



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***The Hip Hop Nutcracker* to Feature Hip Hop Pioneer Kurtis Blow at the Palace December 5**

Presented by CAPA, the Lincoln Theatre Association, and the King Arts Complex, *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* is a contemporary re-imagining of Tchaikovsky's timeless music performed by a supercharged cast of a dozen all-star dancers, an on-stage DJ, and an electric violinist. Kurtis Blow, one of hip hop's founding fathers, will kick off the show with a short set and then rap the introduction.

CAPA presents *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* at the Palace Theatre (34 W. Broad St.) on Tuesday, December 5, at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$22-\$52 at the CAPA Ticket Center (39 E. State St.), all Ticketmaster outlets, and www.ticketmaster.com. To purchase tickets by phone, please call (614) 469-0939 or (800) 745-3000.

Directed and choreographed by Jennifer Weber, *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* is a full-length production featuring a dozen all-star dancers, an on-stage DJ, and an electric violinist. The traditional classic Tchaikovsky score beautifully complements the power moves of these 12 dancers, with transitional and incidental music re-mixed and re-imagined, helping to bring a beautifully surprising contemporary vibe to the production.

"We've got some of the best dancers in the world performing in a show that is being reimagined in a truly spectacular way," says Blow. "The creative team has turned this old classic into a new classic, and audiences love this new adaptation everywhere we go."

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 a colorful and 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.

About Kurtis Blow

A hip hop legend, Kurtis Blow was 20 in 1979, when he became the first rapper to be signed by a major label. Mercury released *Christmas Rappin'*, and it sold more than 400,000 copies, becoming an annual classic. Its Gold follow-up, *The Breaks*, helped ignite an international "rap attack." He released 10 albums in just over 11 years. His full-length debut, *Kurtis Blow*; his second, *Deuce*, a Top 50 pop album and a hit across Europe; *Party Time* featuring a pioneering fusion of rap and gogo; and *Ego Trip* that including the hits "8 Million Stories," "AJ," and "Basketball." In 1985, he released *America*, featuring "If I Ruled the World," a Top 5 hit on *Billboard's* R&B chart; Columbia/Sony recording artist Nas debuted at No. 1 on *Billboard's* Pop Album chart with a cover of the song in 1997. www.KurtisBlow.com

www.HipHopNutcracker.com

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JENNIFER WEBER (Director/Choreographer) is an award-winning director/choreographer whose career has spanned concert dance, commercial events, theatre and TV. A physical storyteller at heart, Weber brings projects to life with her unique sense of visual narrative. Weber is the director/choreographer of *The Hip Hop Nutcracker*, as well as the founder and director of Brooklyn-based hip hop theatre company, Decadancetheatre (for which she was nominated for the "Outstanding Emerging Choreographer" New York Dance and Performance (Bessie) Award). Her concert dance work has toured across the US, UK, Russia, and France, performing at venues including Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, The Apollo Theater, The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Southbank Center (London), The Everyman (Liverpool), New York City Center, Bumbershoot (Seattle), The Music Center (Los Angeles), and The Stanislavsky Music Theatre (Moscow).

Weber has choreographed immersive and staged events for brands including American Express, Uber, Ulta, L'Oreal Matrix, Reebok, Philosophy, Marc Jacobs, Hormel, and CK2. She is currently the director for the tour of Lifetime's Bring It Live! with Coach D and the Dancing Dolls.

As a choreographer, her theatre credits include the US premier of Lavery's *Stockholm* at Stageworks/Hudson, PBS' Odd Squad Live tour, *James Brown: Get on the Good Foot* for the Apollo Theater/US Tour (contributing choreographer with director Otis Sallid), *Cruel Intentions the Musical*, and Ars Nova's immersive theatre experience, *KPOP*.

EVA PRICE (Executive Producer) is a Tony Award-winning producer whose credits include more than 15 Broadway plays, musicals, and concerts. She is a member of The Broadway League's Board of Governors and was named one of Crain's NY 40 Under Forty Rising Business Stars. Current and notable productions include: *Dear Evan Hansen* (6 Tony Awards); *On Your Feet!* (The Story of Gloria and Emilio Estefan); *Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons on Broadway!*; *Peter and the Starcatcher* (5 Tony Awards); *Colin Quinn Long Story Short* (directed by Jerry Seinfeld); *Annie* (Tony-nominated musical revival); *The Merchant of Venice* starring Al Pacino (Tony-nominated play revival); Carrie Fisher's *Wishful Drinking*; *The Addams Family* (starring Nathan Lane and Bebe Neuwirth); as well as several solo shows and critically acclaimed concerts starring The Temptations, The Four Tops, Kathy Griffin, Lewis Black, and Hershey Felder. Recent off-Broadway projects include the Drama Desk-nominated *Found* (Atlantic Theater Company and Philadelphia Theater Company); Benjamin Scheuer's award-winning *The Lion* (Drama Desk winner, Off-West End winner for Best Musical); and Bess Wohl's critically acclaimed *Small Mouth Sounds*. International and touring credits include: *The Hip Hop Nutcracker*, featuring Rap Icon Kurtis Blow; *Carefree: Dancin' with Fred and Ginger* (directed/choreographed by Tony winner Warren Carlyle), as well as *The Magic School Bus, Live! The Climate Challenge*; *Ella*, a bio musical about the life and music of Ella Fitzgerald; *'S Wonderful: The New Gershwin Musical*; Tomie dePaola's *Strega Nona the Musical*, Irving Berlin's *I Love a Piano* (national tour and Japan), *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*, *Private Jokes*, *Public Places* (London). 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. Upcoming: Alanis Morissette's *Jagged Little Pill*.

CALENDAR LISTING

CAPA, the Lincoln Theatre Association, and the King Arts Complex present *THE HIP HOP NUTCRACKER*

Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 pm

Palace Theatre (34 W. Broad St.)

A holiday mash-up for the entire family, *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* is a contemporary re-imagining of Tchaikovsky's timeless music performed by a supercharged cast of a dozen all-star dancers, an on-stage DJ, and an electric violinist. Through the spell cast by the mysterious Drosselmeyer, Maria-Clara and her Nutcracker prince travel back in time to the moment when her parents first meet in a 1980s' Brooklyn nightclub. Kurtis Blow, one of hip hop's founding fathers, will kick off the show with a short set and then rap the introduction. Tickets are \$22-\$52 at the CAPA Ticket Center (39 E. State St.), all Ticketmaster outlets, and www.ticketmaster.com. To purchase tickets by phone, please call (614) 469-0939 or (800) 745-3000. www.capa.com

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About CAPA

Owner/operator of downtown Columbus' magnificent historic theatres (Ohio Theatre, Palace Theatre, Southern Theatre) and manager of the Riffe Center Theatre Complex, Lincoln Theatre, Drexel Theatre, Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts (New Albany, OH), and the Shubert Theater (New Haven, CT), CAPA is a non-profit, award-winning presenter of national and international performing arts and entertainment. For more information, visit www.capa.com.

Contact: Rolanda Copley
(614) 719-6624
rcopley@capa.com