



Clara's Dream

A Ukrainian Folk Ballet based on Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker"

Featuring Canada's Ukrainian Shumka Dancers
Virsky, Ukraine's State Folk Dance Company
Kyiv Ballet of the National Opera of Ukraine

Jan. 11 & 12, 2013 at
7:30 pm, Edmonton's
Jubilee Auditorium
www.clarasdream.ca

*Best wishes for a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year*

*Найкращі побажання
З нагоди Різдво Христового
Та Нового Року*



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRODUCER

On behalf of the entire *Clara's Dream* family (Shumka, Sulyma Productions Inc., Virsky, Kyiv Ballet, creatives and crew), we give our heartfelt thanks to you – our patrons, supporters, donors, funders, corporate and media sponsors, for your fantastic contributions over the years and for your loyalty and commitment.

Christmas is such a wonderful season to share and celebrate all that is important to us. At this time of year, cultural traditions are especially important to our families and we would like to create a new Edmonton tradition, *Clara's Dream*, A Ukrainian Folk Ballet based on Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*.

Shumka, now in its 54th year in Edmonton and proud to be a resident dance company of the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, felt it was time to join in Edmonton's holiday season by bringing its own version of *The Nutcracker* to the Julian calendar Christmas season. I believe it is only fitting, given Tchaikovsky's Ukrainian heritage, that Shumka come together with two other world renowned dance companies, Virsky Ukraine's State Folk Dance Company, and the Kyiv Ballet of the National Opera of Ukraine, to celebrate 'Ukrainian Christmas' with a timeless classic, Shumka style!

Our relationships in Ukraine have been long and collaborative. Shumka has performed with the Kyiv Ballet in over 100 performances of Sulyma Production's classical version of *THE NUTCRACKER*, a *ballet fantasy* across North America. (Our production continues to be performed by the Kyiv Ballet at the National Opera of Ukraine.) We were also invited to perform highlights of that *Nutcracker* to over 400,000 people in Canada and the USA in the prestigious touring Christmas spectacular,

A Royal Christmas with stars Andrea Bocelli, Christopher Plummer, Dame Julie Andrews and London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

In keeping with the Christmas spirit, we have also believed that it is very important to give back to our community. As such, our Christmas celebration is also a fundraiser for a cause very close to our hearts. Multiple Sclerosis has had a profound impact on our Shumka family over the years. Dancers and family members afflicted by MS have been greatly impacted by this tragic disease. My own wife died from complications brought on by Multiple Sclerosis. She was a dancer with Shumka and I am ever so proud to dedicate this premiere performance of *Clara's Dream* to my dear Lorrie who passed away on January 5th 2006. I dedicate this show to her memory and as a tribute to all those who once moved with the grace of a Shumka dancer, only to have that taken away from them.

Over the years, Shumka has raised close to \$100,000 for MS research. We are proud to once again aid in raising the awareness of MS by collecting donations at the end of each performance of *Clara's Dream*. Our donations help aid in the search for a cure as well as provide valuable support programmes for the families of those afflicted by this tragic disease.

The family of *Clara's Dream* is extremely proud to be the first and only Ukrainian *Nutcracker* in the world. We are prouder yet to be premiering it here at home in Edmonton during the Christmas season.

Best wishes during this Christmas Season and Happy New Year!

Michael H. Sulyma



Canadian Embassy



Ambassade du Canada

September 23, 2010

Mr. Michael H. Sulyma
Producer
Sulyma Productions Inc.
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Mr. Sulyma,

Thank you for your letter of September 10th, 2010 informing me of your plans to produce a Ukrainian folk version of "The Nutcracker" which would eventually tour both Canada and Ukraine.

It is a pleasure for me to support this joint Canada-Ukraine project. Cultural projects are an especially effective way to promote an appreciation of Canada abroad. Shumka - as Canada's premier Ukrainian dance ensemble - is a wonderful ambassador for Canada throughout the world. The Shumka production of "Cinderella" which toured Ukraine in July 2007 - and which was given exceptional permission to perform at the National Opera of Ukraine - was a major achievement, a true milestone in Canada-Ukraine cultural relations.

The proposed project with the Ukrainian National Folk Dance Ensemble - Virsky will help raise Canada's profile in Ukraine and contribute to the further development of Canadian-Ukrainian bilateral relations.

I wish you every success with this project.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Daniel Caron".

G. Daniel Caron
Ambassador of Canada



Посол України в Канаді
Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada
Ambassadeur d'Ukraine au Canada

November 8, 2010

Mr. Michael H. Sulyma
Producer
Sulyma Productions Inc.
Edmonton, AB

Dear Mr. Sulyma,

It's my pleasure to give a support to Canada-Ukraine dance project *A Ukrainian Christmas Dance Fantasy* featuring the best dancers from the Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company, Shumka Dance Ensemble from Edmonton and Kyiv Ballet.

As the Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada I believe that this project will contribute to Ukraine-Canada special relations and will become a real celebration of 120th anniversary of the Ukrainian settlement in Canada.

The Shumka's "Cinderella" Ukrainian Tour in July 2007 and the Virsky's Canadian Tour that traveled through 25 Canadian cities in the fall of 2010 have established and solidified their reputations as Cultural Ambassadors. I am deeply convinced that *A Ukrainian Christmas Dance Fantasy* will become a unique opportunity to display the rich modern Ukrainian dance culture and hope that this performance will become a truly remarkable event to all dance lovers in both countries.

I would like to thank all the performers, volunteers and all those involved in the organizing of this much anticipated project for the hard work and preparation.

I wish you every success with *A Ukrainian Christmas Dance Fantasy* project!

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Ihor Ostash

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "I. Ostash".

Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada

Embassy of Ukraine in Canada
310 Somerset Street West, Ottawa, ON K2P 0J9
Tel.: (1-613) 230-2961. Fax: (1-613) 230-2400



МІНІСТЕРСТВО КУЛЬТУРИ І ТУРИЗМУ УКРАЇНИ

01601, м. Київ, вул. Франка, 19
телефон 235-23-78, факс 235-32-57
E-mail: info@mincult.gov.ua

22.12.10 № 582/7-1/24-10
На № _____

Організаторам, учасникам та
гостям прем'єри канадсько-
української постановки балету
«Українська Різдвяна танцювальна
фантазія»

Дорогі друзі!

Щиро вітаю організаторів, гостей та учасників з непересічною мистецькою подією - прем'єрою спільної канадсько-українською постановкою балету «Українська Різдвяна танцювальна фантазія»!

Ця постановка - чудовий подарунок для шанувальників українських різдвяних традицій в Канаді.

Упевнений, що прем'єра стане непересічною подією у мистецькому житті вашої країни під час Різдвяних Свят, засвітить зіркові імена, які відроджують традиції Українського Різдва.

Вітаю всіх, хто долучився до свята, хто дає нам можливість зануритися у чарівну атмосферу танцю, коли душа танцю проникає в кожного з нас.

Нехай невгасима зірка мистецтва завжди освітлює всі ваші творчі справи та події вашого життя.

З повагою

Міністр

Михайло Кульницький

From: Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ukraine

Dear Friends!

I sincerely congratulate the organizers, participants and guests of the extraordinary art event - the premiere of the joint Canada and Ukraine production of the ballet "Ukrainian Christmas Dance Fantasy"! (*Clara's Dream*) This production is a wonderful present for venerators of Ukrainian Christmas traditions in Canada.

I am sure that the premiere will become the extraordinary event in the art life of your country on Christmas Holidays, will light the stars which revive the Ukrainian Christmas traditions.

I congratulate everybody who joins the Holiday, who gives us the possibility to dip into the miracle-like atmosphere of dance, when the soul of dance permeates in each of us. Let the inextinguishable star of art always brighten all your creative affairs and life events.

Sincerely,

Minister Mykhaylo Kulyniak

**МІНІСТЕРСТВО
ЗАКОРДОННИХ СПРАВ
УКРАЇНИ**

Михайлівська площа, 1
м.Київ, 01018, Україна



tel: (38044) 238 17 77 fax: 238 18 88
e-mail: zsu@nfa.gov.ua
www.nfa.gov.ua

**MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF UKRAINE**

1, Mykhaylivska sq.,
Kyiv, 01018, Ukraine

„ 16 „ 11. 2010 р. № 203/14-800-3051

**Міністерство культури і
туризму України**

Копія: Посольство України в
Канаді

*Щодо підтримки канадсько-української
балетної постановки „Українська
Різдвяна танцювальна фантазія”*

Реалізація даного проекту сприятиме подальшому поглибленню українсько-канадських відносин у культурно-гуманітарній сфері та дозволить на високому рівні представити українське танцювальне мистецтво в Канаді.

Враховуючи викладене, а також той факт, що до зазначеної канадсько-української балетної постановки долучені чотири найкращі танцювальні колективи України та Канади, вносимо пропозицію надіслати вітання від імені керівництва Міністерства культури і туризму України на адресу його організаторів.

**Т.в.о. Директора Департаменту
зв'язків з закордонним українством
та культурно-гуманітарного
співробітництва**

(підпис)

М.Б.Юнгер

From: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

To: Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ukraine

Copy to: Embassy of Ukraine in Canada

About the support of Canadian-Ukrainian premiere of ballet “Ukrainian Christmas Dance Fantasy”
(Clara’s Dream)

This project realization contributes to the further deepening of Canada-Ukraine relations in cultural and humanitarian spheres and allows to present Ukrainian Dance art in Canada on a high level.

As aforesaid and considering the fact that the best four dance ensembles of Ukraine and Canada will participate in this production, we are making a proposal to send greetings on behalf of the head of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ukraine to the organizers.

M.B.Yunger

Director

The Department of Connections with the Ukrainian Community Abroad
and Cultural and Humanitarian Collaboration



CANADA'S UKRAINIAN SHUMKA DANCERS

The Ukrainian Shumka Dancers present full-length, dance-theatre touring productions, as well as intimate concert repertoire across Canada and around the world. Shumka is Canada's only professional Ukrainian dance company and is honoured to be a resident company of the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium along with Alberta Ballet and Edmonton Opera.

More than 50 years of performance history has shaped Shumka's signature music and dance style. While maintaining deep respect for its heritage, Shumka continually challenges conventional boundaries in order to define the experience of Ukrainian dance in the context of today's society. Shumka strives to ensure that artists who believe in Canada's rich Ukrainian heritage, have a distinct voice on the national and international performing arts stage. This voice gathers its strength from Shumka's profound passion to create original work that steadfastly reflects the changing world in which we live.

Shumka's creative vision is built on the foundation of diverse Canadian life experiences of Shumka's artists, a rich heritage of Ukrainian folk and urban culture, and pursuing balance between the Ukrainian heritage classics while introducing original dance works and emerging artists.

