produced by:





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[www.worldballetseries.com](http://www.worldballetseries.com)