



**ALL ARTS TO BROADCAST PREMIERE OF
THE HIP HOP NUTCRACKER ON SEPTEMBER 27**

Special Appearance By Hip Hop Pioneer MC Kurtis Blow

(NEW YORK – September 18, 2019) ***The Hip Hop Nutcracker*** (www.hiphopnutcracker.com), a national touring production of a contemporary dance spectacle set to Tchaikovsky's timeless music, is set to premiere on ALL ARTS on Friday, September 27 at 8 p.m. ***ALL ARTS Presents The Hip Hop Nutcracker at NJPAC*** airs on ALL ARTS nationwide through the free ALL ARTS [streaming app](#) and on allarts.org. The full program will also be airing throughout the fall and winter on local PBS broadcast stations throughout the country.

The Hip Hop Nutcracker will play local area shows at Kings Theatre and NJPAC. More information can be found at www.hiphopnutcracker.com.

Directed and choreographed by Jennifer Weber, ***The Hip Hop Nutcracker*** is a contemporary dance spectacle set to Tchaikovsky's timeless music. A unique and joyful event, this evening-length production is performed by a supercharged cast of a dozen all-star dancers, a DJ, a violinist, and MC Kurtis Blow, one of hip hop's founding fathers, who opens the show with a short set.

Preview the action in this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=toBO5yHVIhg&feature=youtu.be>

"We're thrilled to be back once again, bringing our show to new audiences as well as to those who have made The Hip Hop Nutcracker a holiday tradition," said NJPAC Producer David Rodriguez. "This year, not only will audiences experience the magic of The Hip Hop Nutcracker live, but they'll be able to re-live the magic in their own homes as well, through our partnership with PBS."

"We're excited for audiences across the country and PBS viewers to experience ***The Hip Hop Nutcracker*** - which has become an annual holiday tradition," says Executive Producer and recent Tony Award winner for Broadway's ***Oklahoma!*** Eva Price. "PBS is a perfect partner

for our show and we are honored to play a part in helping to raise awareness and donations during their pledge drive.”

Just like the original, in *The Hip Hop Nutcracker*, Maria-Clara and the Nutcracker Prince go on a dream adventure battling a gang of mice, visiting the land of sweets and learning the lessons of the holiday season. Innovative digital graffiti and visuals transform the landscape of E.T.A. Hoffmann’s beloved story from traditional 19th Century Germany to the vibrant, diverse sights and sounds of contemporary New York City. Through this re-mixed and re-imagined version of the classic, the dynamic performers of *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* take us on a journey that celebrates love, community and the magic of the holiday season.

For more information about where to purchase tickets, please visit <http://hiphopnutcracker.com/#tours>

Follow **The Hip Hop Nutcracker** on social media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thehiphopnutcracker/>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/hiphopnutcracker/>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/hhnutcracker/>
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWpqgbYykPixFpjG95rA_xg

JENNIFER WEBER (Director/Choreographer) is a Lucille Lortel and Bessie-Award nominated choreographer. She is the choreographer of **& Juliet**, a new musical featuring the songs of pop icon Max Martin opening at The Shaftesbury Theatre in London’s West End this Fall. In 2020 she will make her film debut as the choreographer for **Disney’s Z.O.M.B.I.E.S. 2**. Her concert dance work has been performed at Jacob’s Pillow, The Apollo, The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, London’s Southbank Center, and The Stanislavsky Music Theatre, Moscow. Weber was commissioned by New York City Center to create a new work for NYCB principal dancer Tiler Peck and hip hop legend Lil Buck for the 2018 Fall For Dance Festival. Theatre choreography credits include **KPOP** (Ars Nova/Lortel Nom), **Teenage Dick** (The Public/Ma-Yi), **Cruel Intentions** (LPR/US Tour), **Stockholm** (Hudson Stage). Commercial direction/choreography: Marc Jacobs, CK2, American Express, Uber, Ulta, L’Oreal, Reebok, Philosophy and Lifetime’s **Bring It Live! Tour** (2016-2018). She is the co-creator, director, and choreographer of the annual hit holiday show, **The Hip Hop Nutcracker**. jenniferwebernyc.com.