Within the ecology of world dance, Shumka sees itself as a participant in an international context and, as such, works with Producer, Sulyma Productions Inc. (SPI) and has participated in over 100 performances of SPI's *THE NUTCRACKER*, a ballet fantasy since 1997. In a unique, international pas de deux, artists of Shumka and Ukraine's Kyiv

Ballet of the National Opera of Ukraine were brought together by SPI to bring a sumptuous version of the classical Nutcracker to audiences throughout Eastern Canada and the United States. In 2002 and 2005, Shumka was thrilled to perform excerpts of SPI's classical Nutcracker in the touring extravaganza *A Royal Christmas* starring Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer, and Andrea Bocelli for which Shumka received rave reviews. Shumka is proud to be featured in SPI's newest production of *The Ukrainian Nutcracker*, which premieres as *Clara's Dream* at Edmonton's Jubilee Auditorium in January 2013.



The Shumka Dancers commission and produce original music and choreography based on Ukrainian rural and urban culture, both historical and contemporary. Recently, Shumka completed a 14-city/23-show tour of China and 10-city/13-show tour of Canada with their new production of *Shumka at 50*.



VIRSKY - UKRAINE'S STATE FOLK DANCE COMPANY

The renowned folk dance ensemble named after Pavlo Virsky is famous for its bright colours, unity of content and form, and the vivid embodiment of its stage concept. This magnificent artistic group embraces the beauty of its native Ukraine, the wisdom of its people, as well as the folk tradition of humour and optimism. Each and every performance is a romantic, elevated, passionate and exciting show. The ensemble's diverse concert programs, presenting the exquisite charm of Ukrainian folk dancing and the wealth of its traditions, have been warmly received by audiences all over the world.

The history of the ensemble goes back to 1937 when Pavlo Virsky and Mykola Bolotov, well-known Ukrainian ballet-masters, brought a group of folk dancers together. From 1955 to 1975, Pavlo headed the ensemble, and, under his guidance, the ensemble matured into a professional dance company that thrills audiences and critics in England, throughout Europe, South and Central America, the United States and Canada. In 1962, Pavlo created a children's two-year choreographic studio.

Drawing on folk traditions, Pavlo created *We're from Ukraine*, *The Sailors*, *The Dolls*, *We Remember*, and *The Funny Zaporizhia Cossack Dance Povzunets*, *The Steppe Wagoner's Delight*, *Under the Cherry Tree*, *A Girl from Podillya* and *The Weeping Willow*.

About Pavlo Virsky

Pavlo Virsky's first efforts at founding a folk dance company came in 1937, and were rewarded in 1940, when his group Virsky – The Ukrainian National Dance Company became recognized as Ukraine's Song and Dance Company. Pavlo trained as a ballet

dancer and performed as a soloist with a number of theatres in the former Soviet Union, where he also staged classical ballets such as *Swan Lake*, *Don Quixote* and *Raymonda*. He was fascinated by folk dancing, which he believed to portray a people's culture and soul.

During World War II, his company performed for the soldiers on the front and the group was recognized in Moscow's Decade of Ukrainian Art and Literature in 1951. As a choreographer, Virsky created a number of the dances, including *Povzunetz*, *Khmil*, *Under The Cherry Tree*, *Zaporozhtsy*, *The Needle Women*, *Sailors' Dance* and *Hopak*, and earned a number of awards and honours prior to his death in 1975.

Virsky Today

Myroslav Vantukh, Pavlo's disciple and expert in folk traditions and ethnography, has overseen the ensemble since 1980 as Artistic Director and Managing Director. His main objective and creative quest is the preservation and development of folk choreographic art. New numbers *The Carpathians*, *The Tambourine Dance*, *The Young Years*, *In Peace and Harmony* and *The Russian Suite* highlight dancers' exquisite and expressive moves, bright palette of costumes, wealth of music and complete choreographic plots. In 1992, Myroslav turned Pavlo's two-year studio into a choreographic school for children, which later became a source of talented young performers for the ensemble.

Today, the Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company continues to create new dances full of surprise and delight, under Myroslav Vantukh's direction.



THE KYIV BALLET OF THE NATIONAL OPERA OF UKRAINE

Eastern Europe is home to the grand and impressive Russian ballet style – the esteemed calling card to a triad of world class companies: the Kirov, the Bolshoi and the Kyiv Ballet.

The Kyiv Ballet has dazzled audiences with its artistry and technical brilliance in Europe, South America, Japan, United States and Canada. Most recently, Sulyma Productions Inc. had the Kyiv Ballet together with Canada's Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, perform with Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer, Andrea Bocelli and London's Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra in the North American arena touring spectacular *A Royal Christmas*.

After the turn of the century, The Kyiv Ballet repertoire, like that of the company's contemporaries, included *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Don Quixote* and *La Bayadere*. During the 1920's and 30's, the company began staging works with a more modern approach, including Prokofiev's *The Fool* and Shostakovich's *Golden Age*. As time progressed through Eastern Europe's tumultuous history, the Kyiv Ballet continued to live up to the same standards as its peers, and, since the independence of Ukraine in 1991, the company's theatrical heart and soul has flourished. The Kyiv Ballet is finally earning recognition as the hidden jewel it is, complete with a roster of classical and contemporary works.

Today, the Kyiv Ballet boasts a full repertoire of classics, and, with a company of 150 artists and a solid school of up-and-coming young

dancers, it has a depth characteristic of the most established companies of the world. The artists of the Kyiv Ballet are, and always have been, among the most talented in the world. Serge Lifar, a notable company soloist from the early days, was one of the 20th Century's greatest dancers and choreographers. Today, alumni and students of former Artistic Director Viktor Lytvynov are principals in the finest companies around the world: Ivan Putrov with London's Royal Ballet Covent Garden; Irina Dvorovenko and Maxim Belotserkovsky with the American Ballet Theatre; Vadim Solomakha at the San Francisco Ballet; Leonid Sarafanov at the Kirov; and, notably, Alexei Ratmansky, the former Artistic Director of the Bolshoi Ballet and current Artist in Residence at the American Ballet Theatre.

