

NEVADA *Ballet* THEATRE



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NUTCRACKER IN PARIS NEVADA BALLET THEATRE BRINGS LAS VEGAS AN ALL-NEW PRODUCTION OF *THE NUTCRACKER* TO THE PARIS THEATRE

LAS VEGAS, NV (Tuesday, September 1, 2009) - Nevada Ballet Theatre announced today it will present a new production of its annual holiday favorite, *The Nutcracker*, at the beautiful Paris Las Vegas. Choreographed by Peter Anastos, this production will make its Las Vegas debut on Friday, December 18 in the 1,533-seat theatre at Les Theatre de Arts, Paris Las Vegas, 3655 Las Vegas Boulevard South. The show will run through Thursday, December 24. Tickets are on sale beginning Monday, September 21. Prices range from \$30 to \$85 (plus fees) and can be obtained by calling the Paris Las Vegas Les Theatre de Arts Box Office at (877) 374-7469 or (702) 946-4567. Tickets can also be purchased online through www.ticketmaster.com on Monday, September 21.

A traditional story ballet, *The Nutcracker* has become a highly-anticipated holiday event, beloved by families across the country. Anastos' unique version includes imaginative and lighthearted choreography complemented by ornate sets and costumes by designer A. Christina Giannini. With an elegant holiday party, a Christmas garland dance and a mix of magical characters, Nevada Ballet Theatre's company dancers and more than 100 children from its affiliated academy and the surrounding Valley will be showcased in this fantastical family event.

"I'm thrilled to be presenting my Nutcracker for Nevada Ballet Theatre," said Choreographer Peter Anastos, who is also the artistic director of the new Ballet Idaho. "My Nutcracker is very traditional, as it should be, and celebrates the warmth, joy and fantasy of the holiday season."

Not a stranger to Las Vegas, Anastos' fanciful choreography has garnered local audience and media acclaim. He most recently staged his *Cinderella* for Las Vegas audiences in May 2008.

"There are a lot of children's roles in this production, in fact they are often the stars of the show!" remarked Anastos. "In addition, there is a fun Mechanical Mouse at the Party scene and the Nutcracker is a life-size doll who dances with Clara. All in all, this is a festive production, very bright and colorful."

Perhaps the most famous fairytale ballet of all time, *The Nutcracker* premiered over 100 years ago in St. Petersburg, Russia. It was first performed in the United States by the San Francisco Ballet. The famed New York City Ballet cemented the production's popularity when it premiered George Balanchine's version in 1954.

Based on the famous novel by E.T.A. Hoffmann entitled *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*, *The Nutcracker* was originally transformed into a classical ballet by choreographers Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov. Accompanied by Tchaikovsky's amazing score, it is now his most celebrated composition and the ballet itself regarded as a true American pastime.

"We are excited that this new production will include so many roles for children," said Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre Principal Anna Lantz. "In addition to sharing the stage with professional company dancers, children will have the opportunity to be a part of the entire production process as well as learning theatre etiquette and performance skills. The level of commitment and dedication to excellence that is required will be an invaluable experience for all," remarked Lantz.

OPEN AUDITION FOR ALL CHILDREN – COMMUNITY WIDE – OVER 100 ROLES AVAILABLE

The company has always welcomed student dancers to be a part of this heart-warming holiday tale. This year, over 100 roles will be available for children including the roles of Bakers, Sailors, Angels, Soldiers, Mini-Mice, Maxi-Mice, Party Girls, Party Boys and Mini-Variations. **Auditions will be held for this festive classic on Saturday, September 12, 2009 for students who meet the age and height requirements listed below. Students must register to audition by Thursday, September 10.**

AUDITION SCHEDULE & REQUIREMENTS

When: Saturday, September 12, 2009 – *Students Must Register on or before Thursday, September 10.*

Ages: 7 - 16 years.

Girls: Ages 11 and up – minimum three years of classical ballet training required.

Boys: Ages 7 and up – no formal ballet training required.

Height: Students must be at least 3’6 tall and no taller than 5’6 tall (42” – 67”).

Audition Location: Nevada Ballet Theatre, 1651 Inner Circle.

Audition Fee: \$25 (current Academy students exempt.)

For more information: Please call Academy Coordinator Shannon Cangey at (702) 243-2623.

Rehearsals will begin on Saturday, September 12 & Sunday, September 13.

ATTN: CALENDAR EDITORS

Nevada Ballet Theatre Presents *The Nutcracker*

An all-new production to Las Vegas with choreography by Peter Anastos

New Venue! Paris Las Vegas’ Les Theatre de Arts

Show Run: Friday, December 18 – Thursday, December 24, 2009.

Ticket Prices: \$30, \$45, \$60, \$85

Box Office: Call the Paris Las Vegas Les Theatre de Arts Box Office at (877) 374-7469 or (702) 946-4567.

Tickets can also be ordered online through www.ticketmaster.com on Monday, September 21.

