

MUSIC CENTER  
**STRATHMORE**

*Strathmore*  
*New Jersey Performing Arts Center*  
*and*  
*Executive Producer Eva Price*  
*present*

THE  
**HIPHOP**  
*Nutcracker*

*Monday–Thursday, December 19–22, 2022, 8pm*

**ADAPTED BY**  
**MIKE FITELSON**

Based on *The Nutcracker* by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

**WITH SPECIAL GUEST MC**  
**KURTIS BLOW**

JACKIE “JK-47” AGUDO LISA “L-BOOGIE” BAUFORD DJ BOO ANTHONY “OMEN” CABRERA  
ANN-SYLVIA CLARK HALIMA DODO GABRIEL EMPHASIS ETHAN EVARO RANDI “RASCAL” FREITAS  
LILY FRIAS SETH “REAKTION” HILLARD BRYAN LONGCHAMP JON “GIFTED” JIMENEZ  
VIVEK MENON ZUCE MORALES TYLER SINGLETARY

**PRODUCED BY**

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
JOHN SCHREIBER, *President & CEO*  
DAVID RODRIGUEZ, *Executive Producer*  
SIMMA LEVINE, *Producer*

**LIGHTING DESIGNER**

BRANDON STIRLING BAKER

**VIDEO DESIGNER**

MOE SHAHROOZ

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**

ASHLEIGH KING

**ASSOCIATE  
CHOREOGRAPHER**

RANDI “RASCAL” FREITAS

**ORIGINAL BEATS &  
REMIXES**

DJ BOO

**COMPANY MANAGER**

ABRAM BEST

**PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR**

JOHN FORTUNATO

**SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING**

BIZ CHICA MEDIA

**TOUR MARKETING**

ALLIED GLOBAL MARKETING

**PRESS REPRESENTATIVE**

TELLEM GRODY PR

**GENERAL MANAGER**

MAXIMUM ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTIONS

**EXCLUSIVE TOUR DIRECTION**

BROADWAY & BEYOND THEATRICALS

**DIRECTED & CHOREOGRAPHED BY**

**JENNIFER WEBER**

featuring freestyles by the Company

Originally produced by the United Palace of Cultural Arts  
Mike Fitelson, *Executive Director*

## CAST

Special Guest MC.....	KURTIS BLOW
Tea/Ensemble.....	JACKIE “JK-47” AGUDO
Drosselmeyer.....	LISA “LBOOGIE” BAUFORD
Toy/Ensemble.....	ANTHONY “OMEN” CABRERA
Maria-Clara.....	ANN-SYLVA CLARK
The Nutcracker.....	GABRIEL EMPHASI
Mouse King/Ensemble.....	RANDI “RASCAL” FREITAS
Mom.....	LILY FRIAS
Candy/Ensemble.....	SETH “REAKTION” HILLARD
Dad.....	BRYAN LONGCHAMP
Chocolate/Ensemble.....	JON “GIFTED” JIMENEZ
Toy/Ensemble.....	ZUCE MORALES
Flute/Ensemble.....	TYLER SINGLETARY

Performance DJ: DJ BOO  
Violinist: VIVEK MENON  
Swings: HALIMA DODO, ETHAN EVARO  
Dance Captain: RANDI “RASCAL” FREITAS

## PRODUCTION STAFF CREDITS

Assistant Company Manager/COVID Safety Manager.....	JANINE PUÑALES
Production Manager .....	SHANE CASSIDY
Associate Lighting Designer.....	COBY CHASMAN-BECK
Moving Light Programmer.....	JEFF ENGLANDER
Wardrobe Supervisor.....	CHLOE CADARETTE
Wardrobe Consultant.....	CAMBRIA CHICHI
Original Company Associate Director/Choreographer.....	TAEKO KOJI
Original Costume Design.....	WHITNEY ADAMS
Director of People & Inclusion.....	COLETTE LUCKIE

