



LEAVE HIM ALONE—Lara Smith, right, as Clara, defends her beloved Nutcracker from her naughty brother Fritz (Darrick Wydick) in a scene from the Davis Life Enrichment production of "The Nutcracker." This second annual production is under the direction of Bob Bowen.



IS THERE A CAT IN THE HOUSE?—Peter Vigil, 11 (on left), as the Nutcracker, is given a hard time by the Pipsqueak Mouse (Kyri Sparks, 5, center) and the Mouse King (Iain Thomson, 10, on right), in a scene from the Davis Life Enrichment production of "The Nutcracker," to be presented Dec. 22-23 at the Veterans' Memorial Theater. Christmas caroling on a double decker bus will conclude the entertainment for cast and audience alike.

Staff photos by Curt Foley

A different 'Nutcracker'

By Jan Halsey

Some 65 Davis children will take to the stage this holiday season, in a Davis Life Enrichment production of "The Nutcracker" that is put together a bit differently from the standard ballet production.

According to director Bob Bowen, who originated the idea last year, "It's a show where any kid can become involved... where kids who haven't got all the talent, all the gymnastics lessons, all the ballet lessons can still get up on stage, in costume, and perform."

And, more than incidentally, the program makes use of some of the Life Enrichment resources, and the Veterans' Memorial Theater, at a time of year when other community groups have finished with theatrical productions for the holiday season.

In this abridged, 45-minute version, the Mother is also the Sugar Plum Fairy. Suzie Rains, a 12-year-old girl, has been cast in that role, with 11-year-old Lara Smith as Clara, and 11-year-old Derrick Wydick as Fritz.

Also in the cast in leading roles are Marc Thompson, 10, as the Old Man; Iain Thomson, 10, as the Mouse King; Peter Vigil, 11, as the Nutcracker Prince; and Kyri Sparks, 5, as the Pipsqueak Mouse.

The show will be presented at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, and again at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, at 14th and B Streets in Davis. Admission is \$2 for those ages 13 and over, and 50 cents for children 12 and under. Advance sale tickets (strongly recommended, in light of last year's sellout performances) may be obtained at 218 F St., between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; or reserved by calling 756-3740, extension 65.



COME TOGETHER IN LOVE—Nutcracker Prince Peter Vigil, on left, and Clara (Lara Smith) come together with the blessing of Clara's mother, the Sugar Plum Fairy (Suzie Rains, center) in this scene

from the Davis Life Enrichment production of "The Nutcracker." More than 65 children from ages 4-12 are involved in the show.

Entertainment

The Prince (Peter Vigil), left, and the Mouse King (Iain Thomson) battle while Pipsqueak Mouse (Kyri Sparks) cries out fearfully in "The Nutcracker" presented by the Davis Life Enrichment Department Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Veterans' Memorial Theater. General admission is \$2 and 50 cents for children 12. Advance tickets are available at 218 F St., and are recommended since last year's performance was sold out.

Enterprise Photo

