



The Ballet Concert - Into the Fantasy of Nutcracker III Seeing Your True Self

2025.12.19 Fri. 14:30

2025.12.20 Sat. 14:30, 19:30

2025.12.21 Sun. 14:30

Weiwuying Playhouse

Duration is 120 minutes with a 20-minute intermission.

Suitable for age 5+.



National Kaohsiung
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

WEI WUYING

衛武營 國家藝術文化中心
國家表演藝術中心 National Performing Arts Center

Program

Step into the World of the Nutcracker Girl and Find Your True Self!

Into the Fantasy of Nutcracker, this production, which began in 2023, will complete its trilogy with a final chapter in 2025. At its heart, the story revolves around "facing challenges and finding courage." In the first installment, a little girl flips through a pop-up book and embarks on a journey with the Nutcracker and Sugar Plum Fairy, confronting her fears while embracing hope throughout their magical adventure.

The second part transforms the girl's experiences of growth into a series of exotic journeys that begin after she leaves the Snowflake Kingdom, with richly diverse characters appearing at different stages of her life. In the final chapter, the girl has grown up. Follow her as she journeys between the enchanting realms of Nutcracker fantasy and reality, embarking on a mesmerizing adventure that resonates with your soul.

Synopsis

Act I

Past and Present_____

A grown-up girl looks back on her childhood memories: her favorite Nutcracker doll, her gentle and patient dance teacher, her protective fencing instructor, and the boy who was always there to help her. Of course, she also remembers the proud senior dancers she could never quite catch up with no matter how hard she tried, and the strict art teacher whose very presence sent chills down her spine. Finally, she arrives at her graduation ceremony—the conclusion of her student years. She bids a temporary farewell to the clumsy, struggling, but never-giving-up version of herself. With fully charged energy toward the future, the first sweet and sour hint of young love has arrived quietly.

Chasing the dream of becoming a dancer is never easy. In reality, dancing joyfully is followed by shifts at a restaurant just to make ends meet. Even as an adult, she still gets into trouble as a daily routine: getting picked on by coworkers, scrutinized by the supervisor, wishing she could simply disappear into a corner to survive.

On Christmas Eve, the restaurant is busy preparing for the holiday dinner. While sneaking a quick break, she accidentally drinks a guest's wine. Unable to hold her liquor, she ends up singing and dancing uncontrollably on the small stage meant for the carol singer. The sharp and icy restaurant owner explodes with fury, scolding her on the spot and dragging her off the stage.

Back Into the Dream_____

After the outburst, the tipsy girl slips into a daydream-like fantasy world. She recalls the fairy tale that always gave her strength when she felt lost—the Nutcracker—reminding her never to forget her Dreams and Courage. The Christmas tree awakens as if touched by magic, the real and the imagined intertwine once again. Squeaks comes from corners of the restaurant, the servers transform into an army of mice, the Mouse King and Queen reappear! Her fencing teacher returns from his Nutcracker-ornament form to human shape; the boy becomes a young commander leading the troops; and the gentle yet brave “Half-Sugarplum Fairy” re-emerges to protect her once more. Plates, forks, and knives become

weapons on the battlefield; terrified guests scatter, as the battle between humans and mice erupts again.

Justice triumphs. The girl and the Nutcracker, the Sugarplum Fairy and the boy defeat the mouse army, and journey together through the glittering, snow-white Kingdom of Snow.

Act II

Finding Her Best Self

They arrive at the Sugarplum Fairy's fantastic palace, welcomed by pink-petaled sugar sprites. A multitude of vibrant characters appears, each symbolizing a different path in life and endless possibilities. Together they celebrate the young woman and the boy, who have overcome their trials. The stubborn Mouse King and Queen return to capture the boy once more. And yet in this dire moment, the girl gathers her courage and takes control of a grand cannon—modified from a Nutcracker doll—and with the help of the Christmas gingerbread men, finally defeats the Mouse King and Queen for good – at the same time conquering the timid part of herself she once feared.

In the final scene, together with the Nutcracker and the Sugarplum Fairy, she dances a graceful, radiant waltz. At this moment, the girl has finally blossomed—resilient, mature, and beautiful, just like the Sugarplum Fairy herself. The fairy-tale of growing up has accompanied her all along, reminding her never to lose her courage—so she can always meet the very best version of herself.

