

THE *NUTCRACKER* BY THE NUMBERS

(OR, FUN FACTS ABOUT BALLET THEATER OF LANCASTER'S PRODUCTION)

- **1892:** Date of the first performance of *The Nutcracker* ballet, at St. Petersburg's Maryinsky Theater. It shared billing with Peter Tchaikovsky's opera, *Iolanthe*. The ballet was not well-received; Russian critics faulted it for being all story and no dancing in Act I, then all dancing and no story in Act II. Also, Russian ballet audiences looked down on ballets with children dancing in them; even the original production of *The Nutcracker* had a large number of children's roles.
- **1942:** Date of first U.S performance of *The Nutcracker*, at the San Francisco Ballet.
- **1954:** Date of the opening of George Balanchine's production of *The Nutcracker*, staged for the New York City Ballet. His December production is the one that joined *The Nutcracker* with the Christmas holidays in the U.S. In Europe, *The Nutcracker* has traditionally been considered a minor ballet; it is performed infrequently and is not associated with a particular time of year. Europeans were (and continue to be) astonished at the success of Balanchine's production, its annual repetition, and its enduring link with Christmas in this country.
- **1:** Number of composers; the ballet's composer is Peter Ilych Tchaikovsky.
- **2:** Number of choreographers who worked on the original version of *The Nutcracker* for the Maryinsky: Marius Petipa was the theater's master choreographer and he provided the original set of directions for which Tchaikovsky was to compose his music; he became ill, then moved on to other projects. His assistant, Lev Ivanov created most of the dances for *The Nutcracker*. But Petipa and Ivanov would collaborate on some of Tchaikovsky's other great ballets, including *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty*.
- **7:** Number of selections from the complete ballet included in Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*. These selections are: the Overture, Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy, Russian Dance, (a.k.a. Trepak), Arabian Dance, Chinese Dance, Marzipan Dance (a.k.a. Mirlitons), and Waltz of the Flowers. Tchaikovsky premiered these pieces at a concert at the St. Petersburg Musical Society in the spring of 1892, before the opening of his ballet.
- **6:** Number of pieces from *The Nutcracker Suite* for which the audience at the St. Petersburg Musical Society concert in spring 1892 requested encores. These six selections (Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy, Russian Dance, Arabian Dance, Chinese Dance, Marzipan/Mirlitons Dance and Waltz of the Flowers) remain the most well-known and beloved selections from the complete ballet.
- **25:** Number of dancers (aged 11-18) in the Ballet Theater of Lancaster dance company.
- **26:** Number of professional dancers in the Donetsk Ballet company performing in *The Nutcracker*.
- **13:** Number of female dancers appearing with the Donetsk Ballet in Lancaster

- **11:** Number of male dancers appearing with the Donetsk Ballet in Lancaster.
- **12:** Number of married dancers in the Donetsk Ballet company traveling to Lancaster; there are **6** married couples in the company.
- **10:** Number of Lancaster-area families hosting Donetsk dancers during their **4**-day stay in Lancaster.
- **5,140:** number of miles from Donetsk to Lancaster (in a straight line; airline travel and stops in other cities makes the actual distance the dancers travel much farther). The Donetsk dancers would measure the distance in kilometers; it is 8,127 km from Donetsk to Lancaster.
- **96:** Number of school-aged dancers in the Lancaster Community Cast; includes 25 dancers from Ballet Theater of Lancaster. Their ages range from 6 to 18; there are kindergartners appearing as Angels.
- **200:** Number of costumes the Wardrobe Mistress of the Donetsk Ballet brings to Lancaster. There are about **40** costumes for the Donetsk dancers; There are **160** costumes for the Lancaster Community Dancers. Everyone, professionals and students alike, dance at least 2 roles.
- **110:** Number of props used in *The Nutcracker*. The dolls carried by Girls in the Party Scene are their own dolls that they have brought from home. The rest of the props are provided by the Donetsk Ballet.
- **5 feet:** the approximate width of Mother Ginger's hoop skirt. The dancer who wears this hoop skirt must tilt it to an almost vertical position and exit the dressing room sideways to get to the stage.
- **1:** number of former Lancaster residents and former dancer with Ballet Theater of Lancaster appearing with Donetsk Ballet in *The Nutcracker*. A second former Lancastrian and Ballet Theater dancer is currently on tour with the European touring company of the Donetsk Ballet.