

EBT Nutcracker Press Release November 5, 2007
Expect the unexpected at Emerald Ballet Theatre's Nutcracker

"Ready 5, 6, 7, 8, fight! I mean dance!" Ballet and capoeira martial arts students practicing for the Emerald Ballet Theatre (EBT) Nutcracker are not surprised by this refrain. They know that their battle beneath the Christmas tree on Saturday December 8th at the Sammamish High School Performing Arts Center in Bellevue will be unlike any of the season.

Artistic director Viktoria Titova's choreography combines the classical techniques she perfected performing in the Bolshoi Theatre (Grigorovich Company) with true battle. The Brazilian martial art/dance form known for spins, kicks, and flips is a perfect fit for the battle between mice and soldiers. Thyago Da Cruz, master teacher of EBT's resident Candeias Capoeira, performs with other adult soldiers as the Nutcracker. Add Eastgate Elementary student Carina Lundblad as little Clara, EBT youth dancers, a beautiful mouse queen on pointe shoes, and you have an athletic and artistic Christmas treat.

Following the battle, professional ballerinas join big Clara, Bellevue native Erin McEachran, in classic scenes as snowflakes and waltzing flowers. Advanced dancers are inspired by the technical and artistic performance Titova expects from them. "She is nurturing and demanding at the same time," says McEachran, whose own dancing career has taken her from coast to coast studying and performing with companies such as Pacific Northwest Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, and Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre.

Professional dancers like Seattleite Jerome Tso (performing as the cavalier), marvel at the youth cast in Emerald Ballet Theatre's inaugural production. "It is amazing to see such a large group of boys excited to dance." From pre-school to high school, strong groups of boys enroll in EBT classes. Many are performing in the Nutcracker.

"Not only is the Nutcracker a magical experience for the audience," Titova explains, "it is also an invaluable teaching tool for aspiring dancers."

Emerald Ballet Theatre, new to the Eastside, offers classical ballet for pre-school to professional dancers in addition to modern, choreography, and classical dance forms from around the world. EBT's emphasis on artistic collaboration and community outreach sets them apart as a vital arts center for the community. Mixing traditional and innovative programming makes any EBT event a must see. Check <http://emeraldballet.org> for performances, events, programming, also more on their unique philosophy and mission.