

NEVADA *Ballet* THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEVADA BALLET THEATRE DAZZLES AUDIENCES WITH ITS CHERISHED HOLIDAY FAVORITE, *THE NUTCRACKER!*

***SPECIAL GUESTS, CHARACTER PHOTO OPPS AND BOUTIQUE
ENHANCE SPLENDOR OF HOLIDAY FAVORITE***

Sponsored in part by 

LAS VEGAS, NV (Tuesday, October 14, 2008) – The most famous cast of holiday characters, including Clara, Fritz, the Mouse King and the Sugar Plum Fairy, reunite for Las Vegas' most cherished and beloved annual event – *The Nutcracker!* Staged by Ballet Mistress Clarice Geissel-Rathers, with original choreography by Bruce Steivel, this annual tradition will be presented on Wednesday, December 17 through Sunday, December 28, 2008 at UNLV's Judy Bayley Theatre, 4505 Maryland Parkway. Ticket prices range from \$85 to \$45 with premium and non-premium dates available and can be ordered by calling (702) 895-ARTS (2787) or by visiting www.nevadaballet.com.

Perhaps the most famous fairytale ballet of all time, *The Nutcracker* premiered over 100 years ago in St. Petersburg, Russia. Based on the famous novel by E.T.A. Hoffmann entitled *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*, it was turned into a classical ballet by choreographers Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov with an amazing score by Peter I. Tchaikovsky. This production not only became the most distinguished ballet in the world, but grew to become Tchaikovsky's most celebrated composition.

"*The Nutcracker* is a city's classical mainstay – and Nevada Ballet Theatre is proud to offer that to Las Vegas" says Interim Artistic Director James Canfield.

Nevada Ballet Theatre's version of this heart-warming holiday tale has been enchanting local families for over 25 years and each time, the company has welcomed over 80 students into its yearly production. This season, to add to the excitement, the company held open auditions for this festive classic on Saturday, September 6. Aside from students from the Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre, boys ages 7 and up and girls ages 11 and up from the community or who attend area dance schools were invited to audition for the city's premiere holiday event. Students will be cast in the roles of Clara, Fritz, soldiers, mice, and party scene children.

First performed in America by the San Francisco Ballet, the New York City Ballet made *The Nutcracker* even more popular when it premiered George Balanchine's version in 1954. This family-friendly classic was catapulted into a true American pastime with hundreds of professional ballet companies and dance academies performing it all over the country. It is known

as the most beloved ballet as it reveals the mysteries and enchantments of the holiday season as seen through the eyes of innocent children.

NUTCRACKER CHARACTER PHOTO OPPORTUNITY AND BOUTIQUE – NEW!

This year, Nevada Ballet Theatre will offer special holiday photos with the beautiful “snowflakes” from its most popular and beloved ballet, *The Nutcracker*. Photo opportunities will be offered during intermission at all 15 performances of this holiday masterpiece. For only \$10, patrons can pose with these beautiful ballerinas for a treasured keepsake memento! In addition, Nevada Ballet Theatre’s boutique will have Nutcrackers, special Nutcracker books and CDs available for purchase.

GIVE THE GIFT OF THE NUTCRACKER – GROUP DISCOUNTS

Corporations and organizations are encouraged to bring their staff and employees to a performance of *The Nutcracker* as a unique holiday gift or to sponsor underserved youth groups. Groups of 15 or more will enjoy fantastic savings and personal service. To book your group, contact Marketing Manager Julie Hord at (702) 243-2623 ext. 234 or email jhord@nevadaballet.com. *Discounts are only available on non-premium dates.*

SINGLE TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

Single Tickets for the remainder of Nevada Ballet Theatre’s 2008-2009 Season are on sale and can ordered online at www.nevadaballet.com or by calling the UNLV Performing Arts Center box office at (702) 895-ARTS (2787).

For more information on Nevada Ballet Theatre, its programs, or for 2008-2009 production-specific information, call Nevada Ballet Theatre’s Marketing department at (702) 243-2623 or email info@nevadaballet.com.

ABOUT NEVADA BALLET THEATRE

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Nevada Ballet Theatre is the largest professional ballet company and dance academy in the state. Committed to the highest artistic standards, dancers for the 33 member company have been recruited from around the world and include artists with international performing experience. This classically-based company is at home in an eclectic repertory, moving easily from the classics to the high-energy contemporary ballets. The mission of Nevada Ballet Theatre is to educate and inspire regional, statewide and national audiences and vitally impact community life through professional company productions, dance training and education and outreach. Beginning in 2011, Nevada Ballet Theatre will be a resident company in the new world-class Smith Center for the Performing Arts.

