

The Nutcracker and the Mouse King

Conceived and written by JOE COSENTINO

Music and lyrics by SUSAN MONDZAK

*Based on the Nutcracker and the King of Mice
by E.T.A. Hoffman*

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STORY OF THE PLAY

This much loved and familiar tale is most familiar as a ballet. However, it began as a classic story of literature by a German author, E.T.A. Hoffmann. The story involves an eccentric inventor whose nephew has been turned into a nutcracker doll by a curse. In order to break the enchantment, the Nutcracker must destroy the Mouse King and find the love of a maiden even in his wooden state. Clara, the inventor's God-child, receives the Nutcracker as a Christmas gift and falls instantly in love with the wooden doll. In a fantasy world, where all the toys come to life, Clara helps the Nutcracker get rid of the evil Mouse King in a thrilling sword fight. The Nutcracker then turns into his former Princely self and marries Clara in a heartwarming finale.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

The Nutcracker and the Mouse King was first produced by Interborough Repertory Theater and toured through Encore Performing Arts, Inc. of New York.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(7M, 7F + ensemble can be doubled to 2M, 3F.)

CLARA: Seventeen.
PRINCESS PIRLIPAT: Seventeen.
NUTCRACKER PRINCE: Eighteen.
KING: Adult.
FRITZ: Twelve, rambunctious.
DAME MOUSERINK: Adult Queen of mice.
MOUSE KING: Twenty-one.
GODPAPÀ DROSSELMEIER: Adult gadget maker.
PANTALOOON: Adult rubber-legged clown.
LOUISE: Eighteen.
QUEEN OF DATES: Adult.
DRUMMER: Adult inept male soldier.
MOUSE SQUIRE: Eighteen-year-old female soldier.
MADEMOISELLE MIMI: Adult flirtatious French doll.
MOUSE SOLDIERS: As desired.

DOUBLING:

Actress One: Clara, Princess Pirlipat
Actor One: Nutcracker Prince, King
Actor Two: Fritz, Dame Mouserink, Mouse King
Actor Three: Godpapà Drosselmeier, Pantaloon
Actress Two: Louise, Queen of Dates, Drummer,
Mouse Squire and Mademoiselle Mimi

COSTUME PLOT

CLARA: Loose-fitting green dress, white ribbon waist belt, white pantaloons, white blouse, red hair ribbon. Changes to a white wedding style dress at the end.

LOUISE: Blue dress, white tights.

QUEEN: Red queen's robe, gold crown.

MOUSE SQUIRE: Gray coat with tails, hanging mouse tail, gray tight pants, white tights, white vest, mouse mask with mouse ears and nose.

DRUMMER: (*Same as the Drummer doll.*) Black hat, beard, gray pants, white tights, green coat.

MLLE. MIMI: (*Same as the Mimi doll.*) Red ruffled dress with a white layered trim, red hat and sash.

FRITZ: Long red tunic, white ruffled shirt, black tights.

DAME MOUSERINK: Black and red frayed queen's robe, mouse head with a gold crown attached.

MOUSE KING: Red flowing tunic, white trim, black belt, black tights, mouse head with a gold crown attached, black gloves.

KING: Green and white king's robe, high black boots, a gold crown.

NUTCRACKER: (*Same as the Nutcracker doll.*) White coat, blue trim, gold shoulder straps, blue tights, high black boots, white hat and gloves, white mask

GODPAPÀ: White ruffled shirt, white tights, red knickers, gold waist coat with tails, gold and green vest, gray wig.

PANTALOOON: (*Same as the Pantaloon doll.*) Multi-colored loose clown costume, floppy red cap

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND SONGS

Scene 1 - The Stahlbaum's Playroom. Germany, Early
1800's, Christmas Day.

#1 CHRISTMAS DAY

#2 MY LITTLE MAN

Scene 2 - The playroom, later that morning.

