

# ATLANTA BALLET

## Atlanta Ballet's World Premiere of *The Nutcracker* Interesting Facts

- *The Nutcracker's* world-class creative team includes:
  - Choreography by **Yuri Possokhov** (Isadora Duncan Dance Award winner for outstanding choreography)
  - Set Design by **Tom Pye** (Tony Award nominee)
  - Costume Design by **Sandra Woodall** (Isadora Duncan Dance Award winner for costume design)
  - Lighting Design by **David Finn** (The Knight of Illumination Award winner in the UK)
  - Video/Projection Design by **Finn Ross** (Tony Award winner)
- All projections are applied in 4K technology. One can only imagine how challenging it would be to integrate video and projections into ballet choreography and live music, but lighting designer Finn Ross has been able to find the perfect way to enhance – and not take away from – the choreography and story through projection mapping.
- At \$3.7 million (with even more when including when including costs designated for future use and upkeep), Atlanta Ballet's new production of *The Nutcracker* is one of the largest Nutcrackers in the country in terms of budget size.
- The costumes are designed by renowned designer Sandra Woodall, and the road to their creation has been an international one. There are more than 250 costumes in the production that were created in three different countries (as well as across the US) by more than 50 designers and makers. Many of the costumes are carefully hand-dyed and have beautiful hand-crafted details.
- The costume maker for the mice and some of the head pieces is Robert Allsopp, a leading artist specializing in props, costumes and special effects for the entertainment industries.
- *The Nutcracker* has become a holiday staple pretty much everywhere in the country – nearly all ballet companies perform their own version of the holiday tale every December. This particular *Nutcracker* is unlike any other, and tells the traditional story in a much more advanced way. Our world-class creative team, which includes Tony Award-winning and –nominated designers, has imagined a ballet for our time, featuring state-of-the-art projections and larger-than-life set elements. It truly is a *Nutcracker* for the “next generation.”
- All of the elements combined – the dancing, choreography, costumes, lighting, set, projections, and, of course, the live orchestra – make this a magical, full sensory experience. Audiences will have a hard time discerning what is real and what is not (in a good way!)
- This will be Gennadi's first big production since he came on board as Atlanta Ballet's fourth artistic director in 2016, and will certainly be a reflection of his overall vision for the Company. He really hit the ground running, and since he joined Atlanta Ballet only two years ago, Gennadi has already made a huge impact on the Company and city of Atlanta as he:
  - launched a new training ensemble with Atlanta Ballet 2,
  - expanded the current professional Company from 28 to 39 members,
  - helped introduce an expansive capital campaign,
  - opened a new location for Atlanta Ballet's Centre for Dance Education,
  - completely renovated and expanded the professional company studio,
  - added a fall program to the professional performance season (September's *Return to Fall*)
  - increased Atlanta Ballet's footprint by performing at new venues (Beauty & the Beast last year at Infinite Energy and this April's professional program at new venue City Springs)
  - exposed audiences to a wider range of dance styles from classical, neoclassical, contemporary and exclusive signature commissions by some of today's top-tier choreographers (including five world premieres)
- Opportunity to highlight Yuri Possokhov's rising profile in the dance world as a top-tier choreographer. Shortly after the premiere of *The Nutcracker* in Atlanta, The Joffrey Ballet will debut the world premiere of his Anna Karenina (February 2019). More information upon request.