

## New York Theatre Ballet *2011-2012 Season*

### Keith Michael's All-New *Nutcracker* for Children José Limón's *The Moor's Pavane* for Adults

New York Theatre Ballet's (NYTB) 2011-2012 season will debut an all-new production of Keith Michael's *Nutcracker* joining *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Alice-in-Wonderland Follies* in its family-friendly *Once Upon A Ballet* series. For adults, this season's *Signatures* series includes José Limón's masterpiece *The Moor's Pavane*, as well as last season's hit, Richard Alston's *A Rugged Flourish*.

NYTB will first perform the all-new *Nutcracker* in Westchester, New Jersey and New Hampshire before its premiere performances in New York City at Florence Gould Hall on December 9, 10, 11, 17 and 18 (see schedule attached). This holiday classic, set to music by Tchaikovsky, will be in the style of Art Nouveau and features innovative choreography by long-time NYTB choreographer Keith Michael, sets by Gillian Bradshaw-Smith, and costumes by Sylvia Nolan (Resident Costume Designer of the Metropolitan Opera).

With its *Once Upon A Ballet* series, New York Theatre Ballet brings to life storybook classics in one-hour performances that have become a family tradition and are an ideal introduction to ballet for children ages 3-10.

Donald Mahler's *Cinderella*, danced to music by Prokofiev, opens on November 12 at Florence Gould Hall in NYC and will "be sure to please grown-ups and children alike" (*The New York Times*).

The third production in the *Once Upon A Ballet* series is Keith Michael's *The Alice-in-Wonderland Follies*. The ballet opens in 1915 at The Palace Theater in New York in the electric atmosphere of a vaudeville extravaganza celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the 1865 publication of Lewis Carroll's literary classic *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.



Photo Credit: Richard Termine

James Sutton's *Sleeping Beauty*, set to music by Tchaikovsky, will complete the season on March 10 and 11. Based on the original scenario by the great Russian choreographer Marius Petipa, the production is set in a tiny and magical kingdom beneath the roots of a lush, giant tree. A cast of fourteen dancers brings to life one of the most beloved fairytales of all time.

NYTB's highly acclaimed *Signatures* series includes classic masterpieces and contemporary ballets by some of the greatest choreographers in dance history. This season's *Signatures* repertory features *The Moor's Pavane* and *A Rugged Flourish* on March 9 and 10 at New York City's Florence Gould Hall. José Limón's *The Moor's Pavane*, danced to the music of Henry Purcell, is cited by critics the world over as Limón's masterpiece. The ballet captures the drama and passion of Shakespeare's *Othello* in a timeless portrayal of love and betrayal. British choreographer Richard Alston created *A Rugged Flourish* especially for New York Theatre Ballet and set it to Aaron Copland's *Piano Variations*. *A Rugged Flourish* premiered last season to rave reviews. The New York Times' Alastair Macaulay called Alston "one of the most musically astute choreographers alive" and hailed the ballet as "accomplished, full of interesting detail..."

### ABOUT NEW YORK THEATRE BALLETT



Photo Credit: Richard Termine

New York Theatre Ballet was founded in 1978 by Diana Byer. It is the most widely seen chamber ballet company in the United States and was hailed by *The New York Times*' Alastair Macaulay as "an invaluable company." New York Theatre Ballet is dedicated to performing contemporary and classic chamber ballets at affordable prices for all audiences, locally, nationally and internationally. NYTB has earned national acclaim for its restoration and revival of small masterworks by great choreographers including Frederick Ashton, Merce Cunningham, Agnes de Mille, José Limón, and Antony Tudor, and for its innovative 60 minute ballets based on children's literature. For thousands of young people NYTB is their first ballet. NYTB also provides training at its Ballet School NY which follows the Cecchetti syllabus. NYTB's LIFT Community Services Program provides tuition-free ballet classes and other vital help for productive learning for at-risk and homeless children.

For more information contact:  
Mallika Dattatreya  
Jonathan Marder + Company  
[m.dattatreya@gsmltd.net](mailto:m.dattatreya@gsmltd.net) / 212-907-6408

**NEW YORK THEATRE BALLET'S  
2011-2012 PERFORMANCE DATES**

ONCE UPON A BALLET: For children/families

***Nutcracker:***

November 19 Westchester Community College (75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY)  
November 26 Paramount Theater (1008 Brown Street, Peekskill, NY)  
November 27 Van Nostrand Theater (1001 Crooked Hill Road, Brentwood, NY)  
December 3 Colonial Theater (95 Main Street, Keene, NH)  
December 4, 5 South Orange Performing Arts Center (1 SOPAC Way, South Orange, NJ)  
December 9, 10, 11, 17, 18 Florence Gould Hall (55 East 59th Street, New York, NY)