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FOR CALENDAR INSERTION

THE NUTCRACKER

December 17- 28, 2008

Choreography: Bruce Steivel

Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky

Venue: UNLV Performing Arts Center, Judy Bayley Theatre

Performance Description

What would the holiday season be without snowflakes, hot cocoa, and *The Nutcracker*? Nevada Ballet Theatre’s production has it all! Captivating performances, lavish costumes and sets, special effects, and Tchaikovsky’s soaring masterpiece completes an annual experience that thousands flock to each year. Bring your friends and family to an enchanting winter tradition here in Las Vegas.

Ticket Information

Call the UNLV Box office at: 895-ARTS (2787)

Premium Dates: Section A, \$85; Section B, \$55

Non-Premium Dates: A, \$75; Section B, \$45

Performances

Wednesday, December 17 at 8 pm

Thursday, December 18 at 8 pm

Friday, December 19 at 8 pm

Saturday, December 20 at 2 pm & 8 pm

Sunday, December 21 at 1 pm & 4:30 pm

Tuesday, December 23 at 8 pm

Wednesday, December 24 at 1 pm

Friday, December 26 at 2 pm & 8 pm

Saturday, December 27 at 2 pm & 8 pm

Sunday, December 28 at 1 pm & 4:30 pm

ABOUT OUR NUTCRACKER SPONSORS

ABOUT SIGNATURE HOMES

Founded in 1978 by Richard and Wendy Plaster, Signature Homes is the oldest family-owned business in the Las Vegas Valley. The company has built thousands of homes, condominiums, and apartments and is listed in the top 100 builders nationally. As part of their long-term vision, they continually search for new ways to improve both long-standing values and the quality of life in Signature neighborhoods. Richard and Wendy Plaster continue to operate Signature Homes as a family business.

ABOUT E.L. WIEGAND FOUNDATION

In 2002, in honor of the company's 30th Anniversary, Nevada Ballet Theatre received \$250,000 to create an all-new production of *The Nutcracker*, generously awarded by the E.L. Wiegand Foundation in Reno, Nevada. Other donors contributed the matching funds needed to make the production a success. The foundation makes grants primarily to develop and strengthen programs and projects at educational institutions in the academic areas of science, business, fine arts, law, and medicine with priority given to programs and projects that benefit children.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE BALLET

ABOUT PETER I. TCHAIKOVSKY, COMPOSER

After garnering an enormous amount of success in Moscow and St. Petersburg for his first two ballets, *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty*, Tchaikovsky composed his third and last ballet, *The Nutcracker Suite*. Despite the underwhelming reception at its 1892 premiere, this composition became one of the most popular symphonic compositions in the musical world. With two acts and three scenes of varied, brilliantly orchestrated musical vignettes, this famous score includes an overture, fifteen musical parts, waltzes, a French nursery tone, snippets of Schubert and Schumann piano music, an older Georgian cradle song used in the Arabian Dance, a Spanish bolero, an Italian Tarantella, and a Cossack Trepak to show off leaping Russian male dancers. Today, Tchaikovsky remains one of the most remembered composers as he created masterpieces in every genre and to this day, all three of his ballets are firmly entrenched in the international repertoire.

ABOUT CHOREOGRAPHER BRUCE STEIVEL

An internationally recognized choreographer and teacher, Mr. Steivel was formerly the Artistic Director of Bern Stadt Theatre in Switzerland, the Hong Kong Ballet, Universal Ballet of Korea and most recently, Nevada Ballet Theatre where he served as artistic director for over ten years.

After graduating from the North Carolina School of the Arts, Mr. Steivel continued his studies on full scholarship with the American School of Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and the Harkness House for Ballet Arts. He has trained and worked under some of dance's most famous teachers and choreographers including George Balanchine, Jirí Kylián, Roland Petit, Anton Dolin, Ben Stevenson, Andre Eglevsky, Alexandra Danoliva, David Howard and Heinz Spoerli.

Mr. Steivel is frequently sought after as a guest teacher, teaching for Nederland Dans Theatre, the Norwegian National Ballet, the Hungarian National Ballet, the National Ballet of Portugal, the Berlin Stadstoper, Beijing Ballet, Shanghai Ballet, Bat Dor of Israel, the National Institute of Istanbul, Turkey, and numerous schools in Japan and America.

His international involvement continues with his position as the Artistic Director for the prestigious International Concours de Danse in Luxembourg, under the patronage of the Grande Duc and Duchess of Luxembourg.

ABOUT ALEXANDRE VASSILIEV, COSTUME & SET DESIGNER

An internationally acclaimed costume and set designer as well as fashion historian, Alexandre Vassiliev designs operas, plays, films, and ballets for world-renowned companies. His work has been received with great public and critical acclaim in Europe, North and South America, Asia, and Australia. In great demand as a guest lecturer in the History of Fashion and Stage Design, Vassiliev has one of the world's largest private collections of Russian period costumes, which have been displayed in France and around the world. The author of the award-winning, "Beauty in Exile," he has also been a Feature Editor for the Russian editions of *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar* magazines.