

2018 BAM Next Wave Festival

BAM ushers in the holidays with Mark Morris Dance Group's colorful classic *The Hard Nut*, Dec 14—23

Fun for the entire family, this fresh and elaborately layered production is hailed by *The New York Times* as the “funniest *Nutcracker* and among the most touching” with choreography that “lifts the whole audience”

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

BAM and Mark Morris Dance Group present

The Hard Nut

Based on the book by E.T.A. Hoffmann, *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*

Mark Morris Dance Group

Featuring the MMDG Music Ensemble and The Hard Nut Singers

Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, *The Nutcracker, Op. 71*

Conducted by Colin Fowler

Choreography by Mark Morris

Set design by Adrienne Lobel

Costume design by Martin Pakledinaz

Lighting design by James F. Ingalls

Production based on the work of Charles Burns

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave)

Dec 14 & 15, 20—22 at 7:30pm; Dec 15 & 22 at 2pm; Dec 16 & 23 at 3pm

Tickets start at \$25

Appropriate for ages 4 & up

Master Class: Dance with MMDG

Co-presented by BAM and Mark Morris Dance Group

Mark Morris Dance Center (3 Lafayette Ave)

Dec 8 at 3pm

For all ages and abilities

A family master class led by MMDG company members Brandon Courney and Nicole Sabella, with live piano accompaniment by Ai Isshiki.

Free

Visit BAM.org/master-classes for more information and to register

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“There’s only one Mark Morris—and his is the only *Waltz of the Snowflakes* that could prompt such unbound, smiling admiration.” —*The Wall Street Journal*

Brooklyn, New York/November 20, 2018— An exhilarating New York City tradition, BAM and Mark Morris Dance Group present the holiday classic *The Hard Nut*—Mark Morris’ cheeky yet reverent homage to *The Nutcracker*. The piece’s brilliant blend of ballet, modern, and folk dance propels the dramatic narrative that creates a memorable feast for the imagination. For this updated classic fairytale, Morris sets the action in the swinging 70s against vibrant pop-art inspired backdrops conceived by cartoonist Charles Burns and Adrienne Lobel, complete with go-go boots, G.I. Joe soldiers, a dancing Barbie doll, inspired gender-fluid casting, and a *Waltz of the Snowflakes* like no other.

Fun for the entire family, *The Hard Nut* is not your average Nutcracker. The show takes its title from the story-within-a-story of Hoffman’s *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*, wherein an evil Rat Queen promises to restore the Princess Pirlipat’s beauty if a young man can crack the “hard nut” with his teeth. This mix of playfulness and exquisite dance, combined with the greatest respect for E.T.A. Hoffmann’s original nightmarish story and Tchaikovsky’s complete, original score, performed by a full 53-piece live orchestra, earned *The Hard Nut* the winning spot in Ovation TV’s *Battle of the Nutcrackers* contest three years running. *The Hard Nut* returns to BAM for its seventh holiday season with 33 dancers and children’s chorus—The Hard Nut Singers, comprised of students from Brooklyn Friends School, Brooklyn Music School, Brooklyn Technical High School, MS51, and The School at the Mark Morris Dance Center.

The beloved audience favorite returns with *Hard Nut* veterans **John Heginbotham** (Mrs. Stahlbaum/Queen) and **June Omura** (Fritz) both reprising their gender-bending roles, along with **Brandon Randolph** in the iconic en pointe role of the Housekeeper, only the second person to play this part since *The Hard Nut* premiered at BAM in 1992. Company member **Lauren Grant** returns for her 22nd year performing as Marie and **Mark Morris** himself will reprise the roles of Dr. Stahlbaum and the King.

The internationally acclaimed **Mark Morris Dance Group** (MMDG) has inspired critics and audiences throughout its 38-year history. Founded in New York in 1980 by artistic director and choreographer Mark Morris, the company has been called “the preeminent modern dance organization of our time” (Yo-Yo Ma), receiving “highest praise for their technical aplomb, their musicality, and their sheer human authenticity” (*Bloomberg News*). MMDG spent three years in residence at Brussels’ Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie as Belgium’s national dance company, returning to the US in 1991. The group tours domestically and internationally, and is distinguished by presenting live music at every performance, founding the MMDG Music Ensemble in 1996. MMDG regularly collaborates with eminent musicians across genres, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma, mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe, jazz trio The Bad Plus, the London Symphony Orchestra, Baroque orchestras Tafelmusik and Philharmonia Baroque, as well as opera companies such as the Metropolitan Opera and English National Opera. In addition to many appearances at BAM, the Mark Morris Dance Group toured Cambodia, Timor

Leste, and Taiwan in 2014 as part of *DanceMotion USA*SM, a cultural diplomacy program of the US Department of State, produced by BAM.

Mark Morris, “the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical” (*The New York Times*), founded the Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) in 1980. His work is acclaimed for its ingenuity, musicality, wit, and humanity. In addition to creating over 150 works for MMDG, he conducts orchestras, directs opera, and choreographs for ballet companies worldwide. Live music and community engagement are vital components of the Dance Group. It has toured with its own musicians, the MMDG Music Ensemble, since 1996. The Mark Morris Dance Center, opened in 2001, provides a home for the dance group, low-cost rental space for local artists, free programs for children and seniors, and dance classes for all ages and abilities.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate at ctate@bam.org or 718.724.8022.

Credits

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General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers varied light fare and bar service prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater); D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue
Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM
Car: Limited commercial parking lots are located near BAM. Visit BAM.org for information.

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org

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