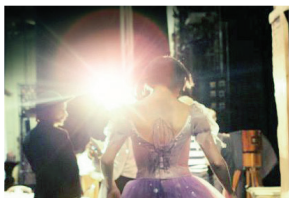


The Gift of the Nutcracker



BV

PAUL DESTROOPER - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - BALLETT VICTORIA



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Ballet Victoria 2022-2023

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Peter Starr – Peter-Nicholas Taylor – Mark Alexander – Davide Lampis

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Contact Information

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<i>Phone</i>	250-380-6063
<i>Mailing Address</i>	PO Box 8877 Victoria Main Victoria, BC V8W 3Z1



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From the Artistic Director

Dear Patron,

Welcome to our performance of The Gift of the Nutcracker set to Tchaikovsky's timeless score, beautifully played by The Victoria Symphony and Maestro Pietraroia. We are all thrilled to be able to perform the full production again with all the children and the orchestra. It has been three years, and this Nutcracker boasts new costumes, choreography, and more surprises! The young students of the Ballet Victoria Conservatory always do a wonderful job alongside the company dancers. As well, on tour, students from the communities we visit get to dance their hearts out and add a special holiday spirit to this magical production.

I invite you to check our website, sign up for our new BVideo program, and enjoy our performances on video at your leisure. Simply visit www.balletvictoria.ca and do follow us on social media and share your passion for dance with us.

On behalf of all of us at Ballet Victoria, we wish you a happy holiday season and all the very best in the new year. Thank you for your patronage and support and do feel free to connect with me directly.

Sincerely,

Paul Destrooper
Artistic/Executive Director



Performance Information

The Gift (Nutcracker)

Music - Pyotr Ilyich tchaikovsky

Performed by the Victoria Symphony

Choreography - Paul Destrooper

Projection Design - Jason king

Costume Design - Jane Wood

Lighting Design - Paul Destrooper

Act 1

Clara - Risa Kobayashi

Clara's Sister - Jane Jordan

Mother - Dana Brandt / Julia Jones-Whitehead

Father - Peter-Nicholas Taylor

Grandfather - Peter Starr

Grandmother - Julia Jones-Whitehead / Dana Brandt

Uncle Dross - Paul Destrooper

Maid - Kaylie Conner / Pauline Koeplin*

Parents - Sebastian Fairley, Mone Shinoda, Davide Lampis, Mark Alexander,
Elena Fuerbringer*, Kennadie Friedlander*, Perla Gomez*, Angel Romero*

Harlequin Doll - Yui Watanabe

Columbine Doll - Isabelle Jutras

Party Children - Elianna Labadie, Claire Tobin, Victoria Nagy, Kiera Sobie,
Shylo McLellan, Emma Van Egdome, Taiya Van Egdome

Snow Queen - Julia Jones-Whitehead / Yui Watanabe

Snow Prince - Peter-Nicholas Taylor / Sebastian Fairley,

Snow Flakes - Mone Shinoda, Isabelle Jutras, Dana Brandt, Kaylie Conner, Elena
Fuerbringer*, Kennadie Friedlander*, Pauline Koeplin*, Yuina Uchida*

Performance Information

Toys - Mone Shinoda, Isabelle Jutras, Dana Brandt, Kaylie Conner, Kennadie Friedlander*

Rat King - Angel Romero*

Rats - Elena Fuerbringer*, Pauline Koeplin*

Act 2

Clara / Sugar Plum - Risa Kobayashi

Nutcracker Prince - Peter Starr

Spanish - Mark Alexander, Mone Shinoda, Elena Fuerbringer*, Kennadie Friedlander*, Dana Brandt

Arabian - Isabelle Jutras / Kaylie Conner / Julia Jones-Whitehead & Peter-Nicholas Taylor

Russian - Peter Starr, Kaylie Conner, Pauline Koeplin*

Russian Corps - Abby Hall, Maggie Dennill, Annika den Admirant, Taiya Van Egdom, Emma Van Egdom, Nikita King, Elianna Labadie, Claire Tobin, Sawyer Gordon

