



## **The Imperial Ice Stars' *Nutcracker on Ice***

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. What is the running time of the show?**

The show lasts approximately one hour and forty minutes (Act One 48 mins, Act Two 51 mins including curtain call), with a 20 minute interval in-between acts.

**2. Where I can read more about the show?**

You can visit [www.imperialicestars.com](http://www.imperialicestars.com) for more information about the show.

**3. Who are The Imperial Ice Stars?**

The award-winning Imperial Ice Stars are the leading performers of theatrical ice skating in the intimacy of the theatre stage.

The 26 World, European and National Championship skaters, who between them hold more than 250 competition medals, take contemporary ice dance to a new level with their daring and graceful feats – some of which are so complex they haven't yet been named – performed in the intimate setting of a frozen theatre stage.

The Imperial Ice Stars have earned an unrivalled reputation for pushing the boundaries in the genre of ice dance with their skill and athleticism on the ice, their creative and powerful story-telling, their sumptuous sets, spectacular special effects and opulent costumes.

The Imperial Ice Stars have been touring the world since 2004 and have now performed to almost four million people across five continents and 22 countries. With their shows *The Sleeping Beauty on Ice*, *Swan Lake on Ice*, *Cinderella on Ice* and now *The Nutcracker on Ice*, they have won five star praise from critics and nightly standing ovations from audiences at some of the world's most prestigious venues - London's Royal Albert Hall and Sadler's Wells, Singapore's Esplanade Theatre, Montreal's Place des Arts and Cape Town's Artscape.

**4. What makes this ice show so special?**

The Imperial Ice Stars specialise in performing theatrical ice skating in the intimacy of the theatre. Normally ice shows are performed in large arenas, making it difficult to see some of the skating manoeuvres but in this show you will see stunning skating at very close range.

The Imperial Ice Stars are renowned for their daring and innovation on the ice. *The Nutcracker on Ice* continues to break new ground in the genre of ice dancing. Stunning skating feats, some only seen in Olympic arenas and some never seen before, are performed within the confines of a frozen theatre stage, including breathtaking high speed throws and incredible lifts and lift sequences. The exceptionally talented skaters have been given the freedom to experiment outside competitive skating, while working alongside some of the top figure skating coaches and choreographers in the world, and as a result they have taken ice choreography to new limits.

Their style of story-telling is unique and is a fusion of ice dancing, ballet, drama, gymnastics and aerial acrobatics, so there's something for everyone. There are gloriously colourful costumes and lavish scenery and props to the highest standards of London's West End.

**5. I saw *Swan Lake on Ice/Cinderella on Ice* – is this just more of the same?**

Not at all! If you liked *Swan Lake on Ice/Cinderella on Ice* you will be blown away by *The Nutcracker on Ice* – to put it simply, this show is even better, in every way.

The Imperial Ice Stars are renowned for taking ice dancing to new limits. Manoeuvres performed by the principal skaters in *Cinderella on Ice* are now performed by the ensemble skaters in *The Nutcracker on Ice*, while the principal skaters perform feats that have never been attempted before. It took many hours of rehearsal time to even see if the moves were possible, and then to perfect them. There are some show-stopping pieces of ice dancing.

In addition, the show has a greater theatricality than previous shows, with the skaters giving the characters greater depth, and real magic tricks being performed on stage.

The stage set for *The Nutcracker on Ice* is truly magical with stunning three-dimensional scenery and props, and special effects including fire, snow, flying and beautiful pyrotechnic effects both on stage and in the auditorium.

The costuming in *The Nutcracker on Ice* has a more contemporary edge to it than *Cinderella on Ice*, and has been designed by one of Russia's leading theatrical costume designers – Elena Predvoditeleva – who has worked with a large number of top directors and created outstanding costumes for theatre, film, circus and variety shows as well as haute couture.

**6. Will the theatre be cold if the show is on ice?**

No. The stage is obviously kept at a controlled temperature (-15c), but this does not affect the rest of the auditorium at all.

**7. Is photography allowed within the theatre?**

We ask that people do not bring cameras or video cameras into the theatre as it may distract the ice skaters as well as other members of the audience.

**8. What is your latecomers' policy?**

This will be at the discretion of the venue, but we suggest that any latecomers wait until the first piece of skating is over and a suitable break in the performance occurs. This will be just a few minutes after the show commences.

**9. Will there be merchandise?**

Yes. There will be a range of Imperial Ice Stars merchandise available at each performance, including a range of Nutcracker-themed charms and a bracelet, snow globes, a Russian Doll 'Soldier', a DVD and CD.

**10. What is the music?**

The music is the famous Tchaikovsky score, which has been specially re-arranged to suit the tempo of ice dance by Tim A Duncan and Peter Whitfield. Tim A Duncan is a highly regarded contemporary composer (he composed the score for *Cinderella on Ice*), and re-arranged Tchaikovsky's score for *Swan Lake on Ice*. He has worked with Tony Mercer for almost 20 years on 'theatre on ice' productions. The *Nutcracker on Ice* score is performed by the Manchester Symphony Orchestra and was recorded using the latest digital technology to achieve the best possible sound quality.

**11. How is the ice made?**

Briefly, it is made over a 24 hour period by laying a waterproof 'baking tray' on the stage which is then covered with piping similar to the back of a fridge. A mixture of antifreeze and water is then circulated through the pipes, and the chillers are turned down to a temperature of minus 15 degrees C. Crushed ice is then spread over the piping and regularly sprayed with water which soon builds up to form a smooth ice surface, approximately 3 inches thick.

Visit <http://www.imperialicestars.com/behind-the-scenes/how-the-ice-is-made> to find out more.