From the Choreographer

By YEH Ming-hwa

In the slit of time, woven by rushes between north and south, between time and reality, I journeyed with many companions to bring *Into the Fantasy of Nutcracker* to life over the course of 3 years. Throughout rehearsals and production, a question often crossed my mind: "What makes people in Taiwan—where winters are mild, at most damp and chilly—look forward to Christmas so eagerly?"

As the work gradually took shape, the answer grew clearer.

The little girl in this ballet grows because of the young dancers' wholehearted dedication, the wisdom and experience of the theater veterans, the professionalism of the design and technical teams, and the support and devotion from every colleague at Weiwuying, at every level. In all of them, I see the same powerful force: dreams.

Because of dreams, even when reality is difficult, we are willing to go one-step further. Christmas is looked forward to, not only because of the snow but also from the dreams and hope it represents. Even in our subtropical home, where snow exists only in imagination, nothing can prevent our eager await of the inner light from glowing in this season.

Dreams take me back twenty years, to the version of myself who longed for the ballet stage, and to all of us who were still taking on the path of growing. My heartfelt thanks to everyone who took part in and supported this production, and to every audience member who steps into the theater. Because of you, *Into the Fantasy of Nutcracker* can move closer to its dream, and let its light truly shine upon the stage.

From the Production Consultant

By CHOU Shu-yi

My idea of Christmas has always involved Christmas cards, and so it turns out that, in the first year of *Into the Fantasy of Nutcracker*, there was a giant pop-up book appeared on stage, having a Christmas tree, a Nutcracker, the Mouse King, and even the Snow Kingdom in it. As the lights shifted, the dancers seemed to step right out of the storybook into reality. This was how choreographer YEH Ming-hwa began: perhaps living in Taiwan means we must create some of our own collective memories! So that ballet does not feel distant from our lives.

Yet the road of creation stretched on for three years—excluding early planning and conceptual development. Looking back on those early sparks of discussion with Weiwuying's Artistic Director CHIEN Wen-pin, for the ecology and environment, everything felt important and worthwhile. Of course, the real challenges came later, and only by overcoming them, can we hope to see light again!

Now in 2025, snow still has not fallen in Kaohsiung, but the seeds of ballet creation and production have already begun to sprout. Winter has arrived; the music begins; the lights come on!

From the Conductor

By CHANG Yin-fang

It is the season to greet the Weiwuying Christmas tree once again. My heart cannot help but leap with joy, eager to share my growth from this past year with *Into the Fantasy of Nutcracker*.

Over the past three years, the unwavering support from the Weiwuying team has allowed us to move steadily forward, gradually refining the character and strength unique to this production. My gratitude goes to Artistic Director CHIEN Wen-pin, to Shu-yi, and to the seventeen musicians who faced the dual challenges of stamina and technique in this chamber-version score. With self-discipline and courage, they shaped the music into the shimmering sound it is ought to be.

I am also grateful for the encounter with Ming-hwa and the remarkable dancers. Their insights into ballet brought me closer to the breath and rhythm of dance, inspiring me as our two artistic languages reflected and enriched each other.

And through every step of the process, the force that nourished us all was Tchaikovsky's music—direct, powerful, awakening emotions deep within, making us believe in magic, and believe in dreams!

Hats off to every collaborator. I hope the audience can feel the conviction we have embraced throughout this journey, and in the moments where music and dance intertwine, sense the tenderness and beauty of this world.

Children's Choir

The choir is cooperated with Weiwuying Theater Arts and Education Project.

Fong-si Elementary School

Class 7 of Grade 6 Choir is composed of students who possess both artistic sensitivity and a deep passion for music. Alongside their studies in fine arts, they have devoted themselves to choral training, refining their intonation, rhythmic precision, and ensemble cohesion. With delicate artistic temperament and pure vocal quality, the choir offers a unique interpretation of this masterpiece, and through this performance, they aspire to present their interdisciplinary learning on stage, adding a warm and moving dimension to the production.