White Dragon - Peter-Nicholas Taylor & Sebastian Fairley

Baby Dragon - Kayla Hall

Nutcracker Doll - Mone Shinoda

Mice - Rose Martin, Ragan Allaby-Graham, Sophia Tosso, Brooklyn Ekelund, Talia Douven, Kailey Cheng, Chloe Daly

Pierette - Dana Brandt / Isabelle Jutras

Piero - Davide Lampis

Dewdrop - Yui Watanabe / Isabelle Jutras

Dewdrop Cavalier - Sebastian Fairley / Peter-Nicholas Taylor

Roses - Mone Shinoda, Dana Brandt, Kaylie Conner

Elena Fuerbringer*, Kennadie Friedlander*, Pauline Koeplin*

*Ballet Victoria Conservatory Aspirant Program Students

Ballet Victoria would like to thank Creative Outlet
and Debra Cross for their wonderful work and support.

Performance Information

Act 1

Synopsis:

As per their annual tradition, Clara's family is welcoming guests to their unique Christmas Eve party. Family and friends are in attendance to enjoy the festivities, with dancing and decorating the Christmas tree. As usual, Uncle Dross has brought a trunk filled with toys from his exotic travels, and this year, he offers Clara a very special Nutcracker.

As the evening draws to an end and everyone has retired for the night, Clara remains in the living room to play with her Nutcracker and she introduces him to her dolls. When the clock strikes midnight, the Rat King enters and creates complete chaos, terrifying Clara and her dolls. Just in time, her uncle arrives and summons the Nutcracker for help. Clara bravely faces her fear and eventually stops the fight between the Nutcracker and the Rat King before anyone gets hurt. To reward her courage, Uncle Dross invites the Snow Queen and her snowflakes to dance for Clara. The Snow Queen calls upon her white dragon and sends Clara on a journey around the world.

Intermission

Act 2

Clara is both nervous and excited by the unknown but gratefully dances with all the fabulous characters she meets. Eventually, the Dewdrop Fairy appears, bringing Clara a magical tiara that turns her into the Sugarplum Fairy. The Nutcracker Prince and Clara dance the grand pas de deux together for everyone to enjoy.

Clara, asleep on the couch holding her Nutcracker doll, is awoken by her mom who takes her back to bed. Christmas night is quiet again as they all dream about special gifts and the magical times shared with family and friends.

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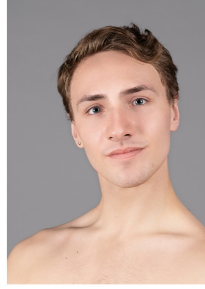
Dancers



Risa Kobayashi



Yui Watanabe



Peter-Nicholas Taylor



Mone Shinoda



Julia Jones-Whitehead



Peter Starr



Dana Brandt



Sebastian Fairley



Isabelle Jutras



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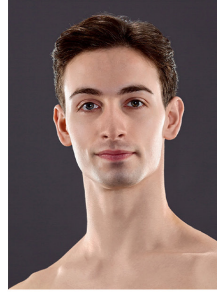
Dancers



Kaylie Conner



Mark Alexander

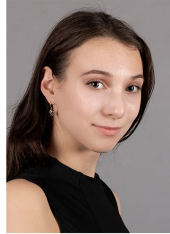


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Artistic Team

Paul Destrooper – *Artistic & Executive Director & Choreographer*

Destrooper gave Victoria a new national cultural voice in dance by presenting and creating ballets with a unique artistic flair. Recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 and the Paul Harris Award from the Oak Bay Rotary Club in October 2014, Paul brings to Ballet Victoria his extensive experience from a successful international dance career working with world renowned directors, dancers and choreographers. Paul holds a BA from the University of Victoria where he twice received the A. Deloume Scholarship Award. He joined the Royal Winnipeg Ballet in 1993 upon graduating from the school's Professional Division receiving the prestigious Prince Edward Award and the Arnold Spohr Scholarship. He was a principal dancer with Alberta Ballet and Oregon Ballet Theatre.

He has choreographed over 30 works and 10 full-length ballets to glowing reviews from critics and audiences both in Canada, the USA and Mexico. Paul has created works, taught and coached for professional companies across Canada and the USA.



