

Clara, The Sugar Plum Fairy and the Mouse King come to life as The Australian Ballet announces its next Storytime Ballet: *The Nutcracker*; the perfect Christmas ballet for children, opening in December 2016 and touring nationally



Following its highly successful inaugural season in 2015-2016, The Australian Ballet's **Storytime Ballet** is back with a brand new production of *The Nutcracker*. Created especially for children aged three years old and up, Storytime Ballet: *The Nutcracker* will open in **December** and tour to **Melbourne, Sydney** and **Canberra** with additional dates to be announced in 2017.

Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet, **David McAllister** said, "After the success of the first season of Storytime Ballet in 2015 it's wonderful to be able to bring another production to our youngest ballet fans. *The Nutcracker* is one of the world's most-loved story ballets and the perfect introduction to ballet for children, as they follow this classic Christmas tale of Clara and her adventures."

"Opening in 2016 and touring into 2017 we're delighted to bring the production to more people and theatres around Australia, giving families the chance to experience world class ballet – designed just for them to enjoy!" Mr McAllister said.

Supported by **Principal Partner Telstra**, The Australian Ballet's Storytime Ballet series began in 2015 and includes the company's first mainstage productions designed especially for children. The first season was greeted with critical acclaim and many sold out performances; children, as well as parents have responded warmly to this special program, which was created with children in mind at every stage of the creative process.

Telstra General Manager of Loyalty and Partnerships Fady Taouk said Telstra is proud of its partnership with The Australian Ballet and excited that Storytime Ballet is again taking the classical art form to a new generation, one that grew up with smart phones in their hands.

"For over three decades Telstra and The Australian Ballet have collaborated to bring audiences closer to the wonder of ballet. This year we are pleased to offer

an exclusive pre-sale through Telstra Thanks® for Telstra customers to purchase tickets before they go on sale to the general public"

With a performance duration of just under an hour to suit kids under the age of 11, this live and interactive production features a narrator to guide the audience through the ballet. Children are encouraged to come dressed in their favourite ballet inspired outfits and can interact with the performers on stage.

The Storytime Ballet: *The Nutcracker* is a large-scale ballet packed with brand new designs by Australian designer Krystal Giddings, dazzling dancing, sparkling tutus and enchanting music. Children follow the well-known story of Clara and a marvellous Christmas party that turns into a magical adventure. Watch as the Nutcracker becomes more than just a doll and meet characters The Sugar Plum Fairy and the Mouse King.

#### Storytime Ballet: *The Nutcracker* tour details

**Melbourne**, Arts Centre Melbourne 14–18 December

**Sydney**, Sydney Opera House 21–29 December

**Chatswood**, Concourse Theatre 3–6 January

**Wollongong**, IMB Theatre 8–11 January

**Penrith**, Penrith Panthers 15-17 January

**Canberra**, Canberra Theatre Centre 21–24 January

Telstra Thanks is offering an exclusive pre-sale for Telstra customers, from 10am AEDT, Thursday 13 October to Thursday 20 October 2016 at [telstra.com/storytime](http://telstra.com/storytime)

Tickets go on sale to the public at 10am AEDT on Thursday 20 October visit

[www.australianballet.com.au/the-ballets/storytime-ballet-the-nutcracker](http://www.australianballet.com.au/the-ballets/storytime-ballet-the-nutcracker)

View The Australian Ballet merchandise range [australianballet.com.au/shop](http://australianballet.com.au/shop)

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