



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MISSISSIPPI

GERTRUDE C.
FORD CENTER
for the Performing Arts

NUTCRACKER!

MAGICAL CHRISTMAS BALLET



December 11, 2025 • 7:30 p.m.



NUTCRACKER!

MAGICAL CHRISTMAS BALLET

Act 1



Clara

Karyna Shatkovskaya /Yurisa Haruki

Nutcracker Prince, Harlequin Doll

Rustem Imangaliev /Satofumi Yamamoto

Uncle Drosselmeyer

Viacheslav Kravchenko

Mr. & Mrs. Stahlbaum

Sharniyaz Shakirov | Anna Trofimova

Brother Fritz

Kurino Ryuichi

Nutcracker Doll

Hiroaki Nisimura / Yuya Motoyoshi

Kissy Doll

Ruby Florence Lily

Moor Dolls

Rafael Urazov | Aiya Melis

Rat King

Takahiro Furumichi





Act 2



The Herald

Grzegorz Jastrzebsk

Dove of Peace

Rafael Urazov | Aiya Melis

Chinese Variation

Ryuichi Kurino | Kayoko

Maeba / Yumi Yasuhara

Arabian Variation

Rafael Urazov | Aiya Melis

French Variation

Rustem Imangaliev / Satofumi Yamamoto

Spanish Variation

Yuya Motoyoshi |

Kazane Furumichi / Aoi Sato

Folkloric Variation

Yevgeniy Zhukov | Tailys Poncione /

Ludmila Hlozkova



Corps de Ballet

Aleksandra Buffelli, Sarah Cascone, Donovin Michael Cicatello, Antonio Fiorillo, Ginevra Gillio, Elier Ian Gonzales Bernal, Anastasiia Haietska, Pasqualina Iuliano, Mia Jones, Vanja Kiucinovic, Denise Martignon, Fabbio Matrice, Giuseppe Montagno, Francesco Minichino, Mariia Molotsiian, Iryna Protsenko, Paolo Radogna, Sacha Renou, Giorgio Salin, Francesco Salpietro, Hannah Shutt, Sofia Sulpizi, Luigi Tamburini, Morgane Tallot, Athina Trastrsani, Alessandro Vastarelli, Aimee Katie Williams

Nutcracker Youth Cast

Snowflakes

Mae Baker, Palmer Brewer, Adare Bryant, Lucy Cromwell, Claire Elise Goudy, Ann-Louise Graham, Ruth Hayward, Barry Linton, Ensley Maxcy, Betsy Mills, Caroline Pearson, Margaret Mary Rohrbacher, Mary Nell Sandifer, Fei Yan Sutherland

French & Sleigh

Mae Louise Morris, Everly Kate Shaffer

Party Kids

Kynslee Garner, Anna Catherine Gasca, Flannery Hamilton, Brinnley Hilton, Marley Humphries, Lenna Jones, Kolby Ley Kelly, Murphey McKenzie, Margaret Palmer, Kate Rigby, Lucy Roberson, Daley Smith, Collins Lomax, *cover*

Mice

Mary Elliott Busching, *Act 1 only*, Bremen Earnest, Genevieve Gordon, Andi Hale, Mattie Kelley, Frances King, *Act 1 only*, Mary Elizabeth Miers, Harper Poole, Mallory Pruitt, Madeline Wiygul, Nora McKenzie, *cover*

Spanish Younger

Eley Barkley, Virginia Beach, Collins Lomax, Sophia Thomas, Frances King, *cover*

Chinese Younger

Moseley Baker, Gigi Graham, Mary Elliott Busching, *cover*

Slavic Younger

Sadie Blankenship, Mary Walker King, Lillian Kizer, Nora McKenzie, Andi Hale, *cover*

Maidens

Sadie Alexander, Elizabeth Eastland, Mary Mac Ferris, Mary Elena Hale, Collins Helveston, Mary Rhodes Manley, Sarah Gwen Rigby, Emma Sarver, Cora Underwood, Ava Waide, Mary Liddy Wyatt

Chinese Older

Mamie Whelan, Laurin Willis, Elizabeth Eastland, *cover*

Slavic Older

Sadie Alexander, Mary Elena Hale, Mary Rhodes Manley,
Mary Liddy Wyatt, Sarah Gwen Rigby, *cover*

Lydia Siniard Foster, *Youth Cast Rehearsal Director*

Carrie White, *Youth Cast Assistant Rehearsal Director*

Synopsis

Act 1

It is Christmas Eve. Uncle Drosselmeyer has given Clara a new doll – a mysterious Nutcracker that stands at attention as if under a spell. Clara loves the Nutcracker, but her little brother Fritz is jealous and breaks it. Heartbroken, Clara places the wounded Nutcracker under the Christmas tree and falls asleep.

In her dreams, she and the Nutcracker win a fierce battle against an evil Rat King and his minions. The spell is broken, and the Nutcracker turns into a Prince. Together, they travel through a Winter dreamscape and dance among the Snowflakes.

Act 2

The magic continues as they fly on the wings of the Doves of Peace to the Prince's home - the Land of Peace and Harmony. As they descend on the wings of the Doves into the Land of Peace and Harmony, the Herald, who reigns as the spirit of the forest, welcomes the Prince home. The Herald is accompanied by members of his court who present Clara and the Prince with ribboned medals for their bravery.

The celebration continues as the Prince's friends perform dances from around the world; the firebird in the Chinese Variation signifies new beginnings; the elephant in the Arabian Variation represents Wisdom; the Unicorn in the French Variation our Imagination; the bull in the Spanish Variation brings Daring and the Bear in the folkloric Slavic variation represents strength. The festivities conclude with Clara and the Prince leading their friends in the Waltz of the Flowers.

The performance is 2 hours with a 20-minute intermission.

nutcracker.com

—Thank You!—

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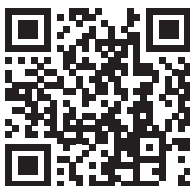
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About Gertrude Castellow Ford



With an ever-inquisitive mind, Gertrude Castellow Ford fully embraced the arts. As a patron, an observer and a practitioner, Mrs. Ford engaged in a lifelong exploration of all things of beauty and inspiration. Exceedingly well-read in poetry and classic literature, Mrs. Ford was often at the center of spirited discussions about the merits of all manner of literary works. Always at the very foundation of her spirit was a great and sincere love of the arts and letters.

In keeping with a generations-old family tradition of philanthropy, Mrs. Ford established the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation in Jackson, Mississippi, with a very generous gift in 1991 to support the arts in Mississippi. In addition to the donation for the construction of the Ford Center, the Foundation supports the USA International Ballet Competition, the Mississippi Opera, Mississippi Museum of Art, University of Southern Mississippi Orchestra and many others.

Mrs. Ford died in September of 1996. She and her husband, Aaron Lane Ford, who was an Ackerman attorney and U.S. congressman representing what was Mississippi's 4th District, are buried in Cuthbert, a small town in southwest Georgia.

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