Jason King – *Stage Manager/Projection and Sound Designer*

Jason feels privileged to have a career working in the arts and when he's not shooting video and taking photographs for Camosun College or running video screens for the Peninsula Panthers and Victoria Harbourcats he can be found working on various productions throughout Victoria.

Recent and upcoming projects include projection design for "A Christmas Carol" with Wonderheads, "The Little Mermaid" for Oak Bay High, "100 Years of Broadway" for St Michaels University School and "Hebba Gabler" with Blue Bridge Rep.

Jane Wood – *Costume Designer*

A native of Vancouver Island, Jane began designing for ballet 18 years ago and has been working with Ballet Victoria since 2007. Since that time she has designed and built virtually all of their mainstage production costumes as well as the odd prop and set piece. She loves to work with colour and particularly enjoys hand-painting fabrics for costumes. To quote a fellow costume designer (Travis Halsey), Jane "makes pretend clothes for imaginary people."



Artistic Team

Andrea Bayne – *BV Artist in Residence* – *BVC Director*

Andrea was born in Halifax NS, and grew up in Moncton NB. She is a scholarship graduate of the School of Alberta Ballet and also trained at the American Ballet Theatre School in NYC. Andrea danced professionally with Alberta Ballet, the Banff Summer Company, and with Ballet Victoria as a Principal Dancer for 15 years, performing across Canada, the US, Mexico and Japan. She had many lead roles created on her and she has danced works by George Balanchine, Peter Quanz, Donald Mahler and John Meehan, to name a few. She had the great honour to perform for their Royal Highness, the Earl and Countess of Wessex. Highlights of Andrea's career have been everything from performing for children and seniors unable to access live theatre, to dancing alongside Evelyn Hart in one of her farewell performances. Andrea is the Artistic Director of the Ballet Victoria Conservatory, which is a constant source of inspiration to her. As she takes on this new position of Ballet Victoria's Artist in Residence, she is excited to be able to explore different areas of this beautiful art form through choreographing, coaching and guesting.



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This class is ideal for individuals who have studied in their youth and wish to return to ballet class for its emphasis on posture, muscle toning, and the joy of moving to music. The focus of the class is aimed at safely developing artistry and technique through travelling combinations and learning classical versions of traditional character steps.

Thursday – Intermediate – 7:30 to 8:30 pm

This class is designed for individuals who have continued to study dance into adulthood and are seeking a dynamic dance experience. This class covers and develops all traditional areas of center practice including grand allegro.

Friday – Intermediate – 9:30 to 11:00 am

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Having produced close to one hundred new works, Ballet Victoria's artistic team is constantly exploring new grounds, from creating new classical full-length narrative works to short, more abstract pieces. We see dance as a global language that unites all people and all communities. We promote inclusion through our productions by juxtaposing culturally universal themes, various dance styles and music genres into an original choreographic narrative. Don't be surprised to experience Mozart with some rock or even an opera classic with a hip-hop twist! No matter the unexpected combination of music, the harmonious result drives an uncompromising

range of movements and original thematic developments. Our ballets create an unforgettable emotional experience for our audiences, often becoming treasured memories. Of course, Ballet Victoria's talented and culturally diverse artists contribute immensely to the company's success, garnering national and international accolades at home in Canada and on tour in the U.S. and Mexico.

More importantly, Ballet Victoria is very fond of its community, and we have a unique "Tea for Tutu" program that offers free performances to anyone who may not be able to go to the theatre due to physical or financial barriers. Our venue is fully accessible and fully equipped for a complete and intimate experience. These chamber ballet performances include a tea where the audience and artists mingle after the show. This worthwhile program has been top-rated and greatly appreciated, particularly by seniors who could not attend theatre performances anymore.

When the pandemic prompted Ballet Victoria to switch from live



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BALLET BV VICTORIA

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a greater audience, particularly people who may not be able to attend a traditional theatre venue for any reason, such as people living in remote communities or bedridden. As we returned to mainstage theatre performances, Ballet Victoria decided to continue offering digital dissemination and further develop it to make it accessible to as many people as possible.

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