

HOUSTON BALLET

STANTON WELCH - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Fun Facts: *The Nutcracker* by the Numbers

- 1,000,000:** Approximate number of people who have attended Houston Ballet's **The Nutcracker** since its debut.
- 1987:** Date Houston Ballet's current version of **The Nutcracker** premiered. (Choreography by Ben Stevenson)
- 70,020:** People attended **The Nutcracker** last year.
- 1892:** Year of the first performance of **The Nutcracker** on December 18, at Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- 1972:** Date Houston Ballet first performed a version of **The Nutcracker**.
- 6:** Orchestra conductors over the course of **The Nutcracker** this year.
- 7:** loads of laundry after one performance.
- 7,000 lbs:** Dry ice used during the entire run of **The Nutcracker**.
- 200 lbs:** Dry ice used per show.
- 1,000 lbs:** Dry ice used in one weekend of shows.
- 34:** People working backstage coordinate the scenery, lighting and costumes during each performance.
- 30:** Pointe shoes a dancer goes through during the run of **The Nutcracker**.
- 130:** Shoes worn by all dancers in one performance of **The Nutcracker**.
- 130:** Different costumes used in one performance of **The Nutcracker**.
- 100:** Dancers perform in each show.
- 12:** Layers of tulle and netting used in the Sugar Plum Fairy's tutu.
- 55:** Musicians who play during one performance.
- 41:** Props used during one show of **The Nutcracker**.
- 17:** Children featured in each show.
- 40 ft:** Height the tree "grows" to on stage.
- 300 lbs:** Weight of the tree used in **The Nutcracker**.
- 500:** Lighting instruments hung for **The Nutcracker**.
- 100:** Lighting cues from the stage manager to call during the show.
- 200 lbs:** "Snow" that falls during the snow scene.
- 7,000 lbs:** Total amount of fake snow used throughout **The Nutcracker** season.
- 4:** People hand-tear snow for the snow scene.
- 2:** Weeks spent tearing paper for the snow at very specific dimensions so it falls perfectly.
- 90:** Musicians in total play **The Nutcracker** each year.
- 8,000:** Pounds of *Playbill's* needed for total performances of **The Nutcracker**.
- 41:** Stagehands and **3** days to load the show into the theater before the first rehearsal.
- 18:** Dancing snowflakes in the snow scene with the Snow Queen.
- 100:** Houston-area children participate in the production.
- 33:** Performances of **The Nutcracker** this season!