In addition to virtuosic dancers, the Kyiv Ballet also boasts one of the most talented set and costume designers of the theatrical world. The National Opera of Ukraine's Maria Levitska dresses each production in a unique interpretation that brings a lavish, sumptuous, even exotic visual spectacle rarely seen in the Western world. Combining the talents of critically acclaimed choreographer and former Artistic Director Viktor Lytvynov with the newly appointed Artistic Director Denis Matvienko, the Kyiv Ballet exhibits impressive creative talents giving audiences a seldom seen sense of old world grandeur and leaving even the most sophisticated dance fan awestruck.

CLARA'S DREAM CAST

Principals & Solists

Clara - Natalia Lazebnikova
Prince - Oleksandr Shapoval
Drosselmeier - Dmytro Kliavin
Fritz/Chinese - Jeffery Mortensen
Mr. Stahlbaum/Spanish/French - Mykyta Sukhorukov
Mrs. Stahlbaum - Viktoriia Karpenko
Columbina/Trepak - Kathleen Symborski
Marionette - Caterina Rylance
Arabian - Larissa Sulyma
Trepak Men - Marco Eugenio, Marko Gauk, Joe Hoffman

Artists of Virsky – Ukraine's State Folk Dance Company

Andrii Demeshchuk
Kateryna Gurzhii
Kateryna Iarmolenko
Viacheslav Ilinskyi
Viktoriia Karpenko
Maryna Kozlovska
Ievgen Mykhailenko
Ganna Semenenko
Oleksandr Synyuk
Iuliia Tiagai
Kyrylo Trysetskyi
Denys Turchak
Tetiana Zhemska

Artists of Canada's Ukrainian Shumka Dancers

James Eeles
Alyssa Eugenio
Marco Eugenio
Marko Gauk
Joe Hoffman
Maria Konowalec
Nicolya Lirette
Jordan Mah
Paul Olijnyk
Oleksa Petriw
Katrusia Pohoreski
Caterina Rylance
Laura Stachniak
Larissa Sulyma
Kathleen Symborski

Shumka Understudies

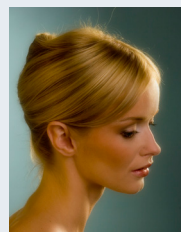
Michael Eeles
Peter Eeles
Dominika Lirette

Carollers

Iryna Brodska
Karalyn Brokop
Trinity Chopyk
Lida Petriw

Artists of the Kyiv Ballet of The National Opera of Ukraine

Natalia Lazebnikova



Oleksandr Shapoval



Dmytro Kliavin
Mykyta Sukhorukov

Guest Artist

Jeffery Mortensen



ACT I

Our story takes place one magical Christmas Eve, as the Stahlbaum family busily finishes last minute preparations for a grand party. A tableau is presented and we see a Vertep, a Ukrainian puppet theatre, where Dr. Drosselmeier's nephew entertains a group of children in the market. They are eagerly anticipating the Christmas Eve celebration about to take place. As the children depart with their gifts, the Vertep reveals itself as a puppet workshop. The mysterious Dr. Drosselmeier is attending to his work.

An enchanting city streetscape sees the guests begin to arrive, dressed in their holiday finery. With a flourish of his great black cape, the mysterious Dr. Drosselmeier appears, greeting

Ukrainian carollers. His arrival to the Stahlbaum party is magical and he brings a doll as a gift, which performs a delightful dance with the children, while a Ukrainian Marionette brings yet more joy to the young ones. However, it is the Nutcracker doll, Drosselmeier's gift to his goddaughter Clara, that wins her heart. When Clara's brother Fritz teases her by snatching the Nutcracker away from his sister, Drosselmeier encourages them to gently cradle the Nutcracker doll before placing it beneath the Christmas tree. He beckons the Carollers and their Christmas star.

After the guests leave, Clara creeps back to the darkened parlour to check on her Nutcracker. The clock chimes, striking



ACT II

midnight. As Clara peers into the darkness, she realizes she is surrounded by an army of menacing mice. A cannon blast downs a battalion of mice while the Nutcracker, now come to life, leads toy soldiers into battle. The fight rages on until the Mouse King corners the Nutcracker in a duel. Clara comes to the Nutcracker's aid and defeats the Mouse King by pulling off his tail.

The spell broken, the Nutcracker transforms to a handsome prince, and he declares his eternal gratitude to the young heroine. He whisks her away to his fantastic fairytale kingdom, far from the mice, the parlour and Clara's childhood home.

Clara and the Prince journey to the magical fairytale kingdom whereupon their arrival at his palace, they are entertained by his friends with a magnificent dance of *Carol of the Bells*. Once inside, delegates from faraway lands perform for the pair: elegant Spanish dancers, a mysterious Arabian girl, a merry Chinese trio delight and a dazzling Ukrainian Hopak complete with high kicking Cossacks is presented in a most spectacular fashion. Soon, the Prince asks Clara to join him in a romantic and lyrical pas de deux.

Suddenly, Clara is back in her family's parlour, cradling her Nutcracker. She sighs, realizing her wonderful journey was but a fantasy. Or was it? Drosselmeier later visits with his young nephew, who bears a striking resemblance to Clara's beloved Prince...



TCHAIKOVSKY'S UKRAINIAN DREAMS *by Colin MacLean*



The noble blood of the Ukrainian cossack coursed through Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's veins. Alright, he was born a couple of generations after the power of the great horsemen of the steppe had waned but he was always proud of his great-grandfather, the Zaporozhian Colonel Fedor, who rode with the fiercely autonomous warriors.

