



Members of the Michigan Ballet Theater admire the mouse king costume which will be used during their performance of the Nutcracker Suite. The mouse king, of course, has a

number of followers in the ballet. "It's hot under those costumes," revealed Stephanie Maza, 11, of West Bloomfield.



Laughing during rehearsal, member of the troupe help each other perfect their performances. Most of the dancers started studying the art when they were about 3 or 4 years old.



Theresa Scully gracefully makes her way across the room during a recent Michigan Ballet Theater rehearsal. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

At Michigan Ballet Theater They dance through life

Stephanie Maza, 11, of West Bloomfield, Michigan, is a member of the Michigan Ballet Theater. She has been dancing since she was 3 years old.

They spend most of their time at the Michigan Ballet Theater, which also is at the Keweenaw Pointe Studio in Farmington.

with being in the company. I couldn't be late if I was. I had to be on time over her practice leotards. She denied that the competitive spirit had anything to do with trying out for the company.

She was sitting on the floor, and she was looking at the boys in the audience. She was looking at the boys in the audience. She was looking at the boys in the audience.

Although most members of the troupe are young, Mrs. Kresson, members of the troupe have to be 12 to be cast in the Nutcracker.

It's not competition. It's exciting. You try to do the best you can. She doesn't seem to mind the amount of time she puts into dancing.

She is a member of the Michigan Ballet Theater. She has been dancing since she was 3 years old.

Most of the girls started dancing when they were 3 or 4 years old. I started when I was 3 years old.

MY MOTHER wishes I had more time to myself. She adds, Although Mrs. Mapples is there is a member of the company's board of directors, she did not father a daughter into joining the company.

I DON'T want to be a ballerina. I want to be a doctor. I want to be a doctor. I want to be a doctor.

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They expect you to touch the ceiling with your toes without warming up. Says Mrs. Williams, shaking her head, "Oh they tell you that they can walk on their toes too. And they start walking on their toes in their leotards." she adds, "My friends say, why do you do something if you know it's going to hurt you?" when I'm sore," said Miss Jambas. "Because sometimes you do get sore."

But I don't know what I would do if I were a ballerina.

I wanted to get into the company after I was 11 years old. I was 11 years old.

Julie Lohmeier and Tom Williams practice their roles of sugar plum fairy and cavalier for the troupe's performance.



Stephanie Maza, 11, tries on the costume she will wear when she plays the role of Clara, the little girl who receives the nutcracker for a Christmas present. This year's performance will be the second time she has played Clara in the Nutcracker. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)



Each costume must slip on easily during the performance. Here, Jean Jambas steps into her snowflake costume, assisted by her mother, Mrs. Jean Jambas.



Mrs. Evelyn Kresson gives pre-rehearsal instructions to her troupe of young dancers. The Michigan Ballet Theater's performances of the Nutcracker will alternate dancers in the major roles.

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