





It is Christmas Eve in a small, snow-covered German village where the Stahlbaum family is having a grand holiday party.



Herr Drosselmeyer, an eccentric old toymaker and Stahlbaum family friend, is in his workshop making last minute touch-ups on his gift to young Clara Stahlbaum – a beautiful, handcrafted Nutcracker. Hans, Drosselmeyer’s young apprentice, watches and assists his mentor.



Meanwhile, back at the Stahlbaum home, Clara and her brother Fritz are very excited about the festivities. Clara receives a new dress for the party from her mother, as it also serves as her coming of age. Fritz is very jealous of all the attention his sister receives.



Fritz and Clara have a wonderful time dancing and playing with friends.



PHOTO BY: MICHAEL ALAN WELLS



Featuring: Company Artists and Dance Center Students



PHOTO BY: AARON GILILLAND

Featuring: Company Artists and Dance Center Students



Featuring: Zane Terry and Laura Pratt

PHOTO BY: MICHAEL ALAN WELLS



Herr Drosselmeyer and Hans arrive at the party.

PHOTO BY: AARON GILILLAND

Featuring: Joe Seaton, Daniel Hardman, and Walker Martin,
Company Artists, and Dance Center Students



They bring wonderful gifts for everyone,

Featuring: Amanda Herd-Popejoy, Daniel Hardman, Walker Martin,
Company Artists, and Dance Center Students

PHOTO BY: AARON GILILLAND



including magical life-size toy dolls that dance and amaze all of the guests.



Drosselmeyer saves the best surprise for last –
the wonderful Nutcracker that he presents to Clara.



Clara is enthralled by her gift and dances with the wooden toy.

PHOTO BY: MICHAEL ALAN WELLS

Featuring: Amanda Herd-Popejoy,
Company Artists, and Dance Center Students



In a jealous rage, Fritz breaks the Nutcracker, but
Drosselmeyer magically fixes him.
Clara takes a special liking to young Hans.



Later that night, after all the guests have gone home and the Stahlbaum family has gone to bed, Clara sneaks back downstairs to check on her Nutcracker and finds him resting on the settee.



In the dark there are noises everywhere!
Suddenly, giant mice fill the room, and Clara is chased about.



PHOTO BY: KATE LUBER

Featuring: Amanda Herd-Popejoy



The living room is magically transformed into a battleground between giant mice and toy soldiers.



Clara finds that her toy Nutcracker has come to life and is fighting to save her from the evil Mouse King.



Clara hits the Mouse King on the head with a shoe.



This distracts the *Mouse King*, and the *Nutcracker* heralds the final blow.



Clara is distraught as it seems the Nutcracker has been mortally wounded in battle, but before her eyes he magically transforms into a handsome Prince. It is Hans, the young boy whom she met at the party!



Clara and Hans travel through a winter wonderland,
where they are greeted by dancing snowflakes.



Featuring: Company Artists

PHOTO BY: AARON GILILLAND



PHOTO BY: KATE LUBER

Featuring: Mayu Odaka, Sarah Jane Crespo, and Claire Glavin



They then continue on a magical journey beyond her wildest dreams.



They arrive next in the Kingdom of Sweets,
where angels have blessed the path before them.



The Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier greet the couple and introduce them to delectable treats and toys from many countries.



Clara and Hans tell the story of their battle with the Mouse King.
As a reward for her bravery, the Sugar Plum Fairy gives Clara her magic wand.

PHOTO BY: AARON GILILLAND

Featuring: Walker Martin, Amanda Herd-Popejoy,
DaYoung Jung, and Company Artists



In celebration, everyone dances as entertainment for Clara and Hans.
Flavors from around the world including Spanish Chocolate...



...Arabian Coffee...

PHOTO BY: AARON GILILLAND

Featuring: Sarah Jane Crespo and Joe Seaton



...Chinese Tea...

Featuring: Walker Martin and Rayleigh Vendt

PHOTO BY: ERIC PEYTON



...Russian Babka...

PHOTO BY: ERIC PEYTON

Featuring: Seth Bradley, Richard Walters, Jerry Pines,
Walker Martin, and Amanda Herd-Popejoy



...French Marzipan...

Featuring: Hayley Tavonatti, Autumn Sicking Klein, and Mayu Odaka

PHOTO BY: JANA CARSON



...Mother Ginger, her little bakers, and dancing Gingerbread Cookies!



Clara and Hans dance with the beautiful flowers during the Waltz of the Flowers.



PHOTO BY: KATE LUBER

Featuring: Walker Martin and Amanda Herd-Popejoy
with Company Artists



The exquisite Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier dance last and capture Clara's heart with their dazzling performance.



They all dance one last grand finale until at last it is time for Clara to return home.



Clara awakens and finds herself back in her own home.
Before she goes to bed, she runs to get her beloved Nutcracker.
As she does, she finds on the floor the glittering magic wand that was given
to her by the Sugar Plum Fairy and she wonders, “Was it all a dream?”