General Management

### MAXIMUM ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTIONS

EVA PRICE CARL FLANIGAN

JAMES FORBES SHEEHAN REBECCA EASTON ABRAM BEST JANINE PUÑALES  
JOSH ALTMAN CASEY McDERMOTT KATHERINE DAUGHERTY SIERRA LANCASTER  
ECHELLE CHILDERS AVRAM FREEDBERG MARY BETH DALE

Exclusive Tour Direction

### BROADWAY AND BEYOND

#### THEATRICALS

Tracey McFarland

Barbara Cooley Robin Mishik-Jett

Social Media Marketing

### BIZ CHICA MEDIA

Tracy Chapman-Nolan  
Mauricio Urquilla  
Khomari Flash

Krystle Carmona  
Kelly Chapman  
Gilesa Thomas

Tour Marketing

### ALLIED GLOBAL MARKETING

Andrew Damer

Jennifer Gallagher Scott Praefke Hayden Anderson  
Adina Hsu Amenkha Sembenu Emily Toppen

Physical Therapy by **NEURO TOUR PHYSICAL THERAPY, INC.**

Kennedy Gray, LAT, ATC



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## PLACE

New Year's Eve—Uptown, USA

## PLOT

### ACT 1

During the annual uptown holiday street party, Maria-Clara is upset by her parents' constant bickering. The mysterious Drosselmeyer appears, bringing magical toys to the party. Drosselmeyer then introduces Maria-Clara to a street vendor selling roasted nuts, who catches her eye because he is different from the other boys on the block. After the party breaks up, Maria-Clara heads home, but on her way, she runs into the menacing Mouse Crew. The Nutcracker, aided by a magic pair of sneakers, defeats the Mouse King and the couple enjoys the romance of winter's first snowfall.

*The Hip Hop Nutcracker* will be performed with one 20-minute intermission.

### ACT 2

Drosselmeyer meets Maria-Clara and The Nutcracker and takes them back in time to the Land of Sweets nightclub on New Year's Eve, 1984. Invisible, the couple watches the party-goers show off the dance styles of the day. Suddenly Maria-Clara realizes she is witnessing the night her parents first met and is overcome by how they were once deeply in love. Back in the present, and with a little more magic, Maria-Clara and The Nutcracker help Mom and Dad reconcile. The community joins them in the celebration.

## BIOGRAPHIES

**KURTIS BLOW** (*Special Guest MC*) is one of the founders and creators of recorded rap. A timeless artist and hip hop legend, Blow blazed the trail for early hip hop artists and continues to carry the torch for hip hop music in new arenas. Kurtis is credited with many accolades, and was the first rapper to ever be signed to a major label, release a certified gold rap album (*The Breaks*), tour the United States and Europe, record a national commercial (Sprite), use the drum machine, sample and sample loop, release a rap music video, and become a millionaire. In 1979, at the age of 20, Blow became the first rapper to be signed by a major label. He released *Christmas Rappin'*, which sold over 400,000 copies and became an annual classic. Its gold follow-up, *The Breaks*, helped ignite an international "rap attack," solidifying the new art form. He released 10 albums over 11 years and his early projects made him an instant

