

# Sugar Plum Ballerinas

Whoopi Goldberg

*Plum Ballerinas #2: Toeshoe Trouble. New York: Hyperion Books for Children. ISBN 978-1-4231-1913-5. Goldberg, Whoopi (2010). Sugar Plum Ballerinas #3:*

Caryn Elaine Johnson (born November 13, 1955), known professionally as Whoopi Goldberg (), is an American actor, comedian, author, and television personality. The recipient of numerous accolades, she is one of few people to receive an Emmy Award, Grammy Award, Academy Award, and Tony Award, collectively known as the EGOT (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Tony). In 2001, she received the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.

Goldberg began her career on stage in 1983 with her one-woman show, Spook Show, which transferred to Broadway under the title Whoopi Goldberg, running from 1984 to 1985. She won a Grammy Award for Best Comedy Album for the recording of the show. Her film breakthrough came in 1985 with her role as Celie, a mistreated woman in the Deep South, in Steven Spielberg's period drama film *The Color Purple*, for which she won the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Drama. For her role as an eccentric psychic in the romantic fantasy film *Ghost* (1990), she won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress and a second Golden Globe Award. She starred in the comedy *Sister Act* (1992) and its sequel *Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit* (1993), becoming the highest-paid actress at the time. She also acted in *Jumpin' Jack Flash* (1986), *Clara's Heart* (1988), *Soapdish* (1991), *Ghosts of Mississippi* (1996), and *Till* (2022). She also voiced roles in *The Lion King* (1994) and *Toy Story 3* (2010).

On stage, Goldberg has starred in the Broadway revivals of Stephen Sondheim's musical *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and August Wilson's play *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. She won a Tony Award as a producer of the musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. In 2011 she received her third Tony Award nomination for the stage adaptation of *Sister Act* (2011). On television, Goldberg portrayed Guinan in the science fiction series *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (1988–1993), and *Star Trek: Picard* (2022). Since 2007, she has co-hosted and moderated the daytime talk show *The View*, for which she won the Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Talk Show Host. She has hosted the Academy Awards ceremony four times.

The Nutcracker

*conducted by Italian composer Riccardo Drigo, with Antonietta Dell'Acqua as the Sugar Plum Fairy, Pavel Gerdt as Prince Coqueluche, Stanislava Belinskaya as Clara*

The Nutcracker (Russian: Щелкунчик, romanized: Shchelkunchik, pronounced [ʂɐlʲkʲʉnʲtʲɕʲkʲ] ), Op. 71, is an 1892 two-act classical ballet (conceived as a ballet-féerie; Russian: балет-феерия, romanized: balet-feyeriya) by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, set on Christmas Eve at the foot of a Christmas tree in a child's imagination featuring a Nutcracker doll. The plot is an adaptation of Alexandre Dumas's 1844 short story *The Nutcracker*, itself a retelling of E. T. A. Hoffmann's 1816 short story *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*. The ballet's first choreographer was Marius Petipa, with whom Tchaikovsky had worked three years earlier on *The Sleeping Beauty*, assisted by Lev Ivanov. Although the complete and staged *The Nutcracker* ballet was not initially as successful as the 20-minute *Nutcracker Suite* that Tchaikovsky had premiered nine months earlier, it became popular in later years.

Since the late 1960s, *The Nutcracker* has been danced by many ballet companies, especially in North America. Major American ballet companies generate around 40% of their annual ticket revenues from performances of the ballet. Its score has been used in several film adaptations of Hoffmann's story.

Tchaikovsky's score has become one of his most famous compositions. Among other things, the score is noted for its use of the celesta, an instrument the composer had already employed in his much lesser known symphonic ballad *The Voyevoda* (1891).

## NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work – Children

*Finalist Peeny Butter Fudge Toni and Slade Morrison Joe Cepeda Sugar Plum Ballerinas: Toeshoe Trouble Whoopi Goldberg Maryn Roos Child of the Civil Rights*

This article lists the winners and nominees for the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work in the children's literature category.

Jackie Carter

*African American culture. The imprint included Whoopi Goldberg's Sugar Plum Ballerina series, as well as the Willimena series by Valerie Wilson Wesley*

Jackie Carter (June 28, 1953 – April 13, 2016) was an American children's author. Her goal was to provide children of all races with images of themselves in the books they read.

