

BC 2035
SPECIAL SERIES:
FUTURE OF
LABOUR...



THE VANCOUVER SUN



ONLINE NOW
A 'TWISTY
TOWER' FOR
VANCOUVER...

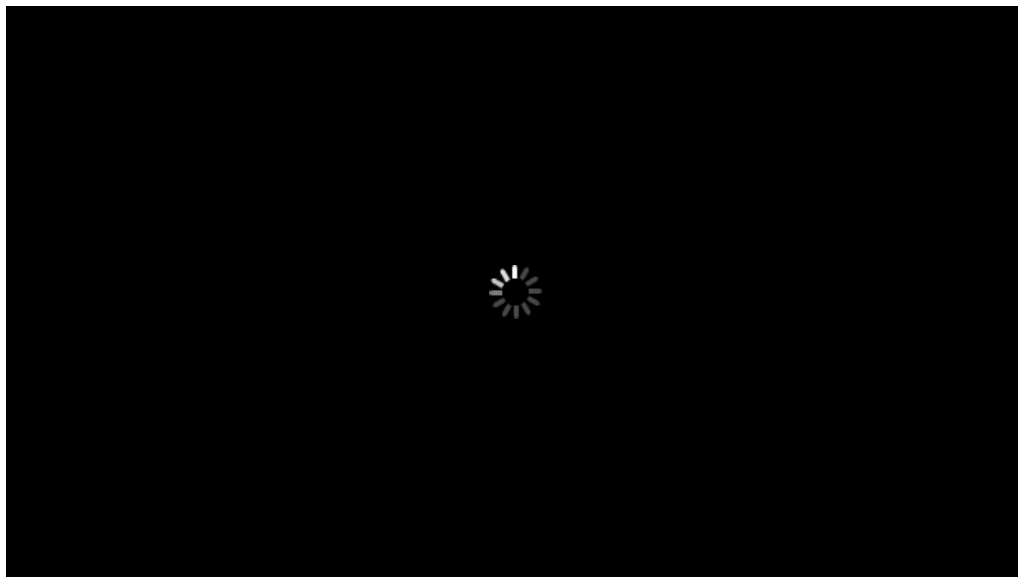
Dance review: High-flying Clara's Dream hits its mark

Shumka and Ukrainian partners create powerful Nutcracker

BY SALENA KITTERINGHAM, EDMONTON JOURNAL JANUARY 12, 2013

Recommend 0 +1 0 Pinit Comment 0 ShareThis

STORY PHOTOS (2) VIDEO (1)



Canada's Ukrainian Shumka Dancers: Virsky - The Ukrainian State Folk Dance Company and The Kyiv Ballet join forces for the world premier of Clara's Dream: A Ukrainian Folk Ballet. In celebration of Ukrainian Christmas, Clara's Dream brings this Canadian-Ukrainian artistic collaboration to the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium which takes place on Friday Jan. 11 and Saturday Jan. 12, 2013.

Clara's Dream: A Ukrainian Folk Ballet based on Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker

Companies: Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, Virsky — The Ukrainian State Folk Company, and Kyiv Ballet

When: Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Jubilee Auditorium

From their first slipping and sliding steps in the playful opening skating



Click here for the top stories being read by people in your neighbourhood and across the country. Learn more

STORY TOOLS

E-mail this Article

WE RECOMMEND

Lindsey Vonn and Tiger Woods an item? Vonn releases statement

Fan denies Justin Bieber grabbed her breast at meet and greet - but photo suggests otherwise

See the 'unflattering' Beyonce Super Bowl photos her publicist didn't want you to see

Kanye West, Kim Kardashian cause 50-minute delay after bypassing airport security in New York

One dead after crash on Cambie Street in Vancouver

FROM AROUND THE WEB

Sandra Bullock's New Orleans Mansion - Celebrity Home Photos (Zimbio)

Canadian Found Dead, Tied to Tree in Mexico (Travel+Escape)

Lindsay Lohan's Ridiculous Facial Transformation (PBH2)

Hugh Jackman reveals gay rumors bug wife Deborra-Lee Furness (Allvoices)

Victoria Beckham Forgets Her Son! (Everyday Family)

What's this?

