

Performing 'The Nutcracker' a dream come true for dancers

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN

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Brittany Turner always dreamed of dancing in "The Nutcracker." Turner, along with hundreds of little girls and boys from Livonia to Canton and Rochester Hills, will have the opportunity to live their dreams when several productions of Tchaikovsky's classic ballet turn stages into enchanted worlds of Sugar Plum Fairies and life-size dancing dolls.

A Bloomfield Hills resident, Turner joins with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Ballet Internationale for 12 performances of Tchaikovsky's classic ballet at the Detroit Opera House, Dec. 9-19. Her experience playing a munchkin in the Wizard of Oz at the Fox Theatre in April helped the 11-year-old dancer overcome jitters at open auditions for the DSO's "Nutcracker."

"It was a dream come true," said Turner, who studies dance at Annette and Co. in Farmington Hills and the American Dance Academy in Commerce. "I was kind of nervous at the beginning of the audition but toward the end I felt confident."

Turner, a student at West Hills Middle School, is one of 85 local dancers filling the roles of party-goers, pages, mice, dolls, harlequins, soldiers, shepherds and snowflakes in the DSO production. Ballet Internationale, under the direction of Eldar Aliev, brings together dancers from Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Italy, Japan, Korea, Austria, Latvia, Columbia, Armenia, Uzbekistan and the U.S. Oguzhan Borova of Turkey, a bronze medalist in the world's oldest ballet competition in Bulgaria; Chieko Oiwai, a Japanese dancer who won the Asia Pacific International Dance Competition,



Enchanting:
Brittany
Turner of
Bloomfield
Hills will
perform with
the DSO and
Ballet Inter-
nationale in
"The
Nutcracker."

Irina Komarenko from Ukraine's renowned Donetsk Ballet, and Russian dancer Alexei Tiukov, gold medalist in the Arabesque International Competition in France, will share the roles of Prince and Sugarplum.

"I'm having a lot of fun," said Turner who began rehearsals for the Waltz of Flowers two months ago.

Turner will have plenty of local dancers to keep her company on the Detroit Opera House stage. Also in the production are Cameron Greenwood, Plymouth; Blaise Badnyne, Livonia; Robbie Parks, Redford; Carlisle Harrison, Garden City; Micha Mathews and Noelle Hardy, Farmington Hills; Holly Fusco, West Bloomfield; Sarah Tilden and Megan Tallman, Rochester

Hills; Angela Gasbo, Rochester; Paige Hardie and Julia Pyko, Bloomfield Hills; Katie Weed, Franklin; Michelle Kasprick, Molly Wagener, Jaclyn Hildebrand and Rebecca Fisher, Troy; Kamari Patrick and Jasmine Harris, Southfield; Megan Okoniewski, Oxford, and Brittany Buchanan, Adam Brenner and Ryan Steele, Walled Lake.

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra will present "The Nutcracker" with Ballet Internationale Thursday, Dec. 9, to Sunday, Dec. 19, 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, Dec. 9-11 and 16-18, 2 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 11 and 18, and 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 12 and 19, at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway.

Tickets \$14-\$60, call (313) 676-5111/(313) 874-SING.

Artrain from page C1

"Cassell's able to capture that persona behind the hero."

One would never guess by looking at Tony England that he's one of the heroes of the space program. As he prepared to talk to school children visiting the exhibit, the former NASA astronaut was anxious to see the artists' impressions of his experiences. A professor at the University of Michigan, England said 1967-72 and 1978-1988 were intense years for him in the NASA space program.

"I'm always impressed by art because it adds something that photography can't," said England. "I admire Artrain for bringing this to the public."

Car One focuses on NASA's formative years—Mercury, Gemini and Apollo. From Hereford Lester Cooke's sketch of Houston Mission Control Center technicians monitoring the 1969 moonwalk to a 1969 oil, "Power to Go," by Paul Calle, the images stir excitement in the viewer. Using vibrant color and sweeping brushstrokes, Calle conveys the power behind Apollo 11's Saturn 5 booster rocket with its five F-1 engines.

