

Queensland **Ballet**

Media Release

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LOVE FOR NUTCRACKER BALLET CONTINUES



As Queensland Ballet is set to open its fourth season of *The Nutcracker*, love for this festive ballet shows no signs of slowing with extra performances having to be added to the 2016 season.

Artistic Director Li Cunxin said he was thrilled that Brisbane audiences have made *The Nutcracker* part of their Christmas tradition and that more and more people are

discovering this delightful classic.

"Since we committed to staging Ben Stevenson's *The Nutcracker* as an annual season in 2013, we've sold out each season and continually have to add performances due to demand," Mr Li said.

"This being our fourth year of *The Nutcracker* is no exception with the announcement of two extra performances being added to the 2016 season to cope with ticket sales.

"This year will also see us take the ballet to Canberra for the first time with this southern season opening in late November before we return to the Brisbane stage in early December.

"We're so pleased to be sharing this wonderful ballet with new audiences in Canberra. *The Nutcracker* is a cherished Christmas tradition for many families around the world and we love being part of introducing this tradition to Australian families."

The Canberra season of *The Nutcracker* will open on 23 – 27 November followed by the Brisbane season on 9 – 23 December.

The story of *The Nutcracker* is well known to many and Ben Stevenson's choreography brings a special magic to the tale.

At midnight on Christmas Eve, little Clara begins a magical journey into a wondrous world where toys come to life, she fights off King Rat and his giant mice, she encounters delicate dancing snowflakes and the beautiful Sugar Plum Fairy, who reigns over the Kingdom of Sweets.

Clara meets the chivalrous Nutcracker and his soldiers and is ushered through magical worlds in an enchanted sleigh entertained by an array of incredible characters before waking from her dreams.

With its gorgeous sets, costumes and stunning dance, combined with Tchaikovsky's evocative music, this production of *The Nutcracker* delights audiences young and old.



"I first danced Ben Stevenson's production of *The Nutcracker* in 1979 in Houston Ballet," Mr Li said.

"Ben is a master at story-telling and bringing his own special magic to this story. Legendary costume designer Desmond Heeley lent his considerable flair to the costume designs which were beautifully interpreted by our Resident Designer Noelene Hill.

"Our own Director of Production Tom Boyd created the most incredible sets that really do take the audience to another world sparkling with lighting designs by David Walters.

"We're so proud of this production that Brisbane audiences have taken into their hearts.

"I'd encourage anyone wanting to attend who hasn't yet bought tickets, to quickly snap them up as these two extra performances are sure to sell fast."



Media inquiries

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