SAVE ON GREAT DEALS Powered by flyercity.ca



Sears JUST RELEASED

Visions Electronics THIS WEEK ONLY

THE VANCOUVER SUN

See all your local flyers

scene, to the warm and bubbly, jewel-toned party, and the high flying athletics of the Cossack dance, it was clear Canada's Ukrainian Skumka dancers and Virksy – Ukraine's State Folk Dance Company were a great match to dance The Nutcracker.

Virsky is the original Ukrainian folkloric dance company from the homeland, the initial raison d'être for Shumka's formation in Edmonton more than 50 years ago. Friday night was a historic dance moment, the first time the world's foremost Ukrainian dance companies performed together.

United they were. Witnessing the infamous Cossack dance performed by the world's foremost Ukrainian dancers is a powerful and beautiful thing to behold. For a dance history buff, it was enough to bring a tear to my eye and I'm not even Ukrainian! I can only imagine the sense of pride so many in attendance must have felt on opening night.

So remarkably well did the dynamic Ukrainian folkloric dance style pair with Tchaikovsky's iconic ballet score, it was, in fact, the ballet that looked out of place on opening night.

While Kyiv Ballet principal Natalia Lazebnikova delivered a fine Clara, her fellow Kyiv ballet company dancers, Dmytro Kliavin and Oleksandr Shapoval, in the roles of Uncle Drosselmeier and the Prince, were nowhere near as capable of dancing with the same technical prowess as the men of Shumka and Virsky. Although Kliavin and Shapoval were expressive, leg lines were weak and lacked solid turnout, both in the partnering work and allegro solos.

If Kliavin and Shapoval represent the best of Kyiv Ballet dancers, perhaps stronger ballet leads should be found from ranks closer to home, such as Edmonton's newest resident ballet company, Citie Ballet.

The Kyiv Ballet's contribution of Viktor Lytynov as choreographic lead should not, however, be overlooked. Once again, like his Cinderella for Shumka in 2000, Lytynov has propelled the Ukrainian dance art form forward. And the production is suitably sumptuous, designed by Maria Levitska, Ukraine's state artist of the National Opera of Ukraine.

Guest artist Jeff Mortensen, former Shumka dancer and So You Think You Can Dance Canada finalist now based in Los Angeles, performed a rambunctious Fritz. For group numbers, Mortensen fit right back into the Shumka fold, a testament to the sheer number of high-calibre dancers within the company. It might have been any one of those dancers who auditioned successfully for the hit reality dance show.

There's no doubt, on a very basic level, the long-term success of Clara's Dream is contingent on how well it compares in the minds, hearts and memories to other Nutcrackers that audiences have experienced.

For the most part, in my mind, Clara's Dream stacks up very well. It is different enough from Alberta Ballet's production that I believe Alberta dance patrons, if they have the means to attend both, may not feel compelled to pick one over the other but thoroughly enjoy the diversity. With some adjustments to the ballet casting and a live carolling voices performed by the many outstanding, local Ukrainian choirs, you can just imagine the goosebumps.

Print this Article

Font: A A A A

HOT PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS



West Vancouver



A Good Day to Die



Video: Duchess Kate



Video: 'Life Is But a



Five best/worst



Grammy Awards: Red

More photos >>

MOST POPULAR NEWS

MOST READ E-MAILED SHARED

- Canucks' Manny Malhotra's playing days over in Vancouver
- Photos: Oscar Pistorius' brainy blonde girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, was a model, activist and law school graduate
- Meteor explodes over Russia's Ural Mountains; nearly 1,000 injured (with video)
- What can you afford? New housing affordability index shows it varies across Metro Vancouver
- Oscar Pistorius, the heroic 'Blade Runner,' wasn't the whole story
- Real estate marketing firm apologizes after employees posed as apartment shoppers from China

more >>

VS The Vancouver Sun Like 13,170

BREAKING NEWS ALERTS

Sign up to receive e-mail alerts on breaking news from The Vancouver Sun.

SUBMIT

The Ukrainian snowflake dancers did an admirable job and the use of evergreen boughs was growing on me but I have to admit, I was yearning for some snow in the final scene before the curtain on Act 1. It is such a dear and magical moment in my personal Nutcracker mind's eye when the corps snowflake dancers and the Snow Queen make the snow fly as Clara and the Prince are whisked off to a fairy tale land.

