

MEDIA RELEASE  
Contact: Alayna Chabot  
[alayna.chabot@dct.org](mailto:alayna.chabot@dct.org)  
(214) 978-0110 ext. 143



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 27, 2016

**A "Mixed Nuts" Holiday at Dallas Children's Theater Sparks Joy with Two Special Plays**  
The Peanuts Gang and the timeless Nutcracker take center stage!  
November 18 – December 21, 2016

The holiday season in North Texas has arrived, and Dallas Children's Theater (DCT) is ringing it in with two "mixed nuts" classic holiday tales. On November 18 at 7:30 PM, DCT will open the doors of its theater-turned-winter wonderland for the DFW professional premiere of A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS, and Kathy Burks Theatre of Puppetry Arts' THE NUTCRACKER. Both shows will run until December 21, 2016 at the Rosewood Center for Family Arts.

Charles Schulz's animated television special jumps from screen to stage, complete with a host of grand interactive surprises you might expect from DCT AND a Charlie Brown special! The young and the young at heart will be tapping their toes and oohing and ahing as a live, three-piece combo band surrounds the audience in a magical holiday spectacle. And no holiday season is complete without Tchaikovsky's THE NUTCRACKER. Celebrating 20 years with this run, Kathy Burks' rendition of this unique and acclaimed puppet interpretation brings the classic story to life with innovative passion and artistry. Both tales are perfect introductions to holiday classics and traditions that bring families of all kinds together. The television special, A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS, celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015, and in 2016 Kathy Burks Theatre of Puppetry Arts celebrates 20 years of presenting THE NUTCRACKER, one of the company's most requested titles.

"The holiday television special about Charlie Brown and the entire Peanuts Gang has withstood the test of time because of its many messages. I believe the story will also resonate with DCT audiences because it's about a group of kids putting on a show. Not only does the story deal with the real meaning of Christmas versus the commercialization of the holiday, but it also explores the true friendship between the characters," said Doug Miller, director of A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS and DCT's Director of Musical Theater.

Of The Nutcracker production, Kathy Burks says, "This is a very unique and artistic experience and children of all ages just love it. We combine Black Theatre rod puppets with dazzling effects to create a delightful fantasy world that is perfect for Clara and the Nutcracker Prince. It really is a great way to introduce youngsters to the story behind The Nutcracker Ballet.

To officially kick off the merry season at DCT, the first two weekends of DCT's "mixed nuts" spectacular featuring both holiday plays (November 18-20, 25-27) will give families a chance to see a great show AND interact with holiday celebrities including Santa Claus, and the tallest nutcrackers any child has ever

seen! Also, DCT's very own Winter Princess will be on hand for photo-ops and to host holiday karaoke with the young patrons before the show as well.

Dallas Tourism Public Improvement District is the title sponsor for A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS, and the opening night sponsor is Sprinkles Cupcakes at Preston Center.

### **A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS**

by Charles M. Schulz

Based on the television special by Bill Melendez  
and Lee Mendelson

Stage Adaptation by Eric Schaeffer

By Special Arrangement with Arthur Whitelaw and Ruby Persson

November 18 – December 21, 2016

Recommended for ages 5 and up

#### Cast

- Charlie Brown – Christopher Curtis\*
- Lucy – Brett Warner\*
- Snoopy – Steph Garrett
- Linus – Scott Zenreich\*
- Freida – Jori Jackson
- Sally – Sarah Faye Beard
- Schroeder – Johnny Lee\*
- Violet – Rachel Clo
- Pig Pen – Zachary Pletcher
- Shermey – William Carleton

#### Production Team

- Director and Choreographer – Doug Miller\*
- Musical Director – Adam Wright
- Scenic, Projection, and Props Designer – H. Bart McGeehon
- Lighting Designer – Jason Lynch
- Sound Designer – Marco Salinas
- Costume Designer – Lyle Huchton
- Stage Manager – Matt Grevan\*
- ASM Intern – Alex Montoya
- Deck Crew Head – Becca Bongiorno
- Q-Lab – Troy Carrico
- Director of Production – H. Bart McGeehon
- Technical Director – Josh Smith
- Production & Rental Coordinator – N. Ryan McBride
- Assistant Technical Director – Jeffrey Stanfield
- Lighting Supervisor – Jason Lynch
- Staff Electrician – Jason Monmaney

– Sound Engineer – Brian Christensen

\*Denotes member of Actors Equity Association.

