



Presentation: Carole Cotter and her students Elizabeth Anderson, left, and Erin Compton show their stuff at Cotter's dance studio in Farmington Hills.

Hills dance teacher performs in 'Nutcracker'

BY AILEEN WINGBLAD
STAFF WRITER

"The Nutcracker" is a traditional holiday favorite for plenty of folks regardless of their tastes for the ballet in general. Indeed, for many it is just not Christmas without a December dose of the Tchaikovsky masterpiece.

And this year, area residents may be delighted to know that Farmington Hills' own Carole Cotter is bringing her grace and talent to the Fox Theater production of "The Nutcracker," through Dec. 30.

Cotter, who runs the popular Miss Carole's School of Ballet

on 10 Mile and Orchard Lake roads in Farmington Hills is featured in nearly every one of the show's 25 performances, including solos in "Dance of the Snow" and "The Dance of Mirtilon," as well as "pas-de deux" (dance for two) or partnered dances for the renowned "Waltz of the Flowers" and "The Arabian." The Fox productions began Dec. 10.

"It's really an honor to be asked, and it gives me the opportunity to get into peak condition — I'm no youngster," said Cotter.

She stays in shape

And while she declines to re-

veal her age, Cotter, who considers herself a retired performer, says she "feels wonderful. . . . Actually, I'm very surprised at the condition I'm in."

This year's performance marks the second time Cotter will dance with Dance Detroit's production of "The Nutcracker," having performed with the group three years ago at Ford Auditorium. She says she is asked every year to perform the ballet with Dance Detroit, but this year accepted the offer because she "was given better parts . . . and the solos."

"This gives me renewed spirit about dancing . . . I want to

show my zest and love for dance. And it is a great opportunity for my students to see what a ballet company is all about and to see their teacher dance professionally," she said.

No 'stage fright'

To prepare for the December ballet, Cotter has been dancing an extra two hours each weekday in addition to the classes she teaches at her studio. She also rehearses four hours every Saturday and Sunday. Of course, she says, it's worth it, especially once she's facing the audience. Stage fright is never a problem



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRIDGER

Form: Carole Cotter displays the form that has allowed her to continue as a dance professional as well as teach.

for her, she explains.

"The only thing that happens to me is this wonderful rush of adrenalin. It's very uplifting. The energy really picks me right up — I come alive on stage," Cotter says.

Cotter, who grew up in Farmington, has been dancing almost her entire life and has an impressive professional background. Highlights of her training and career include acceptance into the Washington Ballet when she was but 12 years old. After graduating from Farmington High School, Cotter was granted a scholarship with the

New York City Ballet and ultimately went on to the prestigious American Ballet Theater and Broadway.

She says ballet was always her direction when she was growing up — her "own love and whole heart was for dance."

"I was always driven toward it; there was something about it for me. Like a singer who has to sing, I am a dancer who has to dance. You train your whole life to make something extremely difficult look extremely easy and fluid. It is the beauty in movement you strive for," Cotter says.

Ex-Hills Mayor Dudley named court magistrate

Joan Dudley, Farmington Hills mayor in 1977, was recently appointed 47th District Court magistrate. The Hills city council approved the appointment 6-0 last week.

Councilman Ben Marks was absent from the meeting due to illness.

Dudley will fill the magistrate opening, which was created when

Marlo Parker was elected judge in November. Dudley's selection was made in consultation with Judge-elect Parker, Judge Margaret Schaeffer and Chief Judge Frederick Harris.

Dudley, who graduated Magna Cum Laude from Thomas Cooley Law School, has been in private practice since 1986.

"I'm very pleased — somewhat scared because it's a big responsi-

bility," Dudley said of her new job. She said she would try to "do the job well, be objective, to properly administer the law, to treat all parties that appear before me with dignity and respect — which is a trademark of the 47th District Court."

Dudley will fill the position as of Jan. 1, 1993, joining magistrates James Brady and Dennis Phenev.

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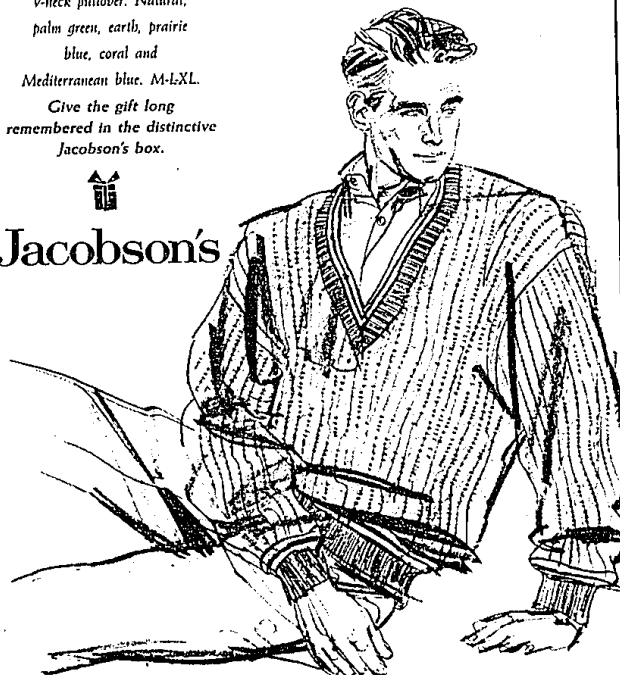
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City of Farmington Hills

NAME THE PARK Contest

All residents and their families are invited to help the Department of Special Services name the newest addition to the city's park system. The recently purchased 85 acres (formerly known as the Sod Farm), located on Eight Mile Road between Halsted and Gill roads, will be developed into a sports and family recreation complex. Over the next couple of years, baseball, softball, soccer fields and court sports will be developed on this property. However, at this point this park needs a name and we want your ideas.

In 35 words or less, give us your suggested park name and a brief explanation supporting your idea.

Name of park: _____

Explanation: _____

Name of entrant: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

ENTRY FACTS:

- Entrant must be a resident of Farmington Hills
- Enter as many times as you wish, but only one entry per form (copies of this form will be accepted)
- The winner will be announced March 8, 1993
- In case of duplicate winning entries, the first entry received by the Department of Special Services will be selected as the winner
- All entries must be received by 4:30 p.m. January 4, '93
- The winner will receive a \$30 gift certificate to one of Farmington Hills' renowned restaurants and a \$50 certificate for any Farmington Hills recreation program

Send entries to:

Name the Park Contest
Dept. of Special Services
31555 W. 11 Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48336-1165

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

Listed below are some of the Farmington area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week.

THEFTS

A resident on Eight Mile reported Dec. 15 that \$1,825 worth of stereo and television equipment had been stolen.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

A Farmington Hills woman told police Dec. 15 that she received a suspicious phone call from a woman saying she was conducting a survey for Michigan Bell. The caller asked the resident how many phones she had, how many children she had and how many were still living. The caller also asked the resident if she would be interested in a phone service, for which the caller would receive \$30, and in conducting a more extensive interview at the Sheraton Hotel. The resident called Michigan Bell and the hotel, both of which told her that they knew nothing about any such survey.

CAR SWERVED

Snks Olds, said that he was returning from purchasing coffee at the Mobil Gas Station when the car swerved toward him while he waited in the curb lane for the car to pass.