

THE NUTCRACKER FESTIVAL 2011 HAMILTON

PRESENTED BY THE CANADIAN BALLET YOUTH ENSEMBLE

The Nutcracker Festival 2011 of Hamilton welcomes in an exclusive engagement: Viengsay Valdes, Alejandro Virelles, Dani Hernández and Osiel Gounod, stars of Ballet Nacional de Cuba; all named among the best 100 dancers of the 2010-2011 season by the prestigious Dance Europe magazine. They will appear with 53 other members of the Ballet Nacional de Cuba, local children and special guests, Veronica Tennant and Toller Cranston in The Nutcracker Festival 2011, running December 6th, 8th, 9th and 10th at Hamilton Place.

This year's **Nutcracker Ballet** is inspired by the classic fairytale enchantingly revitalized in a storybook by Veronica Tennant and Toller Cranston. A young girl's holiday dream magically comes to life with a shimmering Snow Queen danced by Viengsay Valdes, Dani Hernández as the majestic Snow King, Alejandro Virelles as Clara's adored Nutcracker Prince and Osiel Gounod as the sassy Mouse King. Graced with a highly-prized appearance by Veronica Tennant, this year's The Nutcracker Ballet is a dazzling spectacle of stunning costumes, impressive special effects and fantastical scenery all serving to showcase the internationally acclaimed talents of the Nacional Ballet de Cuba with rising young Hamilton stars from the Canadian Ballet Youth Ensemble. "The story of The Nutcracker lives with the freshness of tradition because there will always be a desire and a need for fantasy" ~ Veronica Tennant

The Mixcracker, December 6 2011 at Hamilton Place will further highlight the talents of Viengsay Valdes, Alejandro Virelles, Dani Hernández and Osiel Gounod in an evening of six performances by the Ballet Nacional de Cuba. Six performances intertwine contemporary dance with traditional ballet, underlining the often joyful and humorous, sometimes exotic and complex but, always unique, dance dialect of Cuba.

The Artcracker, November 11 ~ December 11 2011 Sheraton Hamilton Hotel, is an exhibition of the vibrant and transcendent artwork of Hamilton-born Toller Cranston. Now a resident of San Miguel de Allende, he has graciously agreed to return to his hometown to celebrate this phenomenal presentation of The Nutcracker Ballet. A true, modern-day Renaissance man, Toller Cranston's art work has been enthusiastically received at more than 250 one-man shows across the world.

The Nutcracker Festival 2011 sparkles with distinction:

- * Celebrate opening night at a reception with guests **Veronica Tennant and Toller Cranston**
- * Engage in "Ballet Talk" with Gary Smith, Theatre and Dance Critic, The Hamilton Spectator
- * Indulge in The Chocolate Dream, a blissful brunch and silky dessert paradise
- * Shop in an exclusive and unique marketplace, The Sugar Plum Fair

The Nutcracker Festival 2011 will mesmerize and inspire people of all ages and from all walks of life to make it their own magical holiday tradition.

Contact Suzanne Kelly at [289 456 6029](tel:2894566029) to: arrange interviews and photo opportunities with the Ballet Nacional de Cuba and the Canadian Ballet Youth Ensemble; for media kits and additional information about the The Nutcracker Festival 2011. For tickets, Hamilton Nutcracker Box office: [905-577-7788](tel:9055777788) or [905-577-9977](tel:9055779977) or Ticketmaster [1 855 872 5000](tel:18558725000) or buy online at www.hamiltonnutcracker.com
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