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**TICKETS NOW ON SALE**

*Tickets now on sale for Houston Ballet's The Nutcracker*

**HOUSTON, TEXAS [May 31, 2016]** Be one of the first to purchase the perfect present for the holidays! Tickets for the world premiere of Houston Ballet's *The Nutcracker* go on sale Wednesday, June 1, 2016. The highly-anticipated, opulent production by Artistic Director Stanton Welch features a slew of new characters, larger-than-life scenery, and sparkling choreography. Experience the magic and drama of this beloved holiday classic with tickets starting at just \$23! *The Nutcracker* runs November 25 through December 27 at Wortham Theater Center. To purchase tickets call 713-227-2787 or visiting [houstonballet.org](http://houstonballet.org).

"Our new production of *The Nutcracker* is bigger, brighter, and more spectacular than ever," said Christian Brown, Houston Ballet's Director of Marketing and PR. "We had record setting sales last year and that will continue with the new production. I highly recommend that people buy their tickets for *The Nutcracker* as early as possible to get the best seating and pricing available."

*The Nutcracker* tells the story of Clara and her magical nutcracker doll. One Christmas Eve, the mysterious Dr. Drosselmeyer arrives at the family's Christmas party and presents Clara with a special gift: a wooden nutcracker. That night Clara awakens to find the room filled with giant mice. The nutcracker comes to her rescue and a fierce battle ensues as the nutcracker leads the toy soldiers against the mice and their leader, King Rat. The nutcracker overcomes King Rat, and then is transformed into a handsome prince who takes Clara on a magical journey.

Houston Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* generously sponsored by United Airlines, Houston Methodist, ConocoPhillips, Bank of America, Shell Oil Company, Apache Corporation, Baker Botts L.L.P., and Macy's.

**About Houston Ballet**

Houston Ballet is America's fifth largest ballet company, an ensemble of 57 dancers with an annual budget of \$28.5 million and an endowment of just over \$69 million (as of September 2015).

Stanton Welch serves as artistic director of Houston Ballet. He has raised the level of the company's classical technique and commissioned many new works from prominent dance makers. James Nelson serves as the administrative leader of the company, assuming the position of executive director of Houston Ballet in February 2012 after serving as the company's general manager for over a decade.

Houston Ballet has toured extensively both nationally and internationally. The company has appeared in London at Sadler's Wells, at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, Ottawa, in six cities in Spain, in Montréal, at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., in New York at City Center and The Joyce Theater, and in Paris at Théâtre des Champs Elysées.

For more information, visit [www.houstonballet.org](http://www.houstonballet.org).

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