Special Thanks: Principal KU Sin-fon , Teacher HSIEH Yi-Ping & LIN Hui-fen

Yong-fang Elementary School

Just as the girl in *Into the Fantasy of Nutcracker* discovers courage in the Land of Snow, the Yong-fang Elementary School Choir has experienced its own transformative journey. Once facing the brink of dissolution, the choir persevered through unwavering conviction, rediscovering the fearless courage of youth and ultimately earning the Excellence Award at the 2025 Kaohsiung Students Music Competition. This adventure—from adversity to the grand stage—has been a metamorphosis through song, enabling the students to truly “discover their finest selves,” and they now bring this spirit of rebirth to the stage with a voice that is both resilient and



deeply moving.

Special Thanks: Principal TUNG Chung-chi , Teacher YEN Yu-tsung & HUANG Yu-wen

Chorus Master | HUANG Hsiang-chun

HUANG Hsiang-chun earned her Master's degree in Choral Conducting from the Institute of Music at National Sun Yat-sen University, where she studied under Dr. WENG Chia-fen, and also received vocal training from CHIANG Pei-chen; she further refined her conducting through masterclasses with esteemed conductors including Manuel Schuen, Gábor Hollerung, and Kåre Hanken, and is now a prominent figure in Central and Southern Taiwan, serving as the conductor of several choirs and Executive Director of the Kaohsiung Chamber Choir, widely acclaimed for her delicate conducting style, refined command of vocal color and texture, and profound musicality that has earned her international recognition.

Creative and Production Team

Choreographer & Playwright | YEH Ming-hwa

Production Consultant | CHOU Shu-yi

Artistic Consultant & Costume Consultant | LIN Ching-ju

Conductor | CHANG Yin-fang

Scene Designer | LIN Shao-han

Lighting Designer | KUO Chien-hao

Costume Supervisor* | YEN Liang-su

Costume Design and Production* | CHEN Yu-jen, Liu Bi-sheng, Tneh Shi-yun, YANG Jhen -fang,
PAO Ai-yun, WANG Jo-hua, WU Chi-jui, HUANG Yu-cong

*Costumes are co-produced through the Project of Ballet Costume Design and Produce, by the collaboration between National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) and Dept. of Theatrical Design & Technology, Taipei National University of the Arts.

Ballet Master | Ligin CHEN, CHEN Wu-kang, LEE Shu-hsien, LIU Yu-chuan, YEH Ming-hwa

Rehearsal Assistant | YANG Ya-chun, CHENG Tzu-tung

Chorus Master | HUANG Hsiang-chun

Rehearsal Pianist | TSAUR Ming-tsang

Dancers & Roles

Sugar Plum Fairy | HUANG Yu-mien, CHIANG Yu-rou

Nutcracker | SHIUE Ren-kai, CHUNG Chang-hung

Little Girl | CHENG Tzu-tung, CHEN Ting-yu

Little Boy | CHUNG Chang-hung, SHIUE Ren-kai

Mouse King | LEE Ting-yu

Mouse Queen | LIN Chia-chun

Spanish Dance | CHEN Pei-yung, ZHOU Ting-jia

Arabian Dance | ◎ HSU Wen-hsuan, CHEN Yi-an, CHIU Yi-ching

Chinese Dance | TSAI Yi-tsen, LEE Shin-ru

Trepak | ◎ HSIEH Chu-yen, HSU Tung-chun, ZHOU Ting-jia, WU Cheng-yun, CHIEN Lin-yi

Reed Flute | ◎ CHIANG Yu-rou, ◎ HUANG Yu-mien, CHEN Ting-yu, CHENG Tzu-tung, LIN Yi-chi

Gingerbread Dance | ◎ HSU Tung-chun, ZHOU Ting-jia, HSIEH Chu-yen, WU Cheng-yun

Snowflake & Flower Petal | CHIANG Yu-rou, HO Yu-chieh, YU Yu-chen, LEE Shin-ru,
LEE Chia-ping, LIN Yi-chi, CHIU Yi-ching, HSU Wen-hsuan,
CHEN Ting-yu, CHEN Yi-an, CHEN Pei-yung, HUANG Yu-mien,
LIU Yu-chuan, TSAI Yi-tsen, CHENG Tzu-tung