success at home and across Europe. Pioneering records like *Party Time* introduced the fusion of rap and go-go. Hit songs like "8 Million Stories," "AJ," and "Basketball" were simply ahead of their time, and still get spins by DJs today. Fellow rap legend Nas debuted at #1 on the *Billboard* Charts with a cover of Blow's "If I Ruled the World" in 1997. Beyond his own hits, Blow contributed to the success of The Fat Boys and Run DMC. In fact, Run began his career billed as "The Son of Kurtis Blow." Among countless others, Wyclef Jean, Lovebug Starski, Sweet Gee, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Full Force, and Russell Simmons all have been produced by or have worked with Blow in the past. Blow's multidisciplinary skillset has taken him across the country and overseas to score, produce, and act in various films. Most notably, he played a large role in the production of the hit film *Krush Groove*. *The New York Daily News* called his cinematic works a "noteworthy, dynamic presence." Blow's reach transcends that of your typical entertainer. He has completed multiple world tours since the turn of the new millennium, and continues to work on other creative endeavors. His innate ability to reach people is evident in his work as an activist, radio personality, and most recently, an ordained minister and leader of the Hip Hop Church. Artists still pay their respects to Blow's trailblazing in a number of ways. His influence has been mentioned in seemingly every important hip-hop film in the past decade, from *Get Rich or Die Tryin'* to *Notorious* and *Straight Outta Compton*. He has a prominent presence on television as well, with his music appearing on shows such as *Dancing With The Stars* and *SportsCenter*. He also was an associate producer on the Netflix hit series *The Get Down*. Outside of music, Blow has long been a very spiritual man. He went back to school to become an ordained minister, and has been preaching at churches around the world. His work with The Hip-Hop Church has helped bridge the gap between the art form and the church. Education has long been important to Blow. He has been a champion of higher education, and advocates for bringing hip-hop culture into the curriculums of our institutions. The rap pioneer has given talks at schools such as Berklee College of Music in Boston and CalArts in California and plans to continue to carry the culture into the classroom.

**JACKIE "JK-47" AGUDO** (*Tea / Ensemble*) aka Bgirl JK-47 of Diamonds In The Rough, Supreme Beingz, and sponsored dancer for Monster Energy, can serve as a role model for multi-talented, hard-working artists everywhere. A recognized international competitor, she took top prize at Red Bull's very first BC One Camp USA B-Girl Cypher in 2018. In addition, she has performed on a plethora of stages and is now currently on tour with *The Hip Hop Nutcracker*. She tours throughout the US and the world as

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a workshop facilitator teaching, encouraging and inspiring people of all ages with her love and passion for the culture and art of street dance.

**LISA “LBOOGIE” BAUFORD** (*Drosselmeyer*) is an LA-based dancer, choreographer, writer, actor, and educator who hails from St. Petersburg, Florida. Bauford recently finished production on a Las Vegas residency at The Stratosphere with iLuminate. She also completed her third year with the national tour of *The Hip-Hop Nutcracker* as Drosselmeyer, which also features hip-hop legend Kurtis Blow. In 2012, Bauford signed with Flipz Entertainment and appeared Off-Broadway for iLuminate, a company that fuses dance and technology, in the Artist of Light series at Duke Theatre, and later at New World Stages. Performing as Starlight Jones, the character Bauford created for Artists of Light, she appeared in a CBS March Madness commercial, which she also choreographed. Bauford has also appeared in Google’s Made with Code commercial, on the *Wendy Williams Show*, *Good Morning America*, and on *America’s Got Talent*. She is a member of iLuminate’s World Tour corporate cast as an educator, performer, and dance captain, roles which have taken her to China, Egypt, France, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, and Uzbekistan.

**DJ BOO** (*Original Beats & Remixes / Performance DJ*) is an NY-based Fil-Am DJ/musician who has shared the stage with Ghostface Killah, DJ Kool Herc (The Godfather of Hip Hop), KRS-1, Snoop Dogg, and Common. He has backed wordsmiths like Eternia, The Juggaknots, and Omar Offendum. In 2014, he served as a cultural ambassador for the US in Nepal, Mozambique, and Swaziland where he performed and conducted hip-hop workshops alongside The Nomadic Wax Collective as part of the American Music Abroad Tour. He has performed at Jacob’s Pillow with Brooklyn based hip-hop dance company, Decadancetheatre. During spring 2022, Boo created and performed an original piece sampling the work of Igor Stravinsky at Jennifer Weber’s “Stravinsky Imagined” at The Baryshnikov Arts Center.