#### Performance Dates and Times

- Friday, November 18, 7:30 PM – Opening Night
- Saturday, November 19, 1:30 PM
- Sunday, November 20, 1:30 PM
- Sunday, November 20, 4:30 PM
- Friday, November 25, 7:30 PM
- Saturday, November 26, 1:30 PM
- Sunday, November 27, 1:30 PM
- Sunday, November 27, 4:30 PM (ASL)
- Saturday, December 3, 1:30 PM (Sensory-Friendly)
- Saturday, December 3, 4:30 PM
- Sunday, December 4, 1:30 PM
- Sunday, December 4, 4:30 PM
- Saturday, December 10, 1:30 PM
- Saturday, December 10, 4:30 PM
- Sunday, December 11, 1:30 PM
- Sunday, December 11, 4:30 PM
- Friday, December 16, 7:30 PM
- Saturday, December 17, 1:30 PM
- Saturday, December 17, 4:30 PM
- Sunday, December 18, 1:30 PM
- Sunday, December 18, 4:30 PM
- Tuesday, December 20, 10:00 AM
- Tuesday, December 20, 12:30 PM
- Wednesday, December 21, 10:00 AM
- Wednesday, December 21, 12:30 PM

Ticket Prices: \$17-\$30.

Weekday Student Matinee shows also available Tuesdays through Fridays. Please call ArtReach Booking at 214-219-2049.

Photo credit: Karen Almond

#### **KATHY BURKS THEATRE OF PUPPETRY ARTS' THE NUTCRACKER**

Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
Adapted for the stage by B. Wolf

November 18 – December 21, 2016

Recommended for ages 4 and up

### Voice Characterizations

- Tchaikovsky – Douglass Burks
- Mustelle – Sally Fiorello
- The Puppet Puppeteer – Kathy Burks
- Narrator/Clara – Sally Fiorello
- Herr Drosselmeier – Ted Kincaid
- Fritz – Patricia Long

### Puppeteers

- Sally Fiorello
- Douglass Burks
- Ziggy Renner
- B. Wolf

### Production Team

- Technical Assistants – Beck Schlabach, Ziggy Renner, Kathy Burks
- DCT Staff Electrician – Jason Monmaney
- Cover/Poster Art – Kim Rae Lyle

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- Sunday, November 27, 1:30 PM
- Sunday, November 27, 4:30 PM
- Saturday, December 3, 1:30 PM
- Saturday, December 3, 4:30 PM
- Sunday, December 4, 1:30 PM
- Sunday, December 4, 4:30 PM (ASL)
- Saturday, December 10, 1:30 PM
- Saturday, December 10, 4:30 PM
- Sunday, December 11, 1:30 PM
- Sunday, December 11, 4:30 PM
- Saturday, December 17, 1:30 PM
- Saturday, December 17, 4:30 PM
- Sunday, December 18, 1:30 PM
- Sunday, December 18, 4:30 PM
- Tuesday, December 20, 10:00 AM
- Tuesday, December 20, 11:30 AM
- Wednesday, December 21, 10:00 AM
- Wednesday, December 21, 11:30 AM

Ticket Prices: \$17-\$30.

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Dallas Children's Theater  
Rosewood Center for Family Arts  
5938 Skillman Street  
Dallas, Texas 75231

**About Dallas Children's Theater**

Dallas Children's Theater features professional actors performing for an annual audience of 250,000 young people and their families through mainstage productions (12 in the 2016-17 season), a national touring company, and an arts-in-education program. As the only major organization in Dallas focusing solely on youth and family theater, DCT builds bridges of understanding between generations and cultures, instilling an early appreciation of literature, art and the performing arts in tomorrow's artists and patrons.

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