



Photo by Ken Browning

Nutcracker sweets

Davis youths — nearly 135 in all — are hard at work in final dress rehearsals for the weekend performance of the Nutcracker, scheduled at the Veterans Memorial Theatre. Practicing one particularly dramatic scene are, from left, Faith Luders at the Pipsqueak Mouse, Ian Twiss as the Nutcracker/Prince and Nancy Homer as Clara.

The presentation, now in its fifth year, is sponsored by the city Parks and Community Services Department and will be offered at 7 tonight and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are priced at \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children under 12, and are available at City Hall and at the door.

OUR VIEW

Bravo for 'The Nutcracker'

It's often called the city's Christmas present to the people of Davis.

This year the gift seemed special.

"The Nutcracker," a lovely and timeless children's story, was presented by the Parks and Community Services Department this weekend at the Veterans' Memorial Center . . . and it was a treat for everyone. We thank Bob Bowen and his crew for their patience and contribution.

MORE THAN 130 local youngsters joined Bowen, Chris and Kate Boyce and a handful of volunteers to make the holiday spectacle a rousing success.

A true community effort, help came from everywhere: UC Davis faculty members, the Davis Costume Guild, Sunshine Children's Theater and others.

Director Bowen quickly points to all the help he received — "I'm just the eye in the

middle of the storm" — but those involved with the production realize "The Nutcracker" is a Bowen extravaganza.

Rehearsals began last Monday for the weekend stagings and Bowen said things went like clockwork: "I just began conquering and dividing . . ."

BUT THIS YEAR there was a little drama within the drama. Lead Ian Twiss, the Prince of "The Nutcracker," performed brilliantly Friday and Saturday afternoon, but became ill after the matinee.

Former Prince Steve Larson, now involved with stage management (he was on the lights), quickly swung into action, relearned his lines of previous years and saved the evening presentation.

The show must go on, and because of it our community is much happier this Monday. Thanks, Bob. Thanks, kids.