**ANTHONY “OMEN” CABRERA** (*Toy / Ensemble*) was born on November 7, 1983. A vivacious child, he always loved to dance—it didn’t matter if it was a family gathering or a large party. While growing up in Boston and the Dominican Republic, he discovered hip-hop and breakdancing (Bboying) through television, but it wasn’t until his high school years that he started training in Bboying. Soon after, he realized his natural ability for dancing and improved rapidly. With the body awareness to control the acrobatic

elements of Bboying and the creativity to develop an original style, Cabrera was quickly recognized by peers and established Bboys of the dance community. Currently, Cabrera is part of the world-renowned Bboy crew based out of New York City, Supreme Beings. In addition to winning numerous solo and group competitions at both the national and international level, Cabrera has contributed to the dance community by sitting on judging panels and conducting workshops. As a performer, he is part of both G-Force Entertainment and Raw Miami Entertainment. When he is not on board a Carnival cruise ship as a performer, Cabrera keeps busy performing for music artists, corporate parties, clubs, and street shows. His other professional interests include modeling and acting.

**ANN-SYLVA CLARK** (*Maria-Clara*) was born and raised in Norway. She started out as a gymnast at an early age, but later on focused her interest more toward dance. She studied dance at Flow Dance Academy. She performed with Snoop Dogg and Pharrell Williams at the 2006 MTV Europe Music Awards (EMAs) in Denmark. Since moving to New York, Clark has toured the US and the United Kingdom. She has also performed on television shows including, *Good Day New York* on Fox 5, CBS, PBS, ESPN, Telemundo and *Fake Off* on TruTV. She has also performed in music videos for artists such as Alicia Keys, Styles P, JBalvin and Ben L’Oncle Soul. TV viewers can find her in commercials for the US Open, Samsung, Verizon, Digicel, and Reebok. Clark also played the role of the Queen in the Bridgerton experience *The Queen’s Ball*, a Netflix and Shondaland immersive production.

**HALIMA DODO** (*Swing*) is a dance artist who captivates audiences on screen and stage. She has performed for major recording artists like Meek Mill, DJ Khaled, Justin Bieber, Daddy Yankee, Anitta, and Yemi Alade, web shows on Pop Sugar and Steezy, and various indie/feature films—including Ryan Murphy’s *The Prom* and Beyoncé’s *Black Is King*. Through dance, Dodo has enjoyed a career that goes beyond the limits of commercial and community—immersing her passion in culture-driven spaces at Movement Lifestyle, Vessel and Voyage Dance Company, Motus the Company, Cambio Studio, and more. She currently shares time between Los Angeles, California and Miami, Florida where she continues to explore and celebrate genuine expressions in hip-hop, house, dancehall, and experimental fusions in dance culture.

**GABRIEL EMPHASIS** (*The Nutcracker*) Born in the Dominican Republic, his passion for the arts started at an early age. In 2005, Emphasis discovered breaking, the street dance that

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inspired him to pursue a career in dance. Fascinated by the acrobatics and stylish movement, his drive to develop this passion led him to NYC, a mecca to many artists. There, his passion caught the eye of many companies, agents, and producers, who got him to collaborate with many artists from different backgrounds. Having never taken a dance class before, these opportunities inspired him to explore new ways of movement, which along with his dedication lifted his career to what it is now. Today, his career has allowed him to bring his love for the arts to more than 20 countries around the world, and has given him countless opportunities to work for productions, brands, and artists he could have only dreamed of as a kid.

**ETHAN EVARO** (*Swing*) A San Diego, California native, Evaro moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in the entertainment industry while getting an education. He graduated with a BFA in commercial dance from Hussian College In Studio, Los Angeles in 2021. Though specializing in break dancing, Evaro has trained extensively in a variety of dance styles and prides himself on his versatility. He recently completed a Europe and United Kingdom tour for the renowned drag queen, Vanessa Vanjie Mateo, and has also performed in Janet Jackson's *Unbreakable* tour. Along with these accomplishments, Evaro has also performed and worked at a variety of charity events including, A Salute to Teachers and The Natural High Anniversary. Evaro strives to bring his breakdancing roots and a calm, hardworking attitude into all his professional endeavors.

