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## **Shumka announces Presenting Sponsor for *Clara's Dream***

Edmonton, AB – **Canada's Ukrainian Shumka Dancers** are pleased to announce **Northgate Industries Ltd.** – **Sid and Nellie Braaksma** of Edmonton, as the **Presenting Sponsor** of Shumka's ***Clara's Dream***, Edmonton's Ukrainian Nutcracker. Longtime supporters of Shumka, the Braaksmas have pledged a total of \$225,000 over three years in support of the project. With \$75,000 per year from 2015 to 2017, this donation will allow Shumka to proceed with plans to make *Clara's Dream* an annual Christmas presentation in Edmonton. This is the largest single donation in Shumka's 56 year history.

Said Shumka Executive Director Terry Mucha, "It has been our dream that Clara becomes a new Christmas tradition in the city. This generous three-year commitment to the production will make this more of a reality. We are honoured and humbled by the support of Sid, Nellie and Northgate Industries."

In celebration of the Christmas season, *Clara's Dream* takes to the stage of the **Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium – December 29 & 30, 2015**. (December 29 at 7:30pm; December 30 at 2pm & 7:30pm.) Tickets are available now at **Ticketmaster** ([www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca) or 1-855-985-5000).

Joining Shumka are guest artists from **Edmonton's Citie Ballet** and **Viter Ukrainian Folk Choir**, and Ukraine's **Virsky** and **Kyiv Ballet** companies. Not only is *Clara's Dream* a luxurious production loved by all ages, backgrounds and ethnicities, it is a true "Edmonton Nutcracker." Reflective of the city and its ethnic vitality, the production features ballet, folk dance, and character dance in a celebration of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas classic. In addition to visiting artists, over 95 local cast and crew members are part of the presentation.

Ukrainian Christmas traditions and symbols are woven into the lavish sets and costumes of this full-length production. In addition, this Nutcracker is the first to incorporate a Ukrainian Christmas carol, a grand orchestral and choral version of *Shchedryk (Carol of the Bells)*, arranged by renowned Ukrainian composer Yuri Shevchenko. .../2

The key creative forces behind *Clara's Dream* are Kyiv Ballet Resident Choreographer and long-time Shumka choreographer, **Viktor Lytvynov**; award winning set and costume designer **Maria Levitska** of the National Opera of Ukraine (Kyiv Ballet) and renowned Ukrainian composer **Yuri Shevchenko**.

*Clara's Dream* Creative Producer is Shumka alumnist **Michael Sulyma**. Artistic Consultants include Shumka Creative Director **John Pichlyk**, with new choreographic elements for the 2015 production added by Citie Ballet Artistic Director **Jorden Morris**.

*Clara's Dream*, Edmonton's Ukrainian Nutcracker, runs **December 29 & 30, 2015**. Tickets start at \$20, and are available via Ticketmaster. For more information about *Clara's Dream*, please visit [www.clarasdream.ca](http://www.clarasdream.ca).