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Kids' 'Nutcracker' set

All 135 get roles

By DEL McCOLM

When 135 children showed up to audition this year for the fourth annual production of "The Nutcracker," presented by the Davis Parks and Community Services Department, staff member Bob Bowen selected all of them.

"I wanted every Davis kid who showed up to have their chance on stage in a costume," he said, so rather than eliminate any prospective mouse or snowflake, he created more characters.

This year, "The Nutcracker" will introduce Suzuki musicians complete with one-quarter-size violins, gnomes, even a surprise shot from a cannon — but it's all magic, he said reassuringly.

Even Tchaikovsky would have approved.

Cami Robinson will appear as Clara, Steve Larsen as the Nutcracker Prince, Brian Derrico as Fritz and Christine Robinson as the Sugar Plum Fairy in the production, opening Friday.

Other leading roles are held by Christie DeMaria, who will portray the Mother, Mike Horton as toy maker Drosselmeyer, Marta Wilson as the Mouse King, Melissa Hayes as Pipsqueak Mouse, Andrea Kagan as Mother Mar-



Photo by Teri Bolin

Young performers

Clara (Cami Robinson) and the Prince (Steve Larsen) journey to find the Sugar Plum Fairy in 'The Nutcracker,' presented for the fourth year by the Davis Parks and Community Services

Department at 7 p.m. Friday and at 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday in the Veterans' Memorial Theater. Following immediately at 8:30 p.m.

shallow, Jocelyn English as the Queen of the Snowflakes, Rob Westergaard as the King of the Snowflakes and Nate Ballard and John Westergaard as the gnomes.

Due to increased demand, a third performance has been added Saturday. The three performances will be at 7 p.m. Friday and at 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday in the Veterans' Memorial Theater.

General admission is

\$2.50, for children age 12 and under \$1. Tickets are on sale at the Parks and Community Services office, 218 F St. Some might still be available at the door before the performance.

There will be no bus caroling after Friday's performance, but the Second Annual Christmas Carol Sing will begin at 8:30 p.m. Included in the program will be the Davis Chorale, directed by Rachel Kessler; the Davis Community Church Bell Choir,

conducted by Norma Meyer; the Pioneer School third/fourth-grade choir, directed by teacher Ann Gibbs; and community singing, accompanied by Dorothy West.

Refreshments will be available in the lobby.

Admission will be free to the Christmas Carol Sing, which is presented by the city of Davis and The Davis Enterprise, coordinated by Valley Artist Productions Inc. For information, call 756-3740, extension 65.

City of Davis fourth annual 'Nutcracker'

The City of Davis' fourth annual "Nutcracker" is on at 7 p.m. Dec. 19-20 and 2 p.m. Dec. 20 at the city's Veterans Memorial Theater. The show, sponsored by the Parks and Community Services Department and directed by Bob Bowen, has a cast of 135 children from age 4 to 12.

Cast in leading roles are: Cami Robinson as Clara; Steve Larsen as the Prince; Brian Derrico as Fritz; Christie DeMaria as Mother; Marta Wilson as Mouse King; Melissa Hayes as Pipsqueak; Christine Robinson as the Sugar Plum Fairy; Andrea Kagan as Mother Marshmallow; Mike Horton as Drosselmeyer; Jocelyn English as the Snowflake Queen; Rob Westergaard as the Snowflake King; and Nate Ballard and John Westergaard as the gnomes.

A gingerbread house by Ann Ough, on display in the lobby during performances, will be raffled, with the drawing during the last performance Dec. 20. Proceeds go to offset production costs.

Admission is \$250 general, \$1 for children 12 and under, with tickets on sale at the Parks office, 218 F St. in Davis, or at the door.



THAT BALLET BY TCHAI—"COP"—SKY might surprise the maestro, but it's likely to delight the family when the 135-member cast of Davis children launch into their own version of "The Nutcracker" under Bob Bowen's direction. Here Monica White tops the pyramid, with support from Richie Below (left) and Caitie Lacy. Staff photo by Sue Cockrell