Nervous?

She was too thrilled to be scared

right to d Maya

It's every performer's right to be nervous on stage and Maya Ergas Shwayder is no different. But once on her toes on the stage, the dener who performed in Michigan Ballet Theater's The Nuteracker' at the Lake Orion Center for the Performing Arts, relaxes and has fun.

The daughter of Aimee Ergas and Tor Shwayder of Farming-ten Hills, the East Middle School after grader danced as one of the maids in the "Mother Ginger" then and enjoyed the performances so thoroughly that in spite of dancing in four shows in two days, she was reductant for the experience to be over.

Catch the

■ 'Once you get out on stage, you're having so much fun, you forget that you're nervous. You just have to smile.'

Maya Ergas Shwayder
—dancer

"After the last performance of the last "Nuteracker." recalls Mays, "I wanted to go back out there and do it again, it was so much fun. Before the perfor-mance, there's so much going on and everybody's nervous and excited. Then once you get out on stage, you're having so much fun, you forget that you're ner-

vous. You just have to smile."

While taking part in such a major holiday performance, the dancers receive adulation, attention, flowers and candy. However, Maya bypasse these details and instead concentrates on two more sustaining benefits.

"I don't work hard just for the reward. I work for the experience and for the love of ballet. And some of the steps that we of work, and then some of them are really a lot of work. But overall, think it's a great commitment."

Maya's mother remembers a little girl who couldn't wait to dance. She started taking cre-ative movement dance lessons at age five, and by third grade her parents thought Maya ready for the rigors and mental acuity that ballet training required.

It was then that she was enrolled in Cornelia's School of Dance in Keege Harbor for lessons once a week. She has currently increased her training to three seasions a week and has been on pointe for a year, an advanced form of ballet in which the dancer performs many movements up on the point of the foct

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While at Cornelia's School of Dance, Maya has also danced in past performances of "the Nuteracker" and in last spring's production of "The Sleeping Beauty."

Other interests of Maya's include cello lessons from bur years of age, which enables her to join in during family music seasons with her father, a dolinist with the Birminghum Bloomfield Symphony; brotler Kobey, age 14 and a pianist; and Ari, age 18, a violinist.

Additionally, Maya spends four weeks out of the summer at Interlochen Music Campite enhance her studies in cello musical theater and choir; and also enrolls in the summer any camp at Marquis Theater in Northville, where she is enjoying increasingly difficult theater roles.

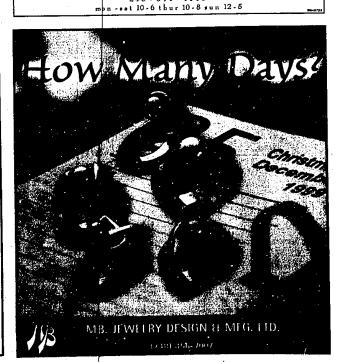
At East Middle School, Maya favors social studies and science, and plays percussion in her school's band. She is a member of the Mosaic Club, a group which promotes peace, prevats prejudice, and highlights act of kindness. She is an avid reader, and will "read any kind of bok, as long as it has pages in it."

Notably, the undertaking of advanced ballet training han't deterred Maya from other ingrests. Still, her most serious commitment? "Ballet," is Maya's resolute reply. "It strengthens you in your back, in your mind, 20, and in your soul."



She's a star: East Middle School sixth-grader Maya Sing a start. Last mittate School sixth-grader maya Ergas Shwayder performs in Michigan Ballet Theater's "The Nutcracker" at the Lake Orion Center for the Per-forming Arts. She is the daughter of Aimee Ergas and Tor Shwayder of Farmington Hills.





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