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**MIAMI CITY BALLET
CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS
*GEORGE BALANCHINE'S THE NUTCRACKER®***

**Beloved Tradition Returns,
Bringing a Winter Wonderland to Life
In Magical Experience for the Whole Family**

**16 Performances, Only in Miami!
December 13-24, Arsht Center**

(Miami Beach, FL — October 30, 2024) – [Miami City Ballet](#) ([Lourdes Lopez](#), Artistic Director; [Juan José Escalante](#), Executive Director) is poised to transform sunny Miami into a magical winter wonderland this holiday season with the return of [*George Balanchine's The Nutcracker®*](#). Building on its well-established reputation as the world's foremost interpreter of the Balanchine repertoire, this seasonal spectacle comes replete with the master choreographer's stunning signature movement. Landing squarely and solely in Miami, the audience favorite returns to the **Arsht Center (1300 Biscayne Blvd) for 16 performances only from **December 13-24**. Individual tickets and flex passes are available online at miamicityballet.org/subscriptions or by phone at 305.929.7010 or toll-free at 877.929.7010.**

Photos are available for download [here](#).

Journey once more with Miami City Ballet and more than 100 dancers into the fantastical world of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker®*. Set to the iconic Tchaikovsky score played by a spectacular live orchestra, the perpetual family favorite holiday entertainment is sure to dazzle audiences once more with its fanciful footwork, stunning stagecraft, and magnificent costumes.

As graceful snowflakes magically grace the stage in sunny Miami, the young and young at heart will be whisked away by the joy of the Sugarplum Fairy. Eye-popping scenic elements and Balanchine's signature choreography expertly mix grandeur and warmth, making the spirit of childhood come alive right before the audience's very eyes.

The holidays are also bittersweet this year for **Miami City Ballet** and one of its longtime company artists. Dancing the role of Sugarplum Fairy, Principal Dancer [Jennifer Lauren](#) will mark her final performance with MCB with this year's *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker®*. Lauren joined MCB in 2007 as a member of the Corps de Ballet and was promoted to Soloist in 2011. Following her recognition as one of Dance Magazine's "Top 25 to Watch" in 2014, she was promoted to Principal Soloist in 2015, and finally to Principal in 2017. In her tenure with MCB, she has danced roles in a stunning 21 Balanchine works, as well as originated roles in Justin Peck's *Heatscape*, Alexei Ratmansky's *The Fairy's Kiss* and *Symphonic Dances*, Liam Scarlett's *Viscera* and *Euphotic*, Durante Verzola's *A Dance For Heros* and *Sentimiento*, and Pontus Lidberg's *Petrichor*.

The performance schedule for *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker®* is as follows:

Arsht Center, Miami, FL

Friday, December 13 at 7pm
Saturday, December 14 at 2pm
Saturday, December 14 at 7pm
Sunday, December 15 at 1pm
Sunday, December 15 at 6:30pm
Tuesday, December 16 at 7pm
Wednesday, December 18 at 7pm
Thursday, December 19 at 7pm
Friday, December 20 at 2pm
Friday, December 20 at 7pm
Saturday, December 21 at 2pm
Saturday, December 21 at 7pm
Sunday, December 22 at 1pm
Sunday, December 22 at 6:30pm
Monday, December 23 at 2pm
Tuesday, December 24 at 12pm

For an extra-special holiday experience the family is sure to treasure, become part of the merriment with pre-show festivities that set the stage for the most magical time of year.

Miami City Ballet is currently presenting its spectacular production of [A Midsummer Night's Dream](#), **November 2-3** at the **Broward Center for the Performing Arts**.

Individual tickets and flex passes for all Miami City Ballet performances this season are available online at miamicityballet.org and miamicityballet.org/subscriptions, respectively, or by phone at 305.929.7010 or toll-free at 877.929.7010.

ABOUT MIAMI CITY BALLET

Miami City Ballet has a diverse roster of 53 dancers and a repertoire of more than 130 works. As one of the most renowned ballet companies in the country, Miami City Ballet performs for nearly 125,000 patrons annually during its South Florida home season in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and tours to major cities domestically and internationally, including recent visits to New York City, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Los Angeles, and Paris.

Miami City Ballet School, the official school of Miami City Ballet, is one of the most respected ballet training academies in America. The School trains students, ages 3-18 year-round, and grants more than \$650,000 in scholarships annually.

Miami City Ballet's Community Engagement programs, serving more than 12,000 people annually in schools and communities; our free programs use the power of dance to uplift, teach and bring joy.

Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez leads the company. Lopez was recently awarded the prestigious Dance Magazine Award in 2018 and was named one of "The Most Influential People in Dance Today." She is on the Ford Foundation Board of Trustees, the first artist to ever serve on its Board.

Miami City Ballet was founded in 1985 by Miami philanthropist Toby Lerner Ansin and Founding Artistic Director Edward Villella. It is headquartered in Miami Beach, FL, at the Ophelia & Juan Js. Roca Center, a facility designed by renowned architectural firm, Arquitectonica.

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