

November 14, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

***The Nutcracker: A Canadian Tradition* premieres in Saskatchewan**

**Canada's Ballet Jörgen presents its Canadian version of the Nutcracker, set to backdrops by the Group of Seven, in Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current and Weyburn.**

**Toronto - Saskatoon:** Canada's Ballet Jörgen will bring its critically praised production *The Nutcracker: A Canadian Tradition* to Saskatchewan November 14 through November 21. This will be the first time CBJ's Canadian version of *The Nutcracker* will be seen in Western Canada.

Choreographed by Artistic Director Bengt Jörgen, *The Nutcracker: A Canadian Tradition* was created in partnership with the McMichael Canadian Art Collection featuring dramatic 30-foot backdrops based on landscapes by famous 20th-century Canadian artists including Tom Thompson and Franklin Carmichael.

***"...lyrical, attractive and accessible... a crowd pleaser...a what's not-to-like ballet performed by a company that brings high professional standards to its craft."* – The Globe & Mail**



(Photo: Lawrence Ho)

The ballet includes snowflakes, lumberjacks, loons, and Mounties. Local dance students dance roles such as squirrels, frogs, chipmunks and dragonflies through CBJ's Local Participant Program. Canada's Ballet Jörgen offers extensive education and community programming as part of its tours. Local dance students from across Saskatchewan have rehearsed for the past two months in preparation for the performances with the professional dancers of Canada's Ballet Jörgen.

In addition to Local Participants, there is a cast of young dancers touring with the company and playing the major children's roles such as the Nutcracker Prince and Klara. The Nutcracker Prince will be danced by Brett Stadnyk, a Saskatoon native currently enrolled in the Company's George Brown Dance program in Toronto. He will be joined on stage by another Saskatoon native and George Brown Dance Graduate, Sierra Goldak, now dancing with Canada's Ballet Jörgen.



(Photo: Cynthia Smith)

Canada's Ballet Jörgen is committed to making the arts accessible to all Canadians and to telling Canadian stories. The company has been programming dance across Saskatchewan since 1996. In the past four years it has partnered with Dance Saskatchewan to significantly increase performance, education and community activities as well as expand annual programming into Regina and Saskatoon.

*“We are delighted to bring ‘The Nutcracker, a Canadian Tradition’ to Saskatchewan for the first time. Making this iconic work available is an important part of our commitment to provide unique artistic experiences for our growing audiences in the province.” – Artistic Director & CEO Bengt Jörgen.*

The *Nutcracker* Saskatchewan tour is made possible with support from the touring program of The Canada Council for the Arts and BMO Financial Group. The *Saskatchewan Nutcracker Youth Education* program is funded by Scotiabank and supported by Dance Saskatchewan, Marley’s Dance Effex, SaskExpress, The Dance Studio, The Dance Zone and local volunteers. Additional support has come from the Aeroplan Beyond Miles program.

- Weyburn – November 14 - Tickets[insert link]
- Regina – November 16 - Tickets[insert link]
- Saskatoon – November 18 - Tickets[insert link]
- Swift Current – November 21 - Tickets[insert link]

### [Watch Trailer](#)

Read the [new interview](#) with artistic director Bengt Jörgen about the signature seasonal production featuring local youth dancers.

-30-

Ongoing critical support is provided by The Ontario Arts Council, The Canada Council for the Arts and Toronto Arts Council.

### **About Canada’s Ballet Jörgen**

Canada’s Ballet Jörgen is one of Canada’s largest dance companies and the country’s leading touring company. Currently celebrating its 31st season, Canada’s Ballet Jörgen enriches our lives by bringing professional ballet to communities - large and small, urban and rural — across Canada. Known for the warmth and beauty of its productions, CBJ reaches every province, delivering more than 1,500 performances, ballet classes and community engagement events involving over 60,000 participants annually. To date, CBJ has reached 253 different communities in Canada and 60 in the US.

The company specializes in reaching underserved communities, and effectively reaches households with income of under \$35,000. Canada’s Ballet Jörgen is the 2011 winner of The National Arts Centre Award for Distinguished Contribution to Touring — the first Ontario Performing Arts Organization to win this award. [canadasballetjorgen.ca](http://canadasballetjorgen.ca)

For more information, photos, and/or to request an interview, contact:

**Stephen Word**, [stephen@balletjorgen.ca](mailto:stephen@balletjorgen.ca) 416-961-4725