The great composer was born in 1840 in Votnisk, a small industrial town in western Russia. He showed a remarkable aptitude for music, writing his first composition at the age of 4. His parents, seeking stability, pushed him into a career as a minor bureaucrat. But the man who was destined to become Russia's greatest composer, couldn't avoid the siren call of music. He went back to school, graduating from the St. Petersburg Conservatory. Tchaikovsky was a master orchestrator weaving fantasy, magic, nationalism and his own personal pain and sexual ambivalence into his works. The people heard his music and recognized themselves.

His fame as a composer grew and, much in demand as a conductor, he traveled the world – leading orchestras from Baku to Baltimore. In 1891 he conducted his own Marche

Solennelle for the opening of Carnegie Hall in New York. Today he is the second most performed romantic composer in the world (Beethoven is #1) and his music is so often heard, it is hard to imagine that many of his compositions were once reviled by the critics. ("Vulgar and lacking in elevated thought or philosophy," sniffed one.)

Tchaikovsky loved Ukraine. His beloved sister, Sasha, married and settled in Kamenka, near Kyiv, on a large estate. He spent many years in Ukraine returning again and again to her home and writing many of his best known works there. The Ukrainian heart has always beaten with the pulse of its own music and Tchaikovsky became fascinated with the folksongs he heard. You could imagine the dapper gentleman from Moscow, with his closely cropped hair and carefully tended beard, striding through thatch-roofed selo putting little black dots on ruled paper and humming away to himself.

The songs he heard found their way into his works – indeed became central to the heart of many pieces as he transformed them, with his refined sense of melody and orchestration, into something quite different. One day he overheard a carpenter singing a song called *Sifel Vanya* – and it became the main theme of his First String Quartet. (When he heard it for the first time, Tolstoy was famously moved to tears.) Tchaikovsky's Second Symphony, *The Little Russian* begins with a Ukrainian folksong and is almost completely composed of variations of tunes he heard on his journeys around Ukraine. (Actually "Little Russia" meant Ukraine but it was not politick to refer to the country by name in the time of the Tsars.) He transposed simple melodies into a series of works ranging from piano solos to grand opera (*Mazepa* – about a Cossack hero who died trying to free Ukraine from the grip of Peter the Great).

Even his most thunderingly nationalistic work, *The 1812 Overture*, written to celebrate Russia's victory over Napoleon's Grand

Armee, and known for its hyperventilating climactic volley of cannon fire, ringing bells, and brass fanfares, would be recognized by any Ukrainian peasant. One of the sprightly dance numbers in the first act of *The Nutcracker* is an old tune Tchaikovsky first heard in Ukraine. In America it is known as a Civil War song. It's oft been called an old Irish fiddle tune. Many a Newfoundlander has been surprised when the local favourite *Lots of Fish in Bonavist Harbour* pops up in the glittering ballroom scene.

The great composer's Ukrainian ties include a visit to the National Opera of Ukraine in September of 1889 to see his opera, *Eugene Onegin*. He remarked, "The production, ensemble, level of the actors in Kyiv was better than in Moscow." Because of his respect for the National Opera, he allowed his opera, *Pikova Dama (The Queen of Spades)* to be premiered there on December 19. He attended in person. The unanimous outpouring of emotion by the audience and cast prompted him to return the next year to conduct a symphonic concert of his own works. Again, he was "... greeted with passionate ovations."

Tchaikovsky didn't like the idea of *The Nutcracker* ballet much. The composer was fresh off the astonishing success of his *The Sleeping Beauty* but *The Nutcracker* was proving problematic. The libretto by E.T.A. Hoffman was really two stories. There is the ornate Christmas Eve celebration for young Clara and her family followed by an epic voyage through a fantasy filled land, with a handsome prince as her companion. Each half required a whole new musical approach. And then there was that imperious old nag, choreographer Marius Petipa (who commissioned the work), who badgered the composer with extremely detailed instructions for each number. And there was another, deeper element. As the ballet begins, Clara is a child – when it ends she has left childhood behind and is on the way to transforming into the young lady she will become. But Tchaikovsky persevered and began to warm to the work. "I am daily becoming more and more attuned to my task," he wrote.

The ballet was premiered on December 18 in 1892. It was not a success. But the composer, who understood the value of marketing, had assembled a collection of his tunes into a suite intended for concert performances. It became instantly popular. Soon everyone was humming the tunes which set up subsequent, and more successful, productions. Since the ballet is so popular today, and so much a part of our Christmas tradition, it may surprise you to learn it was not until 1954 and an opulent production with the New York City Ballet by George Balanchine, that *The Nutcracker* would have the ubiquitous success it enjoys today.

Perhaps it is because of its origins in Ukrainian folk music, *The Nutcracker* lends itself so well to tonight's version of the Hoffman original. This is the only Ukrainian folk ballet based on the timeless tale of Clara's dream with its ferocious mice, menacing magician Drosselmeier, the handsome prince and all the other memorable characters of the child's coming of age fantasia. It was a massive undertaking incorporating Ukrainian traditions, folk and character dance, a grand orchestral version of our best known carol, the *Carol of the Bells*, as well as Ukrainian symbols woven into the lavish sets and costumes. The spectacular evening of dance also features three of the world's best Ukrainian folk and dance ensembles; our own Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, The Kyiv Ballet and the iconic Virsky – Pavlo Virsky's Ukrainian State Folk Dance company whose fame, and innovative approach to the art form has spread world wide. *Clara's Dream* took years to put together with trips to Ukraine, uncounted phone calls and international rehearsals carried on by that modern miracle, Skype.

This is a world premier you will see tonight. It is a graceful, joyfully conceived evening of enchantment embracing a classic tale told with care and passion, and reflecting the age-old dance and music traditions of mother Ukraine.