Stian back from Atilla Hejja's 1984 oil, "The Light Ship," to fully take in the breathtaking sight of Challenger's first night-launch. Hejja's dynamic painting

focuses on the vehicle thrusting skyward above the Kennedy Space Center.

Car Two records NASA's greatest achievements: the space shuttles Discovery, Atlantis and Endeavor, and the tragic loss of the seven members of the Challenger crew in 1986. Greg Mori's graphite drawing relays the sadness of the moment by depicting a shrouded spacecraft. The 1989 score for an orchestra and jazz suite written by Jane Ira Bloom after the tragedy sounds hope for the future.

Car three focuses on recent and future initiatives including the planetary probes Mariner, Pioneer, Viking, Voyager, Magellan, Galileo, Mars Pathfinder, and the Hubble Space Telescope. John Solie witnesses the assembly of the telescope in the white room in a 1988 acrylic. Linda Draper gives an up-close view of astronauts performing extravehicular activities in space in 1984. Stephen Sprouse's dress mirrors elements of Martian landscape.

To date, more than 2.6 million people in 600 communities in 44 states and the District of Columbia have visited the train, which is based in Ann Arbor. Founded in 1971 by the Michigan Council for the Arts to reach communities without access to metropolitan museums, Artrain

USA seeks to enrich lives through the arts. Artrain USA expanded its tour nationally in 1973 with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

"In the beginning they had to create an arts organization before our train would come into their community," said Polich. "The things that happen are magical when Artrain shows up."

In Healdsburg in Sonoma Valley they refurbished an old abandoned train depot. An artist was sent into the schools to work with students. Art from these kids was hung all over town. The community came together to do this, but Artrain was the catalyst."

Money from corporate and private contributions, foundations, and grants account for 80 percent of the nonprofit Artrain's budget.

Funding from sponsor DaimlerChrysler will keep the "Artistry of Space" exhibit rolling through 2002. Education programs, including demonstrations by local artists such as Nancy Weiss, are underwritten by Target to teach children about line, color, and subjects. "Without DaimlerChrysler, we wouldn't be able to do it," said Artrain USA spokesperson Laura Drew.

ART BEAT

Want to publicize an arts event, or know a talented local artist who deserves recognition? It's news that belongs in Art Beat.

Send information to Art Beat, Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009, fax (248) 644-1314.

TRAVEL TO VENICE

Join the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center's art historian and Italian art expert Deborah Kasky and BBAC Director Janet Torno on a tour of Venice, Italy.

In Venice, travelers will visit churches, palaces and museum collections featuring Venetian masterpieces from the Byzantine to the modern era.

Tour participants will also visit Venice's picturesque lagoon islands, known for the traditional arts of lace-making and glass-blowing.

For questions or reservations, please call (248) 644-0868.

CHAMBER WINDS TO PERFORM AT CONFERENCE

Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings will perform at the 63rd Annual Midwest Clinic, an International Band and Orchestra Conference.

The event will be held in Chicago on Dec. 16. More than 12,000 music educators and performers are expected to attend.

In addition to a subscription season of nine concerts at locations around metropolitan

Detroit, the Chamber Winds also presents a five-concert series at Hagopian World of Rugs in Birmingham, and the annual Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival.

NEW SCULPTURE BY DE GIUSTI

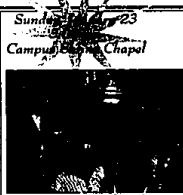
A new bronze sculpture by Sergio De Giusti of Redford Township has been installed in downtown Detroit.

The 9-foot sculpture is titled "Urban Stele." It's been placed in front of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plaza at Lafayette and Beaubien.

De Giusti is well known in the arts community. He has also created numerous commissions for the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan.

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CutTime Players present Sergei Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf

~ Narrated by Dr. Isaiah McKinnon
and Claude Bolling's
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~ Guest Soloist, Alexander Zonjic

Organized in 1995, CutTime Players consists of eight distinguished members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Pipers' Holiday Concert

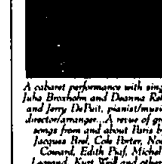
featuring Erin Monroe
and Alexander Zonjic
with special guest,
pianist Margaret Kapasi



Piano Recital by Mexican Pianist Myrthala Salazar



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