



## **Goh Ballet's The Nutcracker: A History**

*A look at the history of one of Vancouver's  
most beloved holiday traditions*

Since opening in 2009, Goh Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* has become a beloved annual holiday tradition for thousands of families around the Lower Mainland. The Centre in downtown Vancouver hosts the treasured performances, which have featured some of the most accomplished ballet dancers from across the globe over the past nine years.

Chan Hon Goh serves as the production's Executive Producer. Ms. Goh is one of the most prolific Prima Ballerinas of her generation who spent over 20 years as a Principal Dancer touring the world with leading companies including the National Ballet of Canada. After retiring from her onstage career, she continues her passion for dance with mentorship and serves as the Director of Goh Ballet Academy and Goh Ballet Youth Company Canada.

Former Principal Dancer with the National Ballet of China, and founder of the Goh Ballet, Mr. Choo Chiat Goh serves as Artistic Director of *The Nutcracker* alongside Ms. Goh. Mr. Goh is the 2017 recipient of the Vancouver Mayor's Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement, for both his onstage career and his work, teaching and advocating for the arts in Vancouver.

It was Chan Hon Goh's vision to create a ballet production that would become a memorable tradition in the lives of residents of Vancouver, and the holiday favourite *The Nutcracker* was the perfect fit.

Since inception, Ms. Goh has made sure to include more than 200 performers from around the world each year and feature aspiring young dancers alongside professional guest stars from prestigious dance companies like the Pacific Northwest Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, the National Ballet of Canada, American Ballet Theatre, Royal Danish Ballet, the National Ballet of China and others.

The distinctive calibre of dancers is only amplified with the best in the world of choreography, lighting, costume and musical talents. Each year, the critically acclaimed Vancouver Opera Orchestra provides an exciting live accompaniment to match each scene along with Canadian talent Pierre Lavoie, whose extraordinary lighting abilities truly highlight each carefully choreographed move.

Emmy award winning choreographer Anna-Marie Holmes crafted the initial choreography to the production and each year lends her expertise to *The Nutcracker*. Ms. Holmes has worked for productions in Tokyo, London, New York and Russia.

No two years are the same as *The Nutcracker* producers constantly revamp and refurbish each performance to ensure the best and most magical show. New talent are featured, costumes glitter brighter than ever before and Tchaikovsky's iconic Nutcracker Suite warms the hearts and captures the imaginations of all in attendance.

This year's dazzling performances run from December 14<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at The Centre in Vancouver.

**Dates and Times of Performances:**

December 14, 15, 18 and 19 at 7:30pm

December 16 at 2:00pm and 7:30pm

December 17 at 3:00pm and 7:30pm

**Location:**

The Centre in Vancouver

777 Homer Street

Vancouver, BC

**For more information and to purchase tickets, visit:** [www.GohNutcracker.com](http://www.GohNutcracker.com)

**About Goh Ballet:**

Since 1978, Vancouver, Canada has been home to the Goh Ballet, a vibrant, innovative and diverse dance organization. Under the direction of Chan Hon Goh since 2010, the organization is following the vision of its founders while expanding on current artistic aspirations. A company that pursues technical and artistic excellence while raising cultural awareness in our communities through performance productions, the Goh Ballet is synonymous with excellence, training talent and fostering the presentation of classical ballet. It provides extraordinary opportunities for dancers to reach their full potential, while contributing to the artistic well being of our city and country. At the forefront of the arts community, Goh Ballet has been invited to perform around the world, including tours to the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, France and the U.S.A.

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