CREATIVE TEAM

Artistic Director & Choreographer



Viktor Lytvynov,
National Artist of
Ukraine

As a soloist with the Kyiv Ballet of the National Opera of Ukraine in the 1960's, Viktor Lytvynov was

known for his interpretation of heroic and dramatic roles. The former Artistic Director of the Kyiv Ballet of the National Opera of Ukraine and the Municipal Opera and Ballet Theatre of Kyiv, Viktor is currently Resident Choreographer for both companies.

Viktor's work with Canada's Ukrainian Shumka Dancers has been hailed by audiences and critics alike and through the years, propelling Shumka to a new dance level with his 1995 work *Absolutely Shumka* and Shumka's *Cinderella* in 2000. Viktor was the Artistic Director and Choreographer of Sulyma Productions Inc.'s *THE NUTCRACKER, a ballet fantasy* (1997-2004), featuring the Kyiv Ballet and Shumka; excerpts of this Nutcracker were performed in the touring spectacular *A Royal Christmas*, starring Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer and Andrea Bocelli. Viktor's *Pathways to Hopak*, a special commission by Shumka, premiered at the Canada Dance Festival at Ottawa's National Arts Centre in 2004.

In 2007 & 2008, Viktor collaborated with Kyiv composer Yuri Shevchenko to create two full-length ballets, *Pinocchio* and *Dr. Doolittle*. The premieres were such a resounding success that the National Opera of Ukraine, which commissioned this extraordinary artistic team, made it a permanent part of the Kyiv Ballet's repertoire. Viktor's recent full-length ballet is *Caprice – The Life of Paganini*.

Set and Costume Designer



Maria Levitska,
National Artist of
Ukraine

Maria is the fourth generation of a Kyiv family of artists and has dedicated her life to creating stage designs

that seek unity with nature. She studied at the Art Institute in Kyiv and has designed more than 200 operas, ballets and dramatic works in Ukraine, Russia, Slovenia, Poland, Japan and Canada. Her first ballet production was Lysenko's 1983 work *The Magic Dream* at the National Opera of Ukraine, marking her long association with the National Opera, which culminated in her appointment as Director of Stage Design in 1989. More recently, she designed sets and costumes for many historical films created and produced at the Dovzhenko Film Studios. Maria's art also appeared in exhibitions in Moscow, Gdansk, Kyiv, Prague (Prague Quadrennial), Israel and Tokyo.



In Kyiv Ballet tours of *Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, *Coppelia* and *THE NUTCRACKER, a ballet fantasy*, audiences in Canada, the United States, Europe and Japan have seen her stunning sets and costumes. Maria's set and costume designs for Shumka's *Cinderella*, *Pathways to Hopak* and *Eve of Kupalo* have provided an entirely new visual world, and benchmark, for theatrical Ukrainian dance. In *Shumka at 50*, Maria's new scrim designs for *Harvest Angels* and *50th Anniversary Hopak* proved to be breathtaking displays of her stunning work.

In 2003, Maria received Ukraine's Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award for her work.



Artistic Consultant & Choreographer

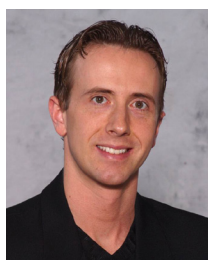


*John Pichlyk,
Canada's Ukrainian
Shumka Dancers*

Shumka's Artistic Director from 1982 to 1996, John joined the company as a dancer in 1976 before

studying in New York, then Ukraine, with the famed Virsky Dance Academy. A man with a vision and an intrinsic understanding of dance, John stood at the helm of one of the largest, most diverse dance companies ever to tour Canada and abroad. Under his guidance, the company made an historic tour to Ukraine and pushed the boundaries of Ukrainian dance by creating a unique hybrid of folk dance, ballet, character and modern dance. A strong believer in the universality of the human spirit, John endeavours to create dance that transcends all boundaries and ultimately touches the soul. Respectful of the time-honoured traditions of Ukrainian folklore and customs, he believes that Ukrainian dance must also evolve, reflecting the sensitivities of the performers and their audience.

Artistic Consultant



*Dave Ganert, Canada's
Ukrainian Shumka
Dancers*

Current Artistic Director of Shumka, Dave's work is distinguished by his inventiveness and

exploration of the relationships between Ukrainian dance, ballet, and world dance forms. Combining his insights into the human spirit from his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, his innovation and his commitment to setting his choreography to original music, Dave brings the fresh perspective that distinguishes Shumka as a leading Canadian dance company. His most recent choreography is the creation of Shumka's 50th Anniversary *Hopak*. This commemorative work featured 58 dancers, an original symphonic score by acclaimed Kyiv composer Yuri Shevchenko and original costumes by Maria Levitska of Ukraine's National Ballet and Opera.

Musical Director



Yuri Shevchenko,
Honoured Artist of
Ukraine

Based in Kyiv, Ukraine, Yuri is acknowledged as one of the finest composers in the Ukrainian classical

and theatrical music scene. He creates works for musical, dramatic theatre and television productions, as well as orchestral works for ballet, folk dance and choral ensembles. In 1998, the President of Ukraine awarded Yuri the Honoured Artist of Ukraine distinction for his expansive musical contributions to the country.

Yuri's 15 years of composing music for Shumka has resulted in a profound artistic relationship. The marvel of his score for 1995's *Absolutely Shumka* was followed by the full-length composition for Shumka's *Cinderella*, which toured Canada, China and Ukraine from 2000 to 2007. During the composition process for *Cinderella* he noted, "we would need to resolve many of the musical questions from the standpoint of folkloric intonations, that is, to tell the tale through the language of Ukrainian melody." This statement guides his sensitivities as a Ukrainian composer profoundly attached to his roots while living in a contemporary world. Yuri's composition of Shumka's ground-breaking contemporary work *Pathways to Hopak* was a prestigious commission by the 2005 Canada Dance Festival in Ottawa, where it premiered.