Natalia Osipova

*Rubies Soloist The Pharaoh's Daughter: Aspicia, Ramze The Nutcracker: Sugar Plum Fairy, Clara, Spanish Doll Onegin: Tatiana Marguerite and Armand: Marguerite*

Natalia Petrovna Osipova (Russian: Наталья Петровна Осипова; born 18 May 1986) is a Russian ballerina, currently a principal ballerina with The Royal Ballet in London.

Michaela DePrince

*principal ballerinas, as her role model. In 2015, MGM acquired the film rights to DePrince's book Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina. In 2018*

Michaela Mabinty DePrince (born Mabinty Bangura; January 6, 1995 – September 10, 2024) was a Sierra Leonean–American ballet dancer who danced with the Boston Ballet, the Dance Theatre of Harlem, and the Dutch National Ballet.

DePrince rose to fame after starring in the documentary *First Position* in 2011, which followed her and other young ballet dancers as they prepared to compete at the Youth America Grand Prix, where she won a scholarship to the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at American Ballet Theatre. In 2012, DePrince danced with the Dance Theatre of Harlem as the youngest dancer in the history of the company. From 2013 to 2020, she was with the Dutch National Ballet.

With her adoptive mother, Elaine DePrince, she authored the book *Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina* (2014). From 2016 to 2024, she was a goodwill ambassador with the Amsterdam-based organization War Child.

Antonietta Dell'Era

*22 June 1945 Berlin) was an Italian prima ballerina best known for originating the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy in Tchaikovsky's ballet, The Nutcracker*

Antonietta Dell'Era (10 February 1860 Milan — 22 June 1945 Berlin) was an Italian prima ballerina best known for originating the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy in Tchaikovsky's ballet, *The Nutcracker* (1892).

Jennifer Lauren

*Jennifer Lauren returns as Sugar Plum Fairy in The Nutcracker*; *Pointe Magazine*. December 10, 2021. *“Tuscaloosa ballerina takes on Miami, Paris”*. *Pointe*

Jennifer Lauren is an American prima ballerina, artist, choreographer, rehearsal coach and dance instructor. She was a principal dancer at Miami City Ballet and retired from dancing professionally in December 2024.

Lauren danced as Odette/Odile in Alexei Ratmanský's North American premiere of *Swan Lake*, and originated roles in Alexei Ratmanský's *The Fairy's Kiss* and *Symphonic Dances*; Justin Peck's *Heatscape*; Liam Scarlett's, *Viscera*; Pontus Lidberg's *Petrichor*, among many others.

Lauren choreographed, *Tchavolo Swing* which was performed March 18, 2024, in collaboration with New World Symphony Fellows.

Variation (ballet)

*and Acteon – Diana Don Quixote – Basilio, Kitri, Cupid The Nutcracker – Sugar Plum Fairy Sleeping Beauty – Bluebird Swan Lake – Odile (the Black Swan) Grant*

In ballet, a variation (sometimes referred to as a *pas seul*, meaning to dance alone) is a solo dance. In a classical grand *pas de deux*, the ballerina and danseur each perform a variation.

The Nutcracker and the Four Realms

*(ignoring her warning that Sugar Plum is lying to them), but Clara is disappointed to discover that the egg is only a music box. Sugar Plum uses the machine to*

The Nutcracker and the Four Realms is a 2018 American Christmas fantasy film directed by Lasse Hallström and Joe Johnston. It is a retelling of both the 1816 short story "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" and the 1892 ballet *The Nutcracker*, about a young girl who is gifted a locked egg from her deceased mother and sets out in a magical land to retrieve the key. The film stars Keira Knightley, Mackenzie Foy, Eugenio Derbez, Matthew Macfadyen, Richard E. Grant, Misty Copeland, Helen Mirren, and Morgan Freeman.

The film was announced in March 2016 with Hallström directing from a script by Powell. Much of the cast signed on that summer, and filming began in October at Pinewood Studios, lasting through January 2017. In December 2017, it was announced Johnston would direct a month of reshoots, with Hallström agreeing to Johnston receiving co-directing credit. The reshoots were written by Tom McCarthy, who went uncredited, and Powell received a sole credit as screenwriter. Composer James Newton Howard scored the film, adapting elements from Tchaikovsky's music for the 1892 ballet, while Gustavo Dudamel served as conductor, leading the London Philharmonia Orchestra.

The Nutcracker and the Four Realms premiered at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles on October 29, 2018, and was released by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures in the United States on November 2. The film was a box office disappointment, grossing \$174 million worldwide against a production budget between \$120–133 million and losing Disney over \$65 million. It received generally negative reviews, with criticisms of its story and Knightley's performance, although the film's visual effects and aesthetics were praised.

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