Having the Nutcracker represented by a large rag doll rather than a wooden soldier was a little jarring for me as well. He seemed to flop about like a creepy, lifeless corpse when Fritz and Clara played and danced with him. It didn't help that the poor guy's hat kept falling off Friday night.

One of the greatest strengths that makes Clara's Dream stand apart is how her second act unfolds at such a fast pace.

In the typical classical ballet versions, the second act's colourful parade of international dances-for-dance-sake tends to tire out the young ones, and lose the attention of those adults taking in a live dance performance for the first time.

But the Ukrainian dancers tackled the flamenco with a true smouldering fire and the Chinese dance with such sprightly, acrobatic spunk, I'm willing to bet Clara's Dream will prove to be a perfect first Nutcracker for many Edmonton generations, entertaining for all, no matter the heritage.

© Copyright (c) [The Edmonton Journal](#)

Original source article: [Dance review: High-flying Clara's Dream hits its mark](#)

[E-mail this Article](#) [Print this Article](#) [Share this Article](#)

TOP STORIES FROM ET CANADA

1-4 of 48

- In Asia, lighter movies are the draw**
Film fans take to the theaters in Asia during the New Year ...
- TV movie recreates Abraham Lincoln assassination**
Billy Campbell takes on the role of President Abraham Lincoln in ...
- Hard Rock launches 'Gone Too Soon' tour**
Amy Winehouse, Jim Morrison, Kurt Cobain, Janis Joplin and Jimi ...
- Jenner girls release their own clothing line**
Kendall and Kylie Jenner are following in their big sisters ...

Videos That May Interest You



Russian Referee Fights Hockey Player



Duchess Kate Shows Off Her Baby Bump



Vancouver photographer goes viral

by Taboola

From The Web



How to Prevent Depression. Avoid This!
(Health Guru)



Managing Arthritis and Sjögrens Syndrome - Rheumatoid Arthritis Cent...
(Everyday Health)



Quentin Tarantino on why he Cast Brad Pitt
(New York Times)

We encourage all readers to share their views on our articles and blog posts. We are committed to maintaining a lively but civil forum for discussion, so we ask you to avoid personal attacks, and please keep your comments relevant and respectful. If you encounter a comment that is abusive, click the "X" in the upper right corner of the comment box to report spam or abuse. We are using Facebook commenting. [Visit our FAQ page for more information.](#)



Facebook social plugin

ADS BY GOOGLE

Download Google Chrome

The free browser that lets you do more of what you like on the web! www.google.com/chrome

INSIDE THE VANCOUVER SUN



Photos: A 52-storey 'Twisty Tower' proposal for Vancouver



Photos: Oscar Pistorius' brainy blonde girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, was a model, activist and law school graduate



A Ski & Board Guide for making the most of the snow scene



Photos: Thrills and spills at world slalom contest



Photos: Meteor blast tumbles walls, blows out windows in Russia



Subscribe to The Vancouver Sun and stay connected your way

Experience B.C.'s most trusted news source delivered to your door, your computer, your tablet, or your mobile phone.

Learn More

- Home News Opinion Business Sports Entertainment Life Health Technology Travel Jobs Cars Homes Classifieds

DON'T MISS

- Ski Guide
Surrey
Sun Run
BC 2035
Sun TV
Chinese News
Video
Photos
Paper
Apps
Empowered Health
Canada at 150

MOST POPULAR

- Canucks' Manny Malhotra's playing days over in Vancouver
Photos: Oscar Pistorius' brainy blonde girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, was a model, activist and law school graduate
Meteor explodes over Russia's Ural Mountains; nearly 1,000 injured (with video)

FORMATS

- Sitemap / RSS
Contests
Blogs
Columnists
Photo Galleries
Videos
Mobile
iPad App

VANCOUVER SUN

- About Us
Contact Us
Advertise with Us
Subscribe
Rate Our Delivery Service and WIN
Newspaper in Education
E-store

TOOLS

- Search for a Job
Buy/Sell a Car
Real Estate Listings
Place a Classified Ad
E-mail Alerts
Flyercity.ca
TaiYangBao.ca

SEARCH