**RANDI "RASCAL" FREITAS** (*Mouse King, Ensemble, Associate Choreographer, Dance Captain*) is a versatile dancer, choreographer, and master educator based in Los Angeles, California. Freitas has performed with artists such as Justin Timberlake, SZA, Travis Scott, Karol G, and Kaytranada, and she can be seen in commercials for AT&T, Toyota, and Target. She has performed on *Jimmy Kimmel*, *James Corden*, *The Ellen Show*, *The American Music Awards*, *The Kid's Choice Awards*, *The Grammy's*, and more. "Rascal" Randi has toured the nation as Associate Director/Choreographer of the Emmy Award winning *The Hip Hop Nutcracker*, toured Japan with the Breaking theater show *The Battle*, recently wrapped filming on *Spirited*, Apple's newest musical starring Will Ferrell and Ryan Reynolds, and Disney+ *The Hip Hop Nutcracker Holiday* film, both to be released this Christmas. In the underground scene, Freitas is active and was not only the 2021 RedBull BC One Boston Winner, but also a 2021 RedBull BC One US National Finalist. Recently she was a Bronze Medalist in the Arizona Open Regional Olympic Qualifiers. As an educator, Freitas taught hip-hop at The University of

Southern California and CalArts, she has also taught throughout the United States, and internationally in France, Belgium, Canada, Thailand, and Mexico. In addition to her work in the industry, community, and institution, she is currently in partnership with NIKE as a consultant for branding and specialty shoe building. Most recently, she has begun her own training company, OMEGA Flow Floorwork, which trains dancers around the world. While her training program is not exclusive to women, it stands as a space of integrity for them to learn and grow.

**LILY FRIAS** (*Mom*) Born and raised in Mexico, Frias has been dancing for 13 years and is currently working as a professional dancer in Los Angeles. Beginning her career as a technical dancer, Frias found her true calling when she mastered the hip-hop styles and the art of freestyle, specifically the styles of waacking and popping. She has been featured in a variety of productions, including *So You Think You Can Dance* (Season 12), *America's Best Dance Crew* (Season 7), Cirque du Soleil, dance battles, national commercials, and Red Bull BC One 2018. She is also known for teaching and performing in the US, Europe, Latin America, and Japan, individually and as a part of her crew known as Femme Fatale.

**SETH "REAKTION" HILLARD** (*Candy/Ensemble*) attended Toledo School for the Arts where he crafted his love for dance and choreography. At a very young age Hillard fell in love with hip-hop culture paying special attention to the element of B-boying. Combining uncanny flexibility, imaginative versatility, and meticulous musicality he made a name for himself as B-boy Reaktion winning Midwest and National Bboy competitions. While evolving his craft in dance, Hillard also developed other skills in tumbling, skateboarding, and martial arts like Capoeira. In 2012, he packed up his dream and moved to LA to pursue a career in dance. Within a matter of a few months Hillard landed his target agency, booked his first audition, and was working as a professional dancer. Michael Jackson's video, *Love Never Felt So Good* and Nick Cannon's video, *Looking For A Dream* are just some of the work Hillard has on his blooming resume. Featured in commercials for Pepsi, Men's Warehouse, and a VH1 Super Bowl spot, the extremely humble and always smiling Hillard has grown fast in the entertainment industry. He credits his advances in dance to working with top choreographers such as Chuck Maldonado, Tone & Rich, Oth'than Burnside, and many more.

**BRYAN LONGCHAMP** (*Dad*) Brooklyn native, has danced professionally for over a decade in styles ranging from hip-hop to Krump and popping. Longchamp is a core member of

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the dance company iLuminate, known as Team iLuminate on popular television show *America's Got Talent*. With the company, he has traveled and performed in countries such as Mexico, Hong Kong, Malaysia, the Bahamas, and Saudi Arabia to name a few. He has also performed on some of the biggest Broadway stages. You may have seen Longchamp in music videos such as *Can You Hear Me* by Omarion or *Tout et Goure* by Luz and the Yakuza or even in his performances on *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*. As a dance educator, Longchamp has been teaching for more than seven years, and trains both children and adults to fall in love with dance and be the best that they can be!