Yuri's newest gift to Shumka is his progressive and captivating *Anniversary Hopak*, which enjoyed its world premiere as the grand finale in *Shumka at 50: An Anniversary Concert* in 2009. With a respectful nod to the past and a grand reach to the future, this work is a testament to the growth of Ukrainian dance as an art form. Most recently, Yuri has arranged a grand symphonic version of *Carol of the Bells* (the Ukrainian Christmas carol *Shchedryk*) for inclusion in the 2013 world premiere of Sulyma Production Inc.'s *The Ukrainian Nutcracker, Clara's Dream*.

Lighting Designer



Pierre Lavoie

Pierre has been active in dance since 1982, first in Toronto as stage manager for most of the city's modern dance companies, then in Montreal for Les

Grands Ballets Canadiens. There, he had the great opportunity to work closely with his mentor, lighting designer Nick Cernovitch. Pierre started designing lighting in the 1990's for Margie Gillis and has since designed every new work in her repertoire. He also creates lights for many independent modern dance artists in Montreal. Pierre's versatility shows how easily he can sustain both modern and classical vocabulary.

He has designed to rave reviews at Alberta Ballet where he is resident lighting designer, for Christopher Wheeldon's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Val Caniparoli's *Lady of the Camellias*, Kirk Petersen's *Othello*, Emily Molnar's *Carmina Burana* and Jean Grand-Maitre's *Carmen*, *Cinderella*, *Romeo and Juliette*, the acclaimed *Fiddle and the Drum* with Joni Mitchell, *Love Lies Bleeding* with Elton John and *Fumbling Towards Ecstasy* with Sarah MacLachlan. Pierre also designed works for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet including *Moulin Rouge*, Mark Godden's *As Above, So Below* and *The Magic Flute*, and André Prokovsky's *Anna Karenina*. Other ballet credits include *Don Quixote*, *Swan Lake*, *Taming of the Shrew* and *Nutcracker* at Boston Ballet; *Cinderella* at Milwaukee Ballet; a mixed jazz program at Ballet Memphis; *King Lear*, *Amadeus*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Don Giovanni* at Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada; and *qoundam* at the Royal Swedish Ballet, choreographed by Sabrina Matthews.

Pierre also ventured into the world of music where he designed the lighting for the last three creations of tango music septet Ensemble Romulo Larré: *Homage to Astor Piazzola*, *Tango for La Milonga* and *Tango for a Century*.

In 2011-12, Pierre was pleased to establish his work for Shumka in many of the most prestigious theatres in China and Canada.



SULYMA PRODUCTIONS, INC.



*Michael H. Sulyma,
Producer*

A leading, independent arts and entertainment producer, Michael Sulyma began his company while exploring the realm of

television and film production, starting with his work at the National Screen Institute of Canada. Combining his arts background with his degree in business and years of experience with the accounting firm Coopers & Lybrand, Michael became a busy production manager, producing numerous projects for Stage West, television and London's West End. Michael has also produced 24 years of international tours of The Kyiv Ballet of the National Opera of Ukraine, Canada's Ukrainian Shumka Dancers and the Chinese production of *Chun Yi, The Legend of Kung Fu*.

In 2005, Michael Sulyma became Co-Producer with Beijing's China Heaven Creation of a new Chinese multi-discipline production, *Chun Yi: The Legend of Kung Fu* a unique integration of modern dance, ballet and Buddhist Kung Fu. *Chun Yi* made its first six-month/150-performance showcase tour in North America followed by tours to Russia, Japan, Spain and India. *Chun Yi* had its West End premiere in London with a summer run in 2009 at The London Coliseum. *Chun Yi* continues its open-ended run both in Beijing and America, exceeding over 5000 performances to date. Currently it is the longest running theatrical production in China.

Michael has produced eleven national and international tours for Canada's Ukrainian Shumka Dancers. Most recently, Sulyma Productions Inc. (SPI) toured their 50th anniversary production of *Shumka at 50* to 14 cities/23 shows in China and 10 cities/13 shows in Canada.

Artists of the Kyiv Ballet and Shumka joined forces for SPI's *THE NUTCRACKER*, a *ballet fantasy* (which toured more than 100 performances over three years) and *Snow White and the Seven Gnomes of Christmas*. Excerpts of *THE NUTCRACKER* were produced for the seasonal touring spectacular, *A Royal Christmas* starring Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer, Andrea Bocelli, The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and principal dancers from Royal Ballet Covent Garden, Bolshoi Ballet and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

In additions to many movies of the week and television series, SPI's television documentary, *Shumka – Return of the Whirlwind* captured Shumka's monumental 1990 tour to Ukraine and Moscow, winning numerous accolades and awards, including a National Television Gemini Award nomination. Michael subsequently produced Shumka's *Katrusia, Cycles of the Sun*, and *Night of Perun* for CBC Television. SPI's films have been seen in over 37 countries.

SPI's current Canada-Ukraine collaboration is The Ukrainian Nutcracker *Clara's Dream*, a full-length presentation of the beloved E.T.A. Hoffman story. "This unique and groundbreaking production brings an entirely new concept to the world of Ukrainian dance, as well as dance in general," says Michael. "The world of Nutcracker productions varies from classical ballet, to all male casts, to Jazz, Klezmer and Chinese dance and musical styles. This Ukrainian folk ballet representation of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker unites three world famous Ukrainian dance companies: Virsky, Ukraine's State Folk Dance Company, Canada's Shumka Dancers and The Kyiv Ballet. This is the first time the Nutcracker story will be created in the Ukrainian folk ballet style." It will also be the first time in their 74 year history, that the Virsky company performs outside of their own repertoire.