***Cinderella:***

November 12, 13 Florence Gould Hall (55 East 59th Street, New York, NY)  
January 29, 30 The Egg (Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY)

***The Alice- in-Wonderland Follies:***

January 25 Kupferberg Center (65-30 Kissena Boulevard, Flushing, NY)  
January 27, 28 Tilles Center (720 Northern Boulevard, Greenvale, NY)  
February 4 County College of Morris (214 Center Grove Road, Randolph, NJ)  
February 10, 11, 12 Florence Gould Hall (55 East 59th Street, New York, NY)

***Sleeping Beauty:***

March 10, 11 Florence Gould Hall (55 East 59th Street, New York, NY)

SIGNATURES: For Adults

***The Moor's Pavane/A Rugged Flourish:***

March 9, 10 Florence Gould Hall (55 East 59th Street, New York, NY)

To purchase tickets at Florence Gould Hall please visit [www.nytb.org](http://www.nytb.org) or [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com)

Or call Ticketmaster at 1.800.982.2787

**Signatures: \$25; Once Upon A Ballet: Children \$31, Adults \$36**

For all other locations, please visit venue website for price and purchasing information:

Westchester Community College: [www.sunywcc.edu](http://www.sunywcc.edu)

Paramount Theater: [tickets.paramountcenter.org](http://tickets.paramountcenter.org)

Van Nostrand Theater: [www.sunysuffolk.edu/Calendar/artsschedule.asp](http://www.sunysuffolk.edu/Calendar/artsschedule.asp)

Colonial Theater: [www.thecolonial.org/CalendarOfEvents.htm](http://www.thecolonial.org/CalendarOfEvents.htm)

South Orange Performing Arts Center: [www.sopacnow.org/shows](http://www.sopacnow.org/shows)

The Egg: [www.theegg.org](http://www.theegg.org)

Kupferberg Center: [kupferbergcenter.org/calendar.htm](http://kupferbergcenter.org/calendar.htm)

Tilles Center: [www.tillescenter.org](http://www.tillescenter.org)

County College of Morris: [www.ccm.edu](http://www.ccm.edu)

## NEW YORK THEATRE BALLET

*Once Upon A Ballet* 2011-2012

**Keith Michael's All New *Nutcracker* for Children  
joins *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Alice-In-Wonderland Follies***

New York Theatre Ballet's (NYTB) 2011-2012 *Once Upon A Ballet* season will premiere Keith Michael's All New *Nutcracker*. Other productions in this family friendly series will be *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Alice-in-Wonderland Follies*.

*Once Upon A Ballet* productions are hour-long adaptations of full-length classic ballets that have been created to appeal to the attention spans of young children 3-10, yet are sophisticated enough for the most discerning parent. The ballets are guaranteed to enchant your inner child, no matter your age.

The new, charming *Nutcracker*, set in the style of Art Nouveau circa 1907, springs to life with innovative choreography by long-time NYTB choreographer, Keith Michael, set design by Gillian Bradshaw-Smith, and costumes by Sylvia Nolan (Resident Costume Designer of the Metropolitan Opera). The ballet opens with toymaker Drosselmeyer's Christmas Eve arrival with his newest creation, an endearing Nutcracker doll, and includes a lively mouse battle at midnight, a journey through the Land of Snow and, of course, a sweet romance between a young woman and her Nutcracker Prince. From clockwork imps to a luminous owl that flies above the audience, this perennial classic bursts with energy and excitement.



Opening November 12 in Florence Gould Hall (NYC), Donald Mahler's *Cinderella* danced to music by Prokofiev will "be sure to please grown-ups and children alike" (*The New York Times*). With comical evil stepsisters and a clock that comes alive, NYTB's *Cinderella* blends charm and humor for a delightful show that the whole family will love.

Keith Michael's *The Alice-In-Wonderland Follies* will be performed in New York and New Jersey in late January and February. *The Alice-In-Wonderland Follies* opens in 1915 at The Palace Theater in New York in the electric atmosphere of a vaudeville extravaganza celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the 1865 publication of Lewis Carroll's literary classic *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

March 10 and 11, James Sutton's *Sleeping Beauty*, danced to music by Tchaikovsky, is set in a tiny and magical fairy kingdom beneath the roots of a great tree. Based on the original scenario devised by the great Russian choreographer Marius Petipa in 1890, a cast of fourteen dancers brings to life Princess Aurora's story from her christening to her glorious wedding celebration.

