

# 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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