

Ballet keeps dancer in a whirl

By KATIE KERWIN

Jane Moore of Troy said she never dreamed when she persuaded her daughter to try ballet lessons a few years ago how far Neala's career would go.

Neala, 13, danced the role of Clara in "The Nutcracker Suite" last Saturday at Ford Auditorium. It starts out with one day a week for a little girl getting graceful," Mrs. Moore said. "All of a sudden, you have a monster on your hands."

Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills, where Neala attends school, has arranged a course schedule for afternoons only so she can sandwich classes between ballet practice.

Despite the hectic schedules and hours of shuttling Neala between school and dance lessons and rehearsals, Mrs. Moore has a hard time concealing her pride in her daughter.

The dance lessons started out merely as an exposure to a new type of activity, she said. "She's always been a very active little girl." When Neala had gone as far as she could in swimming class, her mother thought of ballet.

"She actually had to force me to take classes," Neala said. After several years of weekly lessons, she began taking lessons four times a week.

"Then I started really getting interested in it," she said.

Neala spent the last two summers at Ballet West in Snowmass, Colo. She also started studying under Jacob Lascu of Southfield four or five hours each week. Lascu is Marygrove ballet master and choreographer of "The Nutcracker Suite."

"BY LAST SPRING, I was taking private lessons every day and two classes every day, except Monday," Neala said.

She is also an apprentice this year with Dance Detroit, Marygrove College's resident dance company. Her different commitments keep her dancing 16-18 hours a week.

In August, Neala studied at a dance camp in New York City with David Howard.

"Unfortunately, I didn't get to enjoy the camp much because the first day there I broke my toe," she said ruefully. She banged her toe on the dance barre during class.

But after X-rays, a local physician told her the toe wasn't broken. Neala said she didn't discover it was broken until after she had been dancing on it for several weeks.

She flatly refutes the stereotype that ballerinas

are all graceful creatures who float from room to room.

"I call myself the Out-of-the-dance-class Clod," she said. "I have this tendency to stumble."

Explaining her camp accident, she said, "I went through this period in August when I was constantly falling."

Being graceful isn't easy, even on stage, Neala said. "You're trying to be graceful while you're sweating. You're trying to pretend this is all very easy, while your leg hurts and your knee hurts."

AT FIRST, HER friends from school kidded Neala about her "hobby," she said, imitating a mock ballet twirl with her finger atop her head. Now, they take an interest in her talent, asking about rehearsals and practices.

Others tease her about having a light schedule, since she is only in school in the afternoon.

Just the opposite is true, Neala claims. She has to keep up with the workload of fulltime students, while balancing a heavy schedule of dancing practice.

"Right now, with the 'Nutcracker,' it's been really hard," Tryouts with Lascu were in mid-October, but dance assignments weren't announced until later, she said.

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Area student learns about parks

During his internship with the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission, Tim Harris has learned that recreation means more than golf courses and playgrounds.

"I've learned that the main objective of recreation is serving the public," said the 21-year-old Farmington Hills senior, who plans to graduate from Central Michigan University in May

with a degree in Recreation Administration.

Harris, the son of Fred and Elaine Harris of 24134 Old Timber Road, considered his internship experience a valuable one.

"I've seen how the commission tries to meet its goals, serve the public and provide the best possible service," he explained.

Harris worked at seven of eight county parks. At Glen Oaks Golf Course in Farmington Hills, he served as a cashier and golf course starter. In

Holly's Groveland Oaks County Park he parked trailers and worked maintenance.

His experiences also include supervising beaches and working in bathhouses at Independence Oaks in Clarkston and supervising youngsters at the wave action pool at Waterford Oaks County Park in Pontiac.

Harris said he thought his internship and CMU course work have complemented one another quite well.

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Tim Harris (left) experienced several facets of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation program during his recent internship.

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CITY OF FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL will hold a Public Hearing at 8:00 P.M. JANUARY 21, 1980, in the Council Chambers, 23800 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan, for the purpose of reviewing a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance which would define the height of structures.

A complete copy of the proposed amendment is on file in the office of the City Clerk for public inspection.

All interested persons will be given an opportunity to express their views at the above time and place. Any other information regarding the above is available at the office of the City Clerk.

NEDRA VIANE, City Clerk

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