#### ABOUT NEW YORK THEATRE BALLETT:



Photo credit: Richard Termine

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**Schedule of Performances for New York Theatre Ballet's  
*ONCE UPON A BALLET* Series 2011-2012**

***Nutcracker:***

November 19	Westchester Community College (75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY)
November 26	Paramount Theater (1008 Brown Street, Peekskill, NY)
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December 4, 5	South Orange Performing Arts Center (1 SOPAC Way, South Orange, NJ)
December 9, 10, 11, 17, 18	Florence Gould Hall (55 East 59th Street, New York, NY)

***Cinderella:***

November 12, 13	Florence Gould Hall (55 East 59th Street, New York, NY)
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***Sleeping Beauty:***

March 10, 11	Florence Gould Hall (55 East 59th Street, New York, NY)
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County College of Morris: [www.ccm.edu](http://www.ccm.edu)

**New York Theatre Ballet**  
***2011-2012 Season***

**Keith Michael's All-New *Nutcracker***  
**A 1-hour production for children and families**

New York Theatre Ballet's (NYTB) 2011-2012 season will debut an ALL-NEW production of Keith Michael's *Nutcracker*. This production will join *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Alice-in-Wonderland Follies* in its family-friendly *Once Upon A Ballet* series of delightful hour-long ballets perfectly suited for children ages 3-10, yet sophisticated enough for the most discerning parent.

*The Nutcracker* is set in the style of Art Nouveau circa 1907 featuring innovative choreography by long-time NYTB choreographer, Keith Michael, set design by Gillian Bradshaw-Smith, and costumes by Sylvia Nolan (Resident Costume Designer of the Metropolitan Opera). This *Nutcracker* begins with toymaker Drosselmeyer's Christmas Eve arrival with his newest creation of an endearing Nutcracker doll, and includes a lively mouse battle at midnight, a journey through the Land of Snow and, of course, a sweet romance between a young woman and her Nutcracker Prince. From clockwork imps to a luminous owl that flies above the audience, this perennial classic bursts with energy and excitement.

*The Nutcracker* will premiere in New York City at Florence Gould Hall on December 9, 10, 11, 17 and 18 (see schedule attached). A party at the nearby Tinker Auditorium will follow

the December 9<sup>th</sup> performance. *The Nutcracker* will also tour in Westchester, New Jersey and New Hampshire in November and December.

Each seat at the intimate Florence Gould Hall offers an excellent view of the stage. Tickets are \$31 for children and \$36 for adults. Each price includes a \$1 Florence Gould Hall facility fee and can be purchased at [www.nytb.org](http://www.nytb.org), Ticketmaster (800-982-2787) or the box office at 55 East 59th Street, (212-355-6160). For all other locations, please visit the venue websites for price and purchasing information. Group rates and special subscription prices are available.

#### ABOUT NEW YORK THEATRE BALLET

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**A letter from Choreographer Keith Michael  
on his All-New production of *The Nutcracker*:**

New York Theatre Ballet presented my production of *The Nutcracker* annually for 26 years. This spring Diana Byer, Artistic Director, asked me to envision and choreograph a NEW Nutcracker for the Company! Let the rehearsals begin.

How to talk about this creation of a new interpretation of the classic tale? How to talk about a NEW Nutcracker WHILE it is being created? Even BEFORE it is created?

Just begin – the clock is ticking. Staying within New York Theatre Ballet’s *Once Upon A Ballet* one-hour format, this NEW Nutcracker will still burst with all of the “good parts”: Godfather Drosselmeyer’s Christmas Eve arrival at the Stahlbaum’s household with his newest creation, an endearing Nutcracker doll; Marie, the daughter of the household, enchanted by this curious wooden man and enamored of the attentions of a very real young man, Drosselmeyer’s Nephew; the mouse battle in the midnight living room; the journey through the Land of Snow and onward to The Land of Sweets and Tchaikovsky’s delicious divertissements. It is all there with swirling dancing, luscious new scenery and costumes, and a nod to puppetry (a luminous Owl flies over the front rows of the audience) and the witty juxtapositions of scale that have become signatures of my ballet visual style.

As the choreographer, part of the remarkable team with costume designer Sylvia Taalsohn Nolan, and scenery designer Gillian Bradshaw-Smith, we are excited to be setting this NEW Nutcracker in the style of Art Nouveau circa 1907 – Vienna via Brussels via Barcelona - a NOUVEAU Nutcracker. The international design style of Art Nouveau was a reaction to the academic art of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Whole buildings - exteriors, interiors and furnishings - were constructed as a harmonious whole. Curved lines were functional as well as decorative. The design of the scenery and the costumes, as well as choreographic floor patterns and movement motifs have all sprung from this sensuous interdependency between the parts and the whole. Indeed, our desire to “break from the old” and “envision the new” has been enlivened by the formal structuralism of Art Nouveau.