Six Performances!

Friday, December 18 at 8 pm

Saturday, December 19 at 2 pm & 7 pm

Sunday, December 20 at 1 pm & 5 pm

Thursday, December 24 at 1pm

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Nevada Ballet Theatre is thrilled to present an all-new production to Las Vegas of its annual holiday favorite, *The Nutcracker*. With choreography by the new Ballet Idaho Artistic Director Peter Anastos, this traditional story ballet has been a holiday event for hundreds of families every year. Anastos’ lighthearted and whimsical artistry brings to life imaginative choreography and ornate sets and costumes – adding up to a very fashionable holiday experience. With an elegant holiday party, a Christmas garland dance and a mix of magical characters, over 100 children will be showcased in this fantastical family event.

SINGLE TICKETS ON SALE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 – GROUP SALES AVAILABLE

Single Tickets go on sale Monday, September 21. Call the Paris Las Vegas Les Theatre de Arts Box Office at (877) 374-7469 or (702) 946-4567 to purchase tickets. Special group pricing is also available for groups of 15 or more and can be purchased by calling Joel Mann at (702) 967-4938.

GIVE THE GIFT OF THE NUTCRACKER

Corporations and organizations are encouraged to bring their staff and employees to a performance as a unique holiday gift, or to sponsor underserved populations for this performance. For further information on this great gift idea, call Nevada Ballet Theatre’s Marketing Department at (702) 243-2623 or email cfox@nevadaballet.com

ATTN: MEDIA

For interview opportunities with Choreographer Peter Anastos, please contact Jenn Kratochwill at (702) 243-2623 or email jkratochwill@nevadaballet.com. **Photos are available upon request.**

ABOUT NEVADA BALLET THEATRE

Under the direction of Artistic Director James Canfield, Nevada Ballet Theatre is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and the largest professional ballet company and dance Academy in the state. Committed to the highest artistic standards, dancers for the company hail from around the world and include artists with international performing experience. This classically-based company is at home in an eclectic repertory, moving easily from the classics to the high-energy contemporary ballets. The mission of Nevada Ballet Theatre is to educate and inspire regional, statewide and national audiences and vitally impact community life through professional company productions, dance training and education and outreach. Upon its completion, Nevada Ballet Theatre will be a resident company in the new world-class Smith Center for the Performing Arts.

ABOUT PARIS LAS VEGAS

Paris Las Vegas is a Harrah's Entertainment resort. From its dramatic 50-story replica of the Eiffel Tower to authentic architectural reproductions, Paris Las Vegas features elegant décor, European-inspired boutiques, a distinctive array of fine cuisine, including Chef Joho's acclaimed Eiffel Tower Restaurant, Les Artistes Steakhouse and French-bistro Mon Ami Gabi. The resort celebrates the romance, excitement and savoir-faire of the European City of Light. In the heart of the famous Las Vegas Strip, the passion and sophistication of Paris Las Vegas transports guests to Europe's most romantic city.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ABOUT CHOREOGRAPHER PETER ANASTOS

Peter Anastos has choreographed over 100 stage works for the finest national and regional ballet companies in the United States as well as for modern dance companies, theater, film and television. In addition, he has choreographed in Europe, Asia and Latin America and his ballets are performed worldwide.

Prior to joining the new Ballet Idaho as artistic director, Mr. Anastos was the founding director/choreographer of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo and served as artistic director for Garden State Ballet in Newark, New Jersey and Cincinnati Ballet in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr. Anastos has enjoyed a longstanding collaboration with Mikhail Baryshnikov and their projects together include American Ballet Theater's Cinderella, CBS Television's Baryshnikov in Hollywood (Emmy Award nomination) and the photography book, *The Swan Price* for Bantam Books. He was also invited to create new work for Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project.

Mr. Anastos had the rare honor of receiving two Guggenheim Foundation Fellowships in Choreography and four Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts. He was the subject of a *New Yorker Magazine* Profile by the foremost American dance writer, Arlene Croce.

For the Broadway stage he choreographed *I Hate Hamlet* and *Where She Danced*, based on the life of Isadora Duncan. Other major theatre credits include *33 Variations* (Arena Stage, Washington, DC) and *Chess* (National Company). He has choreographed several television specials and two Hollywood films, *Addams Family* and *Addams Family Values*, both for Paramount Pictures.

Mr. Anastos has directed opera for the Washington Opera at the Kennedy Center and for the Opera Company of Philadelphia and was choreographer-in-residence for the Santa Fe Opera and Sundance Theatre Festival, part of Robert Redford's Sundance Institute in Utah.

A writer and historian, Mr. Anastos has published essays about ballet for the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Dance Magazine*, *Ballet News*, *DanceInk* and *Ballet Review*, where he is a member of the Editorial Board. He is a contributor to the new book, *Reading Dance*, Random House, New York, 2008. In addition, he has directed the Ballet Project at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and has taught ballet technique in New York and throughout the United States.