CREDITS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Producer

Sulyma Productions Inc.
Michael H. Sulyma,
Producer
Kim Nahachewsky,
General Manager

Associate Producer

Ukrainian Shumka Dancers

Artistic Director/ Choreographer

Viktor Lytvynov

Sets & Costumes Designer

Maria Levitska

Snowflake Waltz, Hopak Choreographer/ Artistic Consultant

John Pichlyk

Artistic Consultant

Dave Ganert

Lighting Designer

Pierre Lavoie

Stage Manager

Joshua Semchuk

Technical Director

Jeffery Osterlin

Video Creations/ Projections

Andrew Scholotiuk

Musical Recording

The National Opera
Orchestra of Ukraine
Oleg Riyabov, Conductor

Shchedryk *(Carol of the Bells)* Musical Recording

Yuri Shevchenko,
Arrangement
The Kyiv City Symphony
Oleksiy Baklan, Conductor

Chief Sound Recording Engineer

Slavko Halatyn

Sulyma Productions Inc. Kyiv Office

Oksana Solovyova,
Production Coordinator

Repetitor for the Kyiv Ballet & Virsky

Iryna Brodska

Wardrobe

Joyce Sirski-Howell

Wardrobe/ Production Assistant

Trinity Chopyk

Properties

Stephen Romanow

Marketing and Media Coordination

Darka Tarnawsky,
President, Bottom Line
Productions Inc.

Graphic Design

Helen Adhikari

For the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers

Dave Ganert,
Artistic Director
Nicolya Lirette,
President
Annette Bidniak,
General Manager
June Eeles,
Programs Administrator

For Virsky – Ukraine’s State Folk Dance Company

Myroslav Vantukh,
Artistic Director/
Managing Director

For the Kyiv Ballet of The National Opera of Ukraine

Petro Chupryna,
Director General
Denis Matvienko,
Artistic Director
of the Kyiv Ballet
Lyudmila Movlenko,
Administrative Director

Acknowledgements

Ukrainian Shumka Dancers
Foundation
Ukrainian Shumka Dancers
Alumni Association
Virsky, Ukraine’s State Folk
Dance Company
National Opera and
Ballet of Ukraine
Shumka School of Dance
Northern Industrial Carriers
Steel Craft Door Products Ltd.



This production is a proud
supporter of the MS Society



NOTICE: The use of any photographic
equipment, video cameras and/or recording
devices is strictly forbidden.



MARKET DRUGS MEDICAL

PHARMACY

MEDICAL PRODUCTS

OSTOMY SHOPPE

WOMEN'S HEALTH



Congratulations

UKRAINIAN SHUMKA DANCERS
VIRSKY UKRAINIAN NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY
& KYIV BALLET

*for your production of
Olara's Dream*

10203 - 97 STREET | EDMONTON, AB T5J 0L5 PH. (780) 422-1397

WWW.MARKETDRUGSMEDICAL.COM

LEAVE THE DRAMA BEHIND AT THE PROFESSIONALS

Going to the theatre should be a great experience. Here are some tips on how to make your night memorable without making a scene of your own.

- 1 Skip the lines at intermission by pre-ordering your refreshments at any of our concessions.
- 2 Make it true "High Def" by asking about infrared listening devices and binoculars at Patron Services.
- 3 Take an extra long limo – Ride Public Transit. It's a great way to avoid traffic before and after the show.

Giving Props...

The Jube is proud to have Canada's Ukrainian Shumka Dancers as one of its Resident Companies. With over 50 years of performances, Shumka has become an International treasure turning folk dance into a living, breathing art form.

Alberta

it's all at the **jube.**
jubeeauditorium.com

Sponsored by Edmonton Catholic Schools Ukrainian Bilingual Parent Advisory Society

UKRAINIAN ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL

Bilingual Program



EDMONTON
CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS

*Experience Ukrainian...
through language, arts and culture.*

St. Martin Elementary

11310-51 Ave.
T: 780 434-4848
www.stmartin
.ecsd.net

St. Matthew Elementary

8735-132 Ave.
T: 780 473-6575
www.stmatthew
.ecsd.net

St. Kevin Junior High

10005-84 St.
T: 780 469-8301
www.stkevin
.ecsd.net

Austin O'Brien Senior High

6110-95 Ave.
T: 780 466-3161
www.austinobrien
.ecsd.net

February 20 at 6:30pm | March 6 at 6:30pm | February 21 at 7pm | March 7 at 7pm

... Open House Dates ...

UKRAINIAN INTERNATIONAL BILINGUAL PROGRAM

Let us teach your
children their heritage!

Call for your personal
Kindergarten tour:

780-476-3969
WWW.UBLA.EPSB.CA



Delwood • Balwin • M.E. LaZerte



UKRAINIAN
BILINGUAL
ASSOCIATION
OF ALBERTA



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AIR CANADA 
PRESENTS



Blue Planet in Concert

February 16 & 17

Winspear Centre

A unique theatrical presentation of the most remarkable film sequences from the celebrated BBC/Discovery series The Blue Planet. The wonders of our underwater world are displayed on a giant screen while the ESO performs the dazzling Emmy Award-winning score.



EDMONTON
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
WILLIAM EDDINS
MUSIC DIRECTOR



Extraordinary Concert Experiences from \$20 at EdmontonSymphony.com

THANK YOU
SHUMKA
FOR SUPPORTING THE
MS SOCIETY