

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***The Nutcracker adds sparkle to Milwaukee's holiday season***

*- Milwaukee's magical holiday tradition returns with new presenting sponsor We Energies -*

**MILWAUKEE – Nov 16, 2018** - Milwaukee Ballet rings in the holiday season with the world's best loved ballet, *The Nutcracker*. Widely anticipated year-after-year as the premiere, family-friendly production in Milwaukee, the festive classic runs Dec. 8 through Dec. 26 at the Marcus Center for Performing Arts.

"Hundreds of families come each year to make new memories with this time-honored tradition," said Milwaukee Ballet Artistic Director Michael Pink. "*The Nutcracker* invites everyone to let go of the stress of their everyday lives and escape into this heartfelt story that celebrates everything we love about this time of year. For many, this tradition is the holiday magic they can count on."

*The Nutcracker* is the city's largest annual spectacle, featuring a cast of more than 200 dancers, including students from Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy, exquisite set pieces, period costumes, and special effects. Each performance includes music from Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra, who will play Tchaikovsky's famous score in its entirety, accompanied by Milwaukee Children's Choir under the baton of Milwaukee Ballet Associate Conductor Pasquale Laurino.

Pink's interpretation is highly regarded for its lavish production design, its celebration of childlike wonder and its intricate storytelling. Pink choreographed the holiday classic with plenty of action to keep the audience enchanted whether they are seeing it for the first time or the fiftieth time.

Additionally, Pink created four separate casts that alternate by performance, ensuring the audience sees a different show every time they come to the theater.

As the holidays are a time to come together, Milwaukee Ballet invited groups from local arts organizations to perform before the show, including Milwaukee Children's Choir, as well as visits from Milwaukee Art Museum's Kohl's Color Wheel and of course, Santa Claus.

*The Nutcracker* is proudly presented by We Energies Foundation, who is sponsoring the holiday classic for the first time.

**Ticket Information**

Michael Pink's *The Nutcracker* runs Dec. 8-26, 2018 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N Water Street in Milwaukee, Wis.

Tickets from \$40-\$115 and are available online at [milwaukeeballet.org](http://milwaukeeballet.org) or through Milwaukee Ballet's box office at 414-902-2103.

The schedule is as follows:

- Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018 – 2:00pm
- Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018 – 7:00pm
- Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018 – 12:00pm
- Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018 – 2:00pm
- Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018 – 7:00pm
- Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018 – 12:00pm
- Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018 – 5:00pm
- **Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018 – 6:00pm – Sensory-friendly performance**
- Thursday, Dec. 20, 2018 – 7:00pm
- Friday, Dec. 21, 2018 – 7:00pm
- Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018 – 2:00pm
- Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018 – 7:00pm
- Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018 – 12:00pm
- Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018 – 5:00pm
- Monday, Dec. 24, 2018 – 12:00pm
- Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2018 – 2:00pm
- Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2018 – 7:00pm

### **Sensory-Friendly Performance**

Milwaukee Ballet will perform its third annual sensory-friendly version of *The Nutcracker* for the those diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder or other sensitivity issues. In partnership with **Autism Speaks** and with support from **Marcus Center for the Performing Arts**, this adapted version of *The Nutcracker* will be presented on Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 6pm.

Tickets are available through the Marcus Center at 414-273-7121 ext. 213. Tickets can also be purchased online at [marcuscenter.org/mcaccess](http://marcuscenter.org/mcaccess) using the group code AUTISMSPEAKS.

Patrons with questions about the sensory-friendly elements of the production can call Milwaukee Ballet's Community Engagement Department at 414-902-2120.

### **The 2018-19 Season**

Milwaukee Ballet's 2018-19 season, which also includes *Genesis 2019* (Feb. 14-17, 2019), *Lambarena* (April 4-7, 2019) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (May 30-June 2019). The 2018-19 season is presented by Donna and Donald Baumgartner with support from United Performing Arts Fund. Details at [milwaukeeballet.org](http://milwaukeeballet.org).

## **About Milwaukee Ballet**

Milwaukee Ballet was founded in 1970. Led by Artistic Director Michael Pink, Milwaukee Ballet's mission is to create a rich and diverse community through its inspiring dance performance, education and engagement. Milwaukee Ballet hosts an international company of dancers and is one of the few companies in the nation to maintain its own orchestra. Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy is the only professional dance school in the Midwest accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance. Milwaukee Ballet's award-winning Community Engagement department serves nearly 40,000 people in Southeastern Wisconsin each year through original, interactive programs. Milwaukee Ballet celebrates its 50th Anniversary next year in the 2019-20 season.

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**Note to Editors:** Interviews with Milwaukee Ballet Artistic Director Michael Pink/key artists, biographies, and high-resolution images are available upon request.