FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:
Suzette Espinosa  Gino Campodonico
(786) 468-2221  (786) 468-2228
sespinosa@arshtcenter.org gcampodonico@arshtcenter.org

THE ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PRESENTS

A holiday mash-up for the entire family!
Featuring Hip Hop Pioneer Kurtis Blow

December 2, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m
Tickets start at $25
John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall

MIAMI, FL October 2017 – As part of its Dance at Arsht offerings this season, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County (@arshtcenter) presents THE HIP HOP NUTCRACKER (www.hiphopnutcracker.com), a contemporary dance spectacle set to Tchaikovsky’s timeless music. The show will be performed on December 2, 2017 in the Knight Concert Hall and will feature Kurtis Blow, one of hip hop’s founding fathers, opening the show and performing a short set before rapping the introduction.

Tickets to THE HIP HOP NUTCRACKER are $25, $35, $55 & $75*. Tickets may be purchased through the Arsht Center Box Office by calling (305) 949-6722, or online at www.arshtcenter.org.

Directed and choreographed by Jennifer Weber, THE HIP HOP NUTCRACKER is a full-length production featuring a dozen all-star dancers, an on-stage DJ and an electric violinist. The traditional classic Tchaikovsky score beautifully complements the power moves of these 12 dancers, with transitional and incidental music re-mixed and re-imagined, helping to bring a beautifully surprising contemporary vibe to the production.

This will mark the second of Weber’s classical-meets-contemporary pieces to be performed at the Arsht Center this year. In April 2017, Weber collaborated with Miami-based composer Sam Hyken, co-artistic director of Miami’s genre-bending chamber orchestra Nu Deco Ensemble, to create The Vivaldi Project “4,” a new work commissioned by the Arsht Center that combines classical music and hip-hop dance and was performed to a packed house and rave reviews.
“We’ve got some of the best dancers in the world performing in a show that is being reimagined in a truly spectacular way,” says Blow. “The creative team has turned this old classic into a new classic, and audiences love this new adaptation everywhere we go.”

Just like the classic Nutcracker story, 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 a colorful and contemporary New York City. Through the modern, self expressive gaze of hip hop culture, the dynamic performers of THE HIP HOP NUTCRACKER celebrate the magic of the entire holiday season on the most inclusive holiday of them all - New Year’s Eve, a time for new beginnings.

The Hip Hop Nutcracker is produced by the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) with Executive Producer, Eva Price, and co-commissioned by the United Palace of Cultural Arts.

About Jennifer Weber
Jennifer Weber (Director/Choreographer) is an award-winning director-choreographer whose career has spanned concert dance, commercial events, theatre and TV. A physical storyteller at heart, Weber brings projects to life with her unique sense of visual narrative. Weber is the director-choreographer of the international touring hit The Hip Hop Nutcracker, as well as the founder and director of Brooklyn-based hip hop theatre company, Decadance Theatre (for which she was nominated for the “Outstanding Emerging Choreographer” New York Dance and Performance (Bessie) Award). Her concert dance work has toured across the US, UK, Russia and France performing at venues including Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, The Apollo Theater, The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, London’s Southbank Center, The Everyman in Liverpool, New York City Center, Bumbershoot in Seattle, The Music Center, Los Angeles and The Stanislavsky Musical Theatre in Moscow.

Weber has choreographed immersive and staged events for brands including American Express, Uber, Ulta, L’Oreal Matrix, Reebok, Philosophy, Marc Jacobs, Hormel and CK2. She is currently the director for the tour of Lifetime’s Bring It Live! With Coach D and the Dancing Dolls.

As a choreographer, her theater credits include the US Premier of Bryony Lavery’s Stockholm at Stageworks/Hudson, PBS’s Odd Squad Live Tour, James Brown: Get On The Good Foot for The Apollo Theater/US Tour (contributing choreographer with director Otis Sallid), Cruel Intentions The Musical, and Ars Nova’s upcoming immersive theater experience, KPOP (Fall 2017)

About Mike Fitelson
MIKE FITELSON (Writer/Co-Creator) is the executive director of the United Palace of Cultural Arts (UPCA) and original producer of The Hip Hop Nutcracker. He is also the co-creator of the show with Jennifer Weber, adapting the story and supplying the images for the scenery. Fitelson has worked to build the arts community of Northern Manhattan for over a decade. He co-founded the community’s 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.

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.

To download high-resolution versions of the above photos, hold CTRL then click here.

@hiphopnutcracker @ArshtCenter #ArshtCenter

*All programs, artists, ticket prices, availability, dates and times are subject to change without notice.

Visit www.arshtcenter.org for up-to-date information.

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is made possible by the public support of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council and the City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency, as well as the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. The Adrienne Arsht Center also receives generous support from individuals, corporations and local, state and national foundations.

About the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County

Set in the heart of downtown Miami and designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is one of the world’s leading performing arts organizations and venues. Since opening in 2006, the Arsht Center, a 501C3 non-profit organization, has emerged as a leader in presenting innovative programming that mirrors South Florida’s diversity as well as a catalyst for billions of dollars in new development in the downtown area. Spotlighting legends and serving as a launch pad for local artists to make their mark on the international stage, the Center presents nearly 400 events each year across its flexible, state-of-the-art performance spaces. The Center programs several Signature Series, including the largest jazz series in South Florida, a major annual Flamenco Festival, and a robust program of new theatrical works as well as free programming for the community and an arts education program that serves nearly 30,000 children each year. As Miami's new Town Square, the Arsht Center also houses BRAVA by Brad Kilgore, a fine dining restaurant; the Café at Books & Books in the historic Carnival Tower and a weekly Farmers Market.

Visit www.arshtcenter.org for more information.