



## ***The Hip Hop Nutcracker Celebrates Its 10<sup>th</sup> Season with Show at Playhouse Square on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.***

**'The Hip Hop Nutcracker' Original Special Inspired by the Live Stage Show Coming to Disney+ this Holiday Season**

### **Press Assets**

**Cleveland** – *The Hip Hop Nutcracker*, Tchaikovsky's 130-year-old ballet reimagined as a holiday dance spectacle, will travel to Cleveland on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Playhouse Square this holiday season while celebrating the show's 10<sup>th</sup> season. And to add to the excitement - inspired by the live stage show, the Original Special "The Hip Hop Nutcracker" from Disney Branded Television will stream this holiday season, only on Disney+.

Tickets are available now online at [playhousesquare.org](http://playhousesquare.org) or over the phone at 216-241-6000.

Kicking off in November, the touring production features hip hop pioneer **Kurtis Blow**, the first rapper to be signed by a major label in 1979. Blow is considered one of hip hop's founding fathers and will perform as the MC of *The Hip Hop Nutcracker*. The tour includes a cast of a dozen all-star dancers, an on-stage DJ and an electric violinist who turns the beloved *Nutcracker* score on its head. Preview the production here:

<https://youtu.be/toBO5yHVIhg>

Created in 2013 by director/choreographer **Jennifer Weber** (Oliver nominated and Emmy winner) and writer **Mike Fitelson**, *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* pays homage to the original (George) Balanchine ballet, retold through the modern, self-expressive gaze of hip-hop culture. The production has evolved into a masterpiece due to the creators' never-ending commitment to enhancing the production, and dancers who

continue to raise the bar each year. To date, *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* has been performed more than 200 times in 70 cities.

"I love taking this show on the road each year and creating lifelong memories for our audiences," says Kurtis Walker, known professionally as Kurtis Blow. "And to be celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> season this year is such a big accomplishment for the show."

It's a big accomplishment for Blow as well; who on December 6, 2020, had a heart transplant that has given him a new life. He paved the way for generations of hip hop artists and fans after scoring the first certified gold record rap song in 1980, "The Breaks." Blow is also responsible for "Christmas Rappin'," acclaimed for being the first rap holiday song.

***The Hip Hop Nutcracker*** is executive produced by 3 time Tony winner **Eva Price** and features an exciting group of performers who bring her imaginatively modern show to life. The cast includes Ann-Sylvia Clark as *Maria-Clara*; Gabriel Emphasis as *The Nutcracker*; Liliana "Lily" Frias as *Mom*; Bryan Longchamp as *Dad*; Lisa "Lboogie" Bauford as *Drosselmeyer*; Randi Freitas as *Mouse King, Ensemble*; Anthony "Omen" Cabrera as *Toy, Ensemble*; Jackie "JK-47" Agudo as *Tea, Ensemble*; Zuce Morales as *Toy/Ensemble*; Seth "Reaktion" Hillard as *Russian, Ensemble*; Jon "Gifted" Jimenez as *Chocolate/Ensemble*; Dustin "D-Payne" Payne as *Flute, Ensemble*; Ethan Evaro as *Swing/Understudy*; Teofilo V. Recitas II "DJ Boo" as *Performance DJ*; and Kurtis Blow as *MC*.

Just like the classic Nutcracker story, in *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* Maria-Clara and the Nutcracker Prince go on a dream adventure battling a gang of mice, visiting the land of sweets and learning the lessons of the holiday season. Innovative digital graffiti and visuals transform the landscape of E.T.A. Hoffmann's beloved story from traditional 19th century Germany to the vibrant, diverse sights and sounds of contemporary New York City. Through the modern, self-expressive gaze of hip hop culture, the dynamic performers of *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* celebrate the magic of the entire holiday season on the most inclusive holiday of them all – New Year's Eve, a time for new beginnings.

For more information about where to purchase tickets to ***The Hip Hop Nutcracker***, visit [www.hiphopnutcracker.com](http://www.hiphopnutcracker.com).

For the latest news and updates follow ***The Hip Hop Nutcracker*** on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) (@hiphopnutcracker), and [YouTube](#); #HipHopNutcracker.