Returning to read the tale by E.T.A. Hoffman, inspiration for the Petipa/Ivanov and Tchaikovsky’s original 1892 ballet, I was attracted to Drosselmeyer - the clock and mechanical toy maker. It is Drosselmeyer’s entertaining arrival and his fanciful creations that inspire the wonder of the Stahlbaum children.

The visual setting has evolved into a full-stage early 20<sup>th</sup> century mantelpiece – one of Drosselmeyer’s clocks at the center, flanked by the new-fangled modernism of electric Tiffany lamps, a ceramic lighted Christmas Tree and framed photographs of the family. The dancers, dwarfed by this Brobdingnagian world, may be Lilliputian residents or the automaton creations of Drosselmeyer’s craftsmanship themselves!

As well as being colorfully stunning, the mantel clock serves as a visual metaphor throughout the ballet - underlining the magic that can happen between the everyday ticks of time. In the Overture,

the clock opens to reveal the Clockwork “Imps”, turners of the cogs which keep the measurement of time intact. During the Battle, the clock hands are snatched off as swords in the Nutcracker/Queen Mouserinks fight – freeing all from the constraints of time. Luminous icicles freeze the mechanism in the Land of Snow – stopping time so that the magical world can soar.

I wanted Marie, the protagonist of the tale, to dance. I wanted her to have romantic possibilities now, not later when she was “of age” as in the original story. So, Marie, rather than a little girl, is now an alchemy of Shakespeare’s Juliet and the clairvoyant independence of Beverly Penn from Mark Helprin’s *Winter’s Tale*. And Drosselmeyer’s Nephew transforms from Marie’s real-world crush to the amorous apparition of The Nutcracker Prince.

With these protagonists, the ballet of *The Nutcracker* can now open into the splendid romance between a young woman named Marie and her Nutcracker Prince. As in all good fairy tales, there is an act of selfless goodness, love or heroism that instigates a miraculous transformation. Marie’s fearlessness saves the Nutcracker from imminent death at the hands of Queen Mouserinks and her inept band of mouse-ly attendants (a new twist from Hoffmann’s original story) in the midnight living room battle. This, in turn, wins Marie her Nutcracker’s lasting devotion, honoring her with the fantastic journey through the Land of Snow en route to the delectable Land of Sweets – Nutcracker’s kingdom.

A highlight of any production of *The Nutcracker* is Tchaikovsky’s ever-delightful Divertissements. In this Nutcracker Nouveau, The Land of Sweets entertainments are a cornucopia of “ballets within ballets” – intimate worlds bursting with charm and kinetic humor. Highlights:

- Spanish: A fiery matador-ess with flashing skirt.
- Arabian: An elegant shadow-puppet play right out of the Arabian Nights.
- Chinese: A chopsticks tour de force.
- Russian: The Clockwork Imps run wild with their devotion to circular objects.
- Shepherdess and Sheep: An adorable sheep and wolf tale – reminiscence of an earlier time.
- “Dolls”: The mischievous hijinks of two of Drosselmeyer’s mechanical creations – Harlequin and Harlequina
- Waltz of the Flowers: A romantic bouquet for Marie and the Nutcracker
- And the marvelous Tchaikovsky Grand Pas de Deux: A proclamation of love by Marie’s dream-parents – The Sugar Plum Fairy and Her Cavalier Ballets and fantasies do have to end, and Marie wakes up at home enthralled that her vivid dream just may have been real – between the ticking’s of the clock.

--Keith Michael

## New York Theatre Ballet 2011-2012 Season

### New York Theatre Ballet's *Cinderella* for Children Kicks Off Season



Photo Credit: Richard Termine

New York Theatre Ballet's (NYTB) 2011-2012 season begins in November with its popular and stylish *Cinderella*. The production kicks off the family-friendly Once Upon A Ballet series, which brings to life storybook classics in one-hour performances. Choreographed by Donald Mahler and set to music by Prokofiev, *Cinderella* is an ideal introduction to ballet for children ages 3-10, but also sophisticated enough for the most discerning parent to enjoy.

NYTB will perform *Cinderella* on November 12-13 at Florence Gould Hall in New York City, and on January 29-30 at The Egg in Albany, NY. *Cinderella* will "be sure to please grown-ups and children alike" (*The New York Times*). With comical evil stepsisters and a clock that comes to life, the ballet is a delightful blend of charm and humor for the whole family. *Cinderella* features an enchanting set by Gillian Bradshaw-Smith and opulent costumes by Sylvia Nolan (Resident Costume Designer of the Metropolitan Opera).

*Cinderella* leads an all-new production of *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Alice-in-Wonderland Follies* in the *Once Upon a Ballet* series. Please visit [www.nytb.org](http://www.nytb.org) for more information about these performances.

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