◎ Lead Dancer

Musicians

Violin | TSAI I-yun, TSAI Mu-ying
Viola | HSIEH Yi-chen
Cello | HSUEH Ya-wen
Double Bass | HSU Tzu-yun
Oboe & English Horn | CHEN Pin-hui
Flute | LIN Shang-jung
Clarinet | LIN Yu-chien
Clarinet & Bass Clarinet | LUO Zhi-yuan
Bassoon | CHEN I-wen
Horn | WANG Yu-zu
Trumpet | LIU Yu-chun
Trombone | YANG Chin-lung
Harp | KUANG Yi-wen
Percussion | LIN Wei-chen, HUANG Tzu-ting
Celesta | TSAUR Ming-tsang

****Children's Choir**

Fong-si Elementary School | LI Peng-shiuan, WU Yun-rui, WU Yi-shiuan, WU You-si, LIN You-ci,
LIN Yu-wei, SUNG Yu-hsuan, LU Yun-chen, HSU Rui-shan,
CHANG Wei-chih, CHANG CHIEN Chen-jou, HUANG Yu-xuan,
HUANG Yu-jun, HUANG Yu-jie, HUANG Yu-tong, YANG Yong-sin,
TSAI Ming-feng, LIAO Cian-yu, LIU Hung-chun, KUO En-tung,
CHEN Tzu-yeh, CHEN Xin, CHEN Ling-yi, CHEN Hsin-yi,
LI Chieh-fang, TAI Yi-han, SU Zi-ti

Yong-fang Elementary School | WANG Sin-yi, JIANG Shu-yu, LI Jia-syuan, LIN Yu-en, LIN Cian-yu,
LIN Yun-jhen, LIN Cian-hua, LIN Siang-ling, HONG Sing-huei,
SIA Ruo-lin, HUANG Sin-pei, HUANG Guo-iheng, ZENG Cing-yun,
CIN Siang-ning, YEN Peng-hsin, CAI Li-shan, PAN Yi-sin,
CHEN Pei-syuan, JIAN Ke-sin, SU Siang-ning

**The choir is cooperated with Weiwuying Theater Arts and Education Project

Programming Coordinator | Joanna WANG, Peggy WU, TU Chiou-shiang, CHENG Yu-shu

Production Coordinato | CHEN Mei-lin, HUANG Chin-chih

Stage Manager | Yui LEE

Assistant Stage Manager | LEE Zhuan

Technical Coordinator | HUANG Chin-chih

Technical Director | CHOE Kuan-chih

Stage Crew | CHEN Xien-da, FU Ti-jun, LI Lang-yu, LI Yi-ying, LIN He-fang, CHEN Guo-lin,
YEN Chia-han, LIN Tung-sin, HUANG You-hua, YEH Yi-hsuan, LIN Yu-zhong,

Assistant Lighting Designer | LI De-xin

Master Electrician | WEI Po-han

Board Operator | CHU Hsin-hung

Lighting Crew | LEE I-fang, WU Ding-yan

Head of Audio & Video | Slash HSU

Sound Equipment | Sound Reinforcement Company

Wardrobe | CHIU Yi-hui, LI Lu, WU Chi-jui

Ensemble Project Coordinator | Daisy CHEN

Children's Choir Coordinator | Elise LIN, TSOU Feng-chih,

Carina CHEN (Weiwuying Theater Arts and Education Project)

Children's Choir Assistant | LEE Yu-chi, BAI Ren-siang, LIN Hui-fen, HUANG Yu-wen

Original Illustration Designer | Little Oil Art

Film Editor | CHANG Ya-chieh, Bluesten Studio

Costume Portrait Photography | CHEN Wei-sheng

Rehearsal Venue Support | HORSE

Special Thanks | CHOU Tzu-chao, Kaohsiung Symphony Orchestra,
Department of Dance, National Taiwan University of the Arts

Music Credits | P. TCHAIKOVSKY: The Nutcracker, Ballet in two acts, Op.71 (arr. Ronald Kornfeil)

The performance is produced by National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying).

Cultural Development Partner |



Sponsor |  **TOYOTA** | 高 都 汽 車

Partner | 賀鐵企業股份有限公司

Dancers



Weiwuying Online Questionnaire