**JON "GIFTED" JIMENEZ** (*Chocolate / Ensemble*) Born in El Paso and raised in Dallas, Texas, Jimenez grew his movement artistry in the heart of the Dallas metroplex, becoming one of the most influential leaders in the community. He now shares his knowledge, love, and experience for dance and how it contributed to his mental health along his path. Providing insight into the culture while exposing the depths of where movement can ignite the human spirit. Fun Fact: Does a lot of interesting voices and sounds. If you hear a bird in the theater, it's probably him.

**VIVEK MENON** (*Violinist*) is based in New York City. Since he first picked up a violin at the age of three, Menon has used music as a spiritual form of self-expression. He is classically trained, and has worked with notable classical musicians such as Jennifer Koh, Ray Chen, and members of the Kronos and Emerson string quartets. Menon loves to experiment with what is possible on the violin, which has led to collaborations in several genres. Most recently, his violin arrangements on *Lei Line Eon*, the latest album by British electronic musician Iglooghost, were described as "gorgeous" (*Loud and Quiet Magazine*), "haunting" (ourculture), and "eloquent and inviting...[lending] a bittersweet timelessness" (*The Guardian*). Menon is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in violin performance at Stony Brook University, where he studies with Phil Setzer.

**ZUCE MORALES** (*Toy / Ensemble*) was born and raised in Puebla, Mexico, where she began her formal dance training at the age of 15. Then she moved to Los Angeles in 2016 when she was 19 years old in order to pursue her dreams as a professional dancer. She is trained in hip-hop, waacking, popping, house, and other dance forms but her specialty is locking. While she trained at the legendary Debbie Reynolds Dance Studios, Movement Lifestyle and Millennium, she attended Glendale College where she got two certifications, one in Dance Teaching and another in Choreography and Dance Technique Studies. Currently,

Morales is focused on making the locking dance community grow in Los Angeles, by teaching at professional studios and hosting free community sessions in the area called "LA Locking Lab" Her goal is to give opportunities to the new generation of dancers who care and respect the legacy of the street dance OGs.

**TYLER SINGLETARY** (*Flute, Ensemble*) started his dance journey in Saint Petersburg, Florida and is now based in Los Angeles. He's been dancing for more than 10 years, starting off in the street community, and quickly finding himself in the commercial industry. He works as a commercial dancer and battles/judges street style dance events. Some of his accomplishments include winning WOD Orlando and Red Bull DYS LA. He's danced for artists including The Jacksons, Kirk Franklin, Giveon, and more. Singletary's involvement in both communities gives him a unique perspective on hip-hop dance. He recognizes this dance as a culture and a way of life

**JENNIFER WEBER** (*Director & Choreographer*) Broadway/West End: *& Juliet* (Olivier Nomination), *KPOP*. Off-Broadway: *KPOP* (Ars Nova, Lortel Nomination), *Teenage Dick* (The Public), *Cruel Intentions* (LPR). Film: *Disney Zombies 2*, *While You Were Gone* (Emmy Win), *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* (PBS Special Live Capture, Emmy Win). Weber recently collaborated with Disney as executive producer and choreographer to create a new film version of *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* coming this holiday season to Disney+. TV: *America's Got Talent*, *Good Morning America*, *Strictly Come Dancing* (UK). Choreography commissions include work for New York City Center, Baryshnikov Arts Center, and Tulsa Ballet.

