NEW YORK CITY BALLET

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

<u>**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**</u>
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NEW YORK CITY BALLET'S 2024-25 SEASON OF
***GEORGE BALANCHINE'S THE NUTCRACKER*®**
OPENS AT LINCOLN CENTER
ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2024

Special Sensory Friendly Performance
to Take Place on Sunday, January 5 at 1pm

2024-25 Edition of the Beloved Holiday Classic Sponsored by Travelers

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New York City Ballet will open its annual season of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*® on Friday, November 29 at 8pm at the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. The 2024-25 season of the holiday classic, sponsored by Travelers, will conclude on Sunday, January 5, 2025, with a special Sensory Friendly Performance.

New York City Ballet's (NYCB) acclaimed production of Balanchine's masterpiece, which premiered on February 2, 1954, helped to establish *The Nutcracker* and its score as perennial favorites in the United States, evident by the now countless versions of the ballet performed all over the country. NYCB's beloved production is seen by more than 100,000 people annually.

"Now in its 70th year, New York City Ballet's timeless production of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*® is a treasured holiday classic that continues to entertain and inspire generations of audiences. We are incredibly grateful to Travelers for their generous continued sponsorship, which helps make this production possible year after year," said Katherine Brown, NYCB's Executive Director.

"A staple of the holiday season since 1954, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*® is an iconic holiday tradition enjoyed annually by so many people of all ages. We are delighted to continue our support of the production and New York City Ballet for a thirteenth consecutive year," said Lisa Caputo, Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing, Communications & Customer Experience Officer at Travelers.

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Set to Peter Ilyitch Tschaikovsky's glorious score, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*® features choreography by Balanchine, scenery by Rouben Ter-Arutunian, costumes by Karinska, and lighting by Mark Stanley, after the original design by Ronald Bates. The production features the Company's entire roster of more than 150 dancers and musicians, as well as more than 120 children, in two alternating casts, from the School of American Ballet, the official school of New York City Ballet.

Highlights of this world-renowned holiday production include a one-ton Christmas tree that grows from 16 to 41 feet, an onstage snowstorm, and hundreds of elaborate costumes, including one for Mother Ginger that measures 9 feet wide and weighs 85 pounds. The production's grand finale involves one million watts of lighting, the most used in any New York City Ballet production.

Ticket prices start at $60, and New York City Ballet also offers a Sweet Seat VIP Package, which includes premium seating, a complimentary souvenir book, and for every two Sweet Seat tickets purchased, a coupon for one complimentary keepsake photo taken onsite at the theater.

Tickets for performances from November 29, 2024 through January 4, 2025 are currently on sale online at nycballet.com, in person at the theater box office, and by phone at (212) 496-0600. The David H. Koch Theater is located on the Lincoln Center Plaza at Columbus Avenue and 63rd Street.

Sensory-Friendly Performance: Sunday, January 5, 2025

On Sunday, January 5 at 1pm, NYCB will present a sensory-friendly performance of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*®, designed to provide a comfortable and inclusive environment where audiences with disabilities, including those with autism, can enjoy a ballet performance. Slight modifications to the social and sensory environment include a relaxed entry and exit policy, adjustments to lighting and sound levels, designated break areas throughout the theater, additional event staffing to assist with audience needs, and pre-visit resources.

For tickets and additional information visit: nycballet.com/sensoryfriendly.

Public Education Programs for All Audiences

This December New York City Ballet will also present a series of public programs for children, teens, and adults designed to give audiences a closer look at the Company's repertory and artists.

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Family Saturdays: December 21, 2024

On Saturday, December 21, 2024 at from 11am-12pm, NYCB will present a one-hour *Family Saturdays* program featuring excerpts from *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker®,* performed by company dancers and members of the NYCB orchestra. Hosted by Megan Fairchild, Principal Dancer and *Family Saturdays* Creative Director, the presentation will explore the story, choreography, music, and costumes of the holiday classic in a one-hour interactive program designed for children and adults ages 5 and up. *Family Saturdays* tickets start at $29 per person and are required for infants, children, and adults. Priority seating for American Sign Language Interpretation is available for all *Family Saturdays* presentations. Tickets are currently on sale online at nycballet.com, in person at the theater box office, and by phone at (212) 496-0600.

Movement Workshops

The season will also include a series of in-person **Movement Workshops** held in NYCB's rehearsal studios at Lincoln Center. These will include:

- *Children's Workshops* for children ages 5 to 7 on Saturday, December 7 from 12:30-1:15pm, Sunday, December 8 from 11:30am-12:15pm, and Saturday, December 21 from 12:30-1:15pm.
- *In Motion* workshop for children ages 8 to 12 on Sunday, December 8 from 11:30-12:15pm.
- *Ballet Essentials* workshops for teens and adults on Saturday, December 7 10:30-11:45am and Monday, December 16 from 6:30-7:45pm.
- *Children's Access Workshop* for children with physical disabilities ages 4 to 12 on Saturday, December 14 from 11:00am-12:00pm.
- *Autism-Friendly Access Workshops* for children ages 4 to 12 with autism or other sensory needs on Sunday, December 8 from 10:00-11:00am and Saturday, December 14 from 1:00-2:00pm.

Movement Workshop tickets range from $8 to $36. For tickets and additional information visit nycballet.com/educate/public-programs and nycballet.com/educate/access-programs.

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