EVA PRICE (Executive Producer) is a Three-time Tony Award-winning producer whose credits include over 18 Broadway plays, musicals, and concerts. She is a member of The Broadway League’s Board of Governors and recently joined the producing team at **Level Forward**, a new entertainment enterprise started by Killer Content and Abigail Disney to create story-driven/impact-minded properties across live, digital and filmed platforms; focusing on work, by and for, marginalized communities. Current and notable productions include: **Oklahoma!** (Tony Award for Best Musical Revival); Alanis Morissette’s **Jagged Little Pill** (A.R.T, Broadway); **Angels in America** (Tony-winning Broadway Revival starring Nathan Lane and Andrew Garfield); **Dear Evan Hansen** (6 Tony Awards); **On Your Feet!** (The Story of Gloria and Emilio Estefan); **Peter and the Starcatcher** (5 Tony Awards); **Colin Quinn Long**

Story Short (directed by Jerry Seinfeld); **Annie** (Tony-Nominated Musical Revival); **The Merchant of Venice** starring **Al Pacino** (Tony-Nominated Play Revival); **Carrie Fisher's Wishful Drinking**; **The Addams Family** (starring Nathan Lane and Bebe Neuwirth); as well as several solo shows and critically acclaimed concerts starring **Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons**, **The Temptations & The Four Tops**, **Kathy Griffin**, **Lewis Black**, and **Hershey Felder**. Recent off-Broadway projects include **Cruel Intentions: The '90s Musical** (Le Poisson Rouge, National Tour); the Drama Desk-nominated **Found** (Atlantic Theater Company & Philadelphia Theatre Company); Benjamin Scheuer's award-winning **The Lion** (Drama Desk winner, Off-West End winner for Best Musical); and Bess Wohl's critically acclaimed **Small Mouth Sounds**. International and Touring Credits include: **The Hip Hop Nutcracker**, featuring Rap Icon Kurtis Blow, as well as **The Magic School Bus, Live!: The Climate Challenge**; **Ella**, a bio musical about the life and music of Ella Fitzgerald; **'S Wonderful: The New Gershwin Musical**; Tomie dePaola's **Strega Nona The Musical**, Irving Berlin's **I Love A Piano** (National Tour and Japan), **The Great American Trailer Park Musical**, **Private Jokes**, **Public Places** (London). For five years Eva worked as an assignment editor and coordinating producer for special projects at ABC News, spending her last year producing and reporting on stories relating to Broadway for ABCNEWS.COM.

Mike Fitelson (Writer/Co-Creator) is the executive producer at the United Palace, the 89-year-old Wonder Theatre in Washington Heights, Manhattan's 4th largest theatre. Previously as the executive director of the United Palace of Cultural Arts (UPCA) he co-created "The Hip Hop Nutcracker" with Jennifer Weber, adapting the story and supplying the images for the scenery, and produced its premiere. Fitelson has worked to build the Northern Manhattan arts community for 17 years. He co-founded the annual arts festival, the Uptown Arts Stroll, in 2003; served in every capacity of the Manhattan Times, the bilingual community newspaper of Washington Heights and Inwood, from 2002-2011; and helped found the nonprofit Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance in 2006.

About Kurtis Blow

A hip-hop legend, Kurtis Blow was 20 in 1979, when he became the first rapper to be signed by a major label. Mercury released "Christmas Rappin'," and it sold more than 400,000 copies, becoming an annual classic. Its gold follow-up, *The Breaks*, helped ignite an international "Rap Attack." He released 10 albums in over 11 years: his full-length debut, *Kurtis Blow*; his second, *Deuce*, a Top 50 Pop album and a big hit across Europe; *Party Time* featuring a pioneering fusion of rap and gogo; and *Ego Trip*, including the hits "8 Million Stories," "AJ" and "Basketball." In 1985 he released *America*, featuring "If I Ruled the World," a Top 5 hit on *Billboard's* R&B chart; Columbia/Sony recording artist Nas debuted at No. 1 on *Billboard's* Pop Album chart with a cover of the song in 1997. For more information, visit KurtisBlow.com.

About NJPAC

New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), located in downtown Newark, N.J., is America's most diverse performing arts center, and the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey – where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. NJPAC brings diverse communities together, providing access to all and showcasing the state's and the world's best artists while acting as a leading catalyst in the revitalization of its home city. Through its extensive Arts Education programs, NJPAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts. NJPAC has attracted nearly 10 million visitors

(including over 1.7 million children) since opening its doors in 1997, and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents.

About ALL ARTS

ALL ARTS is an unprecedented new broadcast channel, streaming platform and website dedicated to arts and culture 24/7. ALL ARTS is a single place for everything that makes your heart beat, your mind expand and your spirit explore. From the stories behind the art, to smart conversations with foremost experts and in-depth investigations that open doors to the world of art in all its forms, ALL ARTS is for artists and art lovers of all ages. Programming is available for free on the website, streaming apps on iOS and Android smartphones and tablets, Roku, Apple TV and Amazon Fire TV and on television channels in the greater New York area. ALL ARTS is produced and distributed by WLIW, a member of the WNET family of public media organizations.

NJPAC

One Center Street

Newark, New Jersey 07102

njpac.org or 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722)

Media Contact:

John Tellem

Tellem Grody PR

310-210-8779

john@tellemgrodypr.com