**MIKE FITELSON** (*Writer / Co-Creator*) is the executive producer at the United Palace, the 91-year-old Wonder Theatre in Washington Heights, Manhattan's 4<sup>th</sup> largest theatre. In 2014, as the executive director of the nonprofit United Palace of Cultural Arts (UPCA) he co-created *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* with Jennifer Weber, adapting the story and supplying the images for the scenery, and produced its premiere. Fitelson has worked to build the Northern Manhattan arts community for 18 years. He co-founded the annual arts festival, the Uptown Arts Stroll, in 2003; served in every capacity of the Manhattan Times, the bilingual community newspaper of Washington Heights and Inwood, from 2002-2011; and helped found the nonprofit Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance in 2006. He is thrilled the show is returning to the Paramount Theatre in his hometown of Oakland, California, where he watched his first *Nutcracker* in the early 1980s.

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**ASHLEIGH KING** (*Associate Director*) is a DC-area performer, Helen Hayes award-winning choreographer, and teaching artist. Most recently, she served as assistant director to Moritz Von Stuelpnagel and Movement Coordinator for *Teenage Dick* at Woolly Mammoth. Her work has been seen in *Working: A Musical* with the Labor Heritage Foundation at Black Lives Matter Plaza, *Fairview* at Woolly Mammoth, Second City's *Love Factually* at the Kennedy Center, and Artscentric, Adventure Theatre MTC, and Toby's Dinner Theater. Her performance credits include multiple productions at The Kennedy Center, Olney Theatre, Ford's Theatre, Studio Theatre, and Signature Theatre.

**BRANDON STIRLING BAKER** (*Lighting Designer*) is an award-winning lighting designer for theatre, opera and dance. His work can be seen on stages throughout the country and abroad including Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Guggenheim Bilbao, New York City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Hong Kong Ballet, Opera Philadelphia, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Miami City Ballet, Boston Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Houston Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, Semperoper Dresden, Staatsballett Berlin and many others. Recent collaborations include new works by Justin Peck, Sufjan Stevens, Savion Glover, William Forsythe, Anthony Roth Costanzo, Shepard Fairey, Benjamin Millepied, Jamar Roberts, and Daniel Buren. In 2019, Baker received the prestigious Knight of Illumination Award for Dance.

**MOE SHAHROOZ** (*Video Designer*) is a video artist based in New York City. He specializes in animation, editing, and interactive video design. He has worked on a wide variety of projects ranging from television shows, award shows, fashion shows, music videos, and numerous theatrical productions. His work has been showcased at more than 100 theaters around the world. He holds a master's degree from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. He is also known for performing and producing music under the moniker I. Sheik. He is proud to be working with *The Hip Hop Nutcracker*.

**Laurien de Munck** (*Stylist*) A young female from Belgium, De Munck transitioned from being a dancer to pursuing her passion for styling. Since the beginning of her journey in this field, her dedication to the work and motivation to grow has led her to work on exceptional projects and experiences. She took her time to explore a combination of collaborations, commissioned works, and side projects. Throughout her career, she's had the great fortune to be a part of some truly inspiring projects, while meeting many

influential and creative individuals along the way. de Munck believes in working together to create a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. She has worked and styled for multiple magazines and brands such as DOLLS KILL. Her personal touches for individuals in the industry have changed careers and have helped booked numerous jobs. She continues striving to link happiness from the inside with radiating personal beauty on the outside, whilst always respecting the soul and energy of the clientele.

**JOHN N. FORTUNATO** (*Production Supervisor*) is thrilled to be joining *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* team! Broadway: *Mr. Saturday Night*, Off-Broadway: *Exception To The Rule*, National Tour: *Cats*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *How The Grinch Stole Christmas: The Musical*, *Disney's The Lion King*, *Bat Out of Hell: The Musical* and others. Other Credits include *Rodgers and Hammerstein: A Broadway Celebration* with The Transport Group, *Mamma Mia!* at Skylight Music Theatre, Productions with Nevada Ballet Theatre, and Syracuse Opera. Fortunato thanks his family for their endless support. Ithaca College alum and proud member of Actors Equity Association.

