

CLEVELAND BALLET

GLADISA GUADALUPE | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CLEVELAND BALLET'S BELOVED HOLIDAY TRADITION, *THE NUTCRACKER*, EXPANDS WITH 11 PERFORMANCES AT CONNOR PALACE

CLEVELAND – With new dances, characters, and costumes, Cleveland Ballet's *The Nutcracker* returns to Playhouse Square with an expanded season featuring 11 performances of this cherished holiday tradition. Running over two weekends, the schedule includes matinee and evening shows starting Thursday, December 14, and ending with the evening performance on Saturday, December 23.

The retelling of the original story by E.T.A. Hoffman (1776-1822) is choreographed by Gladisa Guadalupe, Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Cleveland Ballet. Each year Guadalupe enhances the spectacular two-act ballet with new additions and stories so returning audiences are guaranteed a surprise. This year, lead dancers take a magical journey for the first time to France and Austria, complete with new dances, costumes, and sets. In addition, a grandmother role is introduced into the cast.

"Each year, I am inspired to refresh the telling of this magical story. We have so many patrons that come year after year because it is their holiday tradition and I want to make sure they have a different experience each time," said Guadalupe.

The annual production features Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's iconic score. However, Guadalupe's version of the production comes with a twist that will immerse audiences in the tale of Caroline and her Prince as they battle the Mouse King, dance in a glistening snowfall, and travel by a glittering carriage to celebrate in exotic and magical lands.

"While touring the Prince's Palace of Monaco, I was infused with inspiration to create a vignette featuring France," said Guadalupe. It's only appropriate because the first choreographer of *The Nutcracker* was Frenchman, Marius Petipa, with whom Tchaikovsky had worked with on an earlier ballet.

"Nothing reflects the cultural diversity of Cleveland Ballet better than *The Nutcracker*. Our company is represented by 10 countries and that international flavor comes through in our artists' performances," said Guadalupe. *The Nutcracker* features the entire roster of artists as well as over 60 students from School of Cleveland Ballet. The production is suitable and highly appropriate for children, although adults will find it equally delightful.

Tickets start at \$28 and can be purchased by calling Cleveland Ballet Ticketing at 216.320.9000 ext. 107 or visiting <https://www.clevelandballet.org/the-nutcracker>.

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PHOTO RELEASE



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Susan Bestul Photography

CONTACT RENA VYSNIONIS FOR ADDITIONAL IMAGES.

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ABOUT CLEVELAND BALLET: From the fascinating history of dance in Cleveland starting at the beginning of the 20th century, Dr. Michael Krasnyansky, a successful Ukrainian businessman who settled in the Cleveland area, and his wife Gladisa Guadalupe, a wonderful dancer originally from Puerto Rico, have made their mission to build on the vision and business acumen of Adella Prentiss and impresario Giacomo Bernardi Prentiss and Bernardi were instrumental in the development of Cleveland's dance audience. They were responsible for bringing one of the world's foremost ballerinas of the 20th century, Anna Pavlova, as well as the internationally famous Diaghilev Ballets Russes which performed in this city during their first U.S. tour. Today and under their artistic vision, business expertise, and leadership, Dr. Krasnyansky and Ms. Guadalupe have established the city's resident ballet company, Cleveland Ballet, successfully filling the void of classical and contemporary ballet. Please see <https://case.edu/ech/articles/c/cleveland-ballet> and <https://case.edu/ech/articles/d/dance> for more information.

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