#3 HARD NUT TO CRACK

#3a MY LITTLE MAN (*Reprise.*)

Scene 3 - In the world of toys

#4 RATVENGE

#5 I AM NOT AFRAID OF YOU

Scene 4 - Back in the playroom, later that day

Scene 5 - Back in the world of toys

#6 MIMI WANTS YOU YOU

#7 MY LITTLE MAN (*Reprise.*)

Scene 6 - Back in the playroom, later that evening

#8 My Little Man (*Underscore.*)

#9 CHRISTMAS DAY (*Reprise.*)

SCENE 1

(LIGHTS up on the Stahlbaum's play room. We are in Germany in the early 1800's on Christmas day. Upstage center is a beautifully decorated Christmas tree with presents underneath it. Upstage right is a doll house on a table. Upstage left is a grandfather clock. Center right is a fireplace with a toy train on its mantel. Center left is a large toy box. A settee with a blanket on it sits downstage left. Pre-show "Decoration and Lighting of the Christmas Tree" from Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Ballet" MUSIC plays. Suddenly the music stops and the CHILDREN burst into the room.)

FRITZ: *(From upstage right.)* Hoorah!

CLARA: *(From upstage left.)* It's here!

LOUISE: *(From upstage right.)* Look at the beautiful tree!

CLARA: Look at the beautiful ornaments!

FRITZ: Look at the beautiful presents!!!!

MUSICAL #1 - CHRISTMAS DAY

CLARA: *(She moves downstage right.)*

SNOW OUTSIDE THE WINDOW STILL.

EVERYTHING SO CALM AND STILL.

LOUISE: *(She joins Clara.)*

YET I CAN FEEL THE EXCITEMENT IN THE WINTER AIR.

(She runs to the settee.) TODAY IS THE DAY

FOR EVERYONE TO SHARE.

FRITZ: *(At the tree.)*

THERE'S PRESENTS UNDERNEATH THE TREE.

THERE'S SOMETHING THERE FOR YOU AND ME.

CLARA: *(She runs to the tree to take a present.)*

CHURCH BELLS RINGING.

FRITZ: *(He takes the present.)*

OH, I CAN HARDLY WAIT.

LOUISE: *(She grabs FRITZ's present.)*

NOW, FRITZ, YOU MUST BE PATIENT.

FRITZ:

BUT IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE.

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ALL: *(THEY make a human train.)*
BECAUSE IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY,
IT'S MERRY CHRISTMAS DAY,
THE BEST DAY OF THE YEAR.
OH, YES, IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY,
MERRY CHRISTMAS DAY,
SO SPREAD YOUR CHRISTMAS CHEER.

CLARA: *(Downstage right.)*
PERHAPS I GOT A BRAND NEW DOLL,
LACY DRESS, A PARASOL.

LOUISE: *(On settee.)*
I'M TOO OLD FOR SUCH CHILDISH THINGS.
I'LL TAKE A NEW DRESS FOR MYSELF
AND MY FIRST EARRINGS.

FRITZ: *(Center.)*
THIS GIRLY TALK IS BORING ME.
I KNOW WHAT'S UNDERNEATH THE TREE.
(Marches.) A TROOP OF SOLDIERS, ALL SHINY AND NEW,
READY FOR ACTION.
LOOK OUT, WE'RE COMING THROUGH.

(THEY play London Bridge.)

ALL
BECAUSE IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY,
IT'S MERRY CHRISTMAS DAY,
THE BEST DAY OF THE YEAR.
OH, YES, IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY,
MERRY CHRISTMAS DAY,
SO SPREAD YOUR CHRISTMAS CHEER.

(GODPAPÀ enters from upstage left, and the CHILDREN kneel in front of him.)

DROSSELMEIER: *(He shows his silk scarves.)*
AH BUT, CHILDREN, I HOPE YOU KNOW,
JUST WHAT REALLY MAKES THIS CHRISTMAS GLOW.

(The SCARVES magically change colors. The CHILDREN gasp.)

End of Freeview

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