**SAMANTHA L. ROBBINS** she/her (*Production Stage Manager*) Credits include Off-Broadway: *A Delicate Balance* (Transport Group), *Sanctuary City*, *runboyrun! In Old Age* (New York Theatre Workshop), *Much Ado About Nothing* (The Public Theater); Bard's SummerScape *Dom Juan*; Touring: Barbra Streisand's *The Music The Mem'ries The Magic*. Happy to be joining *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* team! Forever grateful to my friends and family for their support. Proud member of Actors' Equity Association.

**ALLIED GLOBAL MARKETING** (*Tour Marketing*) is a full-service integrated marketing agency working with the world's largest entertainment, sports, consumer and lifestyle brands, including 75+ Broadway shows over two decades. Current Tours: *Ain't Too Proud*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Hadestown*, *Mean Girls*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Pretty Woman*, *RENT*, and *Tootsie*. Upcoming tours: *Beetlejuice*, *Elf The Musical*, *Funny Girl*, *The Hip Hop Nutcracker*, and *Mrs. Doubtfire*.

**BIZ CHICA MEDIA** (*Social Media*) is a black and woman-owned full service digital marketing agency founded 14 years ago by Tracy Chapman-Nolan. Select clients include: Disney Theatrical Touring: *Frozen* and *The Lion King*, The Pulitzer Prize winning musical *A Strange Loop* (Broadway 2022), *Wicked*, *Jagged Little Pill*, *Tina*:

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*The Tina Turner Musical*, *MJ: The Musical*, Disney/ABC Television Group, The Theatre Leadership Project, Black Theatre United, Google, The RLJ Companies, The McBride Sisters, and Williamstown Theatre Festival.

**MEP** (*General Manager*) 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 2019–2020); *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*.

**NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJ PAC)**, located in downtown Newark, New Jersey, is America's most diverse performing arts center, and the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey, where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. NJ PAC 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, NJ PAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts. NJ PAC has attracted nearly 10.5 million visitors since opening its doors in 1997, and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents.

**EVA PRICE** (*Executive Producer*) is an NYCLU/ACLU honoree and a three-time Tony award-winning producer. Her productions have garnered four Olivier Awards, two Grammy Awards, two Emmy Awards, and 19 Tony Awards. Current and notable productions include: *& Juliet* (Broadway); *Jagged Little Pill* (National Tour); *Titanique* (Off-Broadway); *Mindplay* (Geffen Playhouse); *A Transparent Musical* (Center Theatre Group). Selected credits: *Jagged Little Pill*; *Oklahoma!* (2 Tony Awards, best musical revival, national tour, London); *Mr. Saturday Night*; *Tina – The Tina Turner Musical*; *What the Constitution Means to Me* (2 Tony nominations, national tour 2020); *Angels in America* (Tony Award, Best Musical); *Dear Evan Hansen* (Tony Award, Best Musical); *On Your Feet!*; *Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons on Broadway!*; *Peter and the Starcatcher*; *Colin Quinn: Long Story Short*; *Annie*; *The Merchant of Venice* starring Al Pacino; Carrie Fisher's *Wishful Drinking*; *The Addams Family*; as well as several solo shows and critically acclaimed concerts starring The Temptations & The Four Tops; Kathy Griffin; Lewis Black; and Hershey Felder. Off-Broadway: *Sanctuary City* (NYTW); *Cruel Intentions: The '90s Musical* (le Poisson Rouge, National Tour); *Found*; *The Lion*; and Bess Wohl's critically acclaimed *Small Mouth Sounds*. International and Touring Credits include: *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* (Emmy Award for PBS Special Live Capture); *The Magic School Bus, Live! The Climate Challenge*; and *Ella*, a bio musical about the life and music of Ella Fitzgerald. For five years Price worked as an assignment editor and coordinating producer for special projects at *ABC News*, spending her last year producing and reporting on stories relating to Broadway for ABCNEWS.COM.