### 2022 Tour Dates for ***The Hip Hop Nutcracker***

<b>Date</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Venue</b>
November 14	Riverside, CA	Fox Performing Arts Center (preview)
November 16	Los Angeles, CA	Dolby Theatre
November 17	Oakland, CA	Paramount Theatre
November 19	Bellingham, WA	Mt. Baker Theatre
November 20	Tacoma, WA	Theatre on the Square
November 22	Boise, ID	Morrison Center
November 25	Madison, WI	Overture Hall
November 26	Milwaukee, WI	Uihlein Hall

November 27	Grand Rapids, MI	Devos Hall
November 30	Pittsburgh, PA	Benedum Center
December 1	Cincinnati, OH	Taft Theatre
December 2	Cleveland, OH	KeyBank State Theatre
December 3	Springfield, OH	Clark State PAC
December 4	Columbus, OH	Palace
December 6	Burlington, VT	The Flynn
December 7	Providence, RI	PPAC
December 8	Richmond, VA	Altria Theater
December 10	Sarasota, FL	Van Wezel
December 11	Coral Springs, FL	The Center
December 12	Jacksonville, FL	Florida Theatre
December 13	Atlanta, GA	Fox Theatre
December 14	Greensboro, NC	Tanger Center
December 15	Norfolk, VA	Chrysler Hall
December 17	Newark, NJ	NJPAC
December 19-22	North Bethesda, MD	Strathmore Theatre
December 23	Durham, NC	DPAC
December 26-27	Charlotte, NC	Knight Theatre
December 29	Worcester, MA	Hanover
December 30	New Haven, CT	Shubert
December 31	Hartford, CT	Bushnell Theatre - Mortensen Hall

### **About Maximum Entertainment Productions**

**MEP** is a producing, developing and management company founded by Avram Freedberg, Mary Beth Dale and Eva Price, and is joined by Managing Director/General Manager Carl Flanigan. Select Broadway, Off-Broadway and Touring credits include *Titanique* (Off-Broadway 2022); *What the Constitution Means to Me* (National Tour 2021); August Wilson's *Jitney* (National Tour 2019-20); *Cruel Intentions: The '90s Musical*; *Small Mouth Sounds*; *Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons on Broadway!*; *The Hip Hop Nutcracker*; *The Lion*; *Verso*; *Black Light*; *Born for This* (LA and Boston); *50 Shades! The Musical*; *Ivy + Bean The Musical*; *Voca People*; and *Colin Quinn: Long Story Short*. [www.maximumcompany.com](http://www.maximumcompany.com)

### **About NJPAC**

New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), located in downtown Newark, New Jersey, is among the largest performing arts centers in the United States. It is the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey — where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. As New Jersey's Town Square, NJPAC brings diverse communities together, providing access to all and showcasing the State's and the world's best artists, while acting as a leading catalyst in the revitalization of its home city. Through its extensive Arts Education programs, NJPAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts. NJPAC has attracted more than 10.5 million visitors since opening its doors in 1997, reached almost two million children and families through its education and community programs, and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents. Visit [www.njpac.org](http://www.njpac.org) for more information.

### **"The Hip Hop Nutcracker"**

***Coming Soon to Disney+***

Run-D.M.C.'s Rev Run brings us along for a hip-hop reimagining of The Nutcracker ballet set in New York City. It's the night of the annual New Year's Eve Block Party and Maria-Clara's (Caché Melvin) Mom and Pop (Allison Holker Boss and Stephen "tWitch' Boss) aren't getting along...and it's bringing her down. Maria-Clara embarks on a holiday adventure to bring her parents back together, finding help along the way from the magical toymaker, Drosselmeyer (Comfort Fedoke), and the Nutcracker (Du-Shant "Fik-shun" Stegall) who she brings to life.

Maria-Clara's journey takes her from the streets of New York to fantasy worlds where she battles with Mice and Toy Soldiers (Viktor White, BDash, Kevin "Konkrete" Davis"), and back in time to the Land of Sweets in order to find the key to unlock her holiday wish. Will it be enough to rekindle her parents' lost love before the clock strikes midnight? Featuring best-in-class dancers Mikhail Baryshnikov, Tiler Peck, KidaTheGreat AKA Kida Burns, the Jabbawoockeez as magical snowflakes, and more.

Produced by Done+Dusted. Executive Producers are Raj Kapoor, Katy Mullan, Jennifer Weber, Eva Price and NappyTabs. Choreographers include NappyTabs, Hokuto 'HOK' Konishi, Phillip Chbeeb, Makenzie Dustman, Luther Brown, D-Trix, and Jennifer Weber. Nikki Parsons is director.

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