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[Press Room](#)



Images of Mark Morris Dance Company *The Hard Nut* are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY WELCOMES BACK THE
MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP
IN THE RETURN OF *THE HARD NUT*
FOR NINE PERFORMANCES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, DECEMBER 15–24**

**Members of the company will host a “Waltz of the Snowflakes” Community Dance Class in
conjunction with the performances**

Berkeley, October 26, 2017 — Twenty two years after making its West Coast debut on the stage at Zellerbach Hall, Mark Morris Dance Group’s holiday classic, *The Hard Nut*, returns to Cal Performances at UC Berkeley with nine performances from December 15-24, including a 3pm

matinee on Christmas Eve. The beloved audience favorite, back at Cal Performances for the first time in five years, is part affectionate homage and part campy reinterpretation of the season's ubiquitous *Nutcracker* performances. Morris' lavish retelling, with a cast of 33 dancers, is set to Tchaikovsky's complete score, performed live by members of the Berkeley Symphony and the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir. Mark Morris himself will play the role of Dr. Stahlbaum, veteran Lauren Grant returns for the 21st year performing as Marie, and the iconic role of the maid will be played by Brandon Randolph, only the second person to play this part since *The Hard Nut's* premiere in 1991.

The Hard Nut transports E.T.A. Hoffmann's original *Nutcracker* story from the straight-laced 1800s to an American suburb in the swinging 1970s, where family dysfunction is rampant and the cast of characters includes Barbie dolls, G.I. Joe soldiers, and gender-bending snowflakes. The production is based on the comic book art of Charles Burns, with retro costumes designed by Martin Pakledinaz, and pop-art sets by Adrienne Lobel.

In conjunction with the performances, members of the company will host a **Community Dance Class** on Sunday December 17 at 11am in the Bancroft Studio, leading participants in movement sequences from the iconic "Waltz of the Snowflakes" scene from *The Hard Nut*. Tickets are \$5, and capacity is limited. Pre-registration is required at calperformances.org/learn/calendar/2017-18/.

Ticket Information

Tickets for *Mark Morris Dance Group: The Hard Nut* on Friday–Saturday December 15–16 and 22–23 at 8pm; Thursday December 21 at 8pm; Saturdays December 16 and 23 at 2pm; and Sundays December 17 and 24 at 3pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$40–\$135 (prices subject to change). Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, December 15, 8pm
Saturday, December 16, 2pm & 8pm
Sunday, December 17, 3pm
Thursday, December 21, 8pm
Friday, December 22, 8pm
Saturday, December 23, 2pm & 8pm
Sunday, December 24, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street
UC Berkeley campus

Dance Residency

The Hard Nut

Mark Morris Dance Group

Tchaikovsky (*The Nutcracker*), music

Mark Morris, choreography

Colin Fowler, conductor

Members of the Berkeley Symphony

Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir, Ensemble

Robert Geary, founding artistic director

Program:

Mark Morris' *The Hard Nut* returns to Zellerbach Hall for the first time in five years with go-go boots, dancing G.I. Joes, gender-bending snowflakes and more. Morris' alternative take on *The Nutcracker* is set to Tchaikovsky's complete score, performed live by members of the Berkeley Symphony and the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir. This production made its West Coast debut at Cal Performances in 1995.

Tickets: \$40–\$135 (prices subject to change).

Residency Activities

Community Dance Class: Waltz of the Snowflakes

Bancroft Studio

Sunday, December 17, 11am

Mark Morris Dance Group company members lead a family dance class of the iconic "Waltz of the Snowflakes" from his beloved *The Hard Nut*.

Tickets: \$5, capacity is limited. Pre-registration is required at

calperformances.org/learn/calendar/2017-18/.