



A FRESH TAKE

'THE NUTCRACKER' COMES TO LIFE ANEW AT ASTORIA HIGH SCHOOL

By **KATHERINE LACAZE**
FOR COAST WEEKEND

A 44-year tradition in Astoria predicated on a ballet that premiered in 1892, the Little Ballet Theatre's "The Nutcracker" production continues evolving and assuming new variations that make it simultaneously a holiday staple and an ever-changing experience for audiences from year to year.

"It's just a great machine that moves along, but every year, you learn something new or you learn to not do something," said director Jeanne Maddox Peterson, founder of the Little Ballet Theatre. "It's a learning process. No matter how long you've done it, you never reach the perfect solution."

"The Nutcracker" will be staged at Astoria High School's auditorium at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2. The show — featuring a cast



IF YOU GO

LITTLE BALLET THEATRE PRESENTS 'THE NUTCRACKER'

When: 2 and 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1; 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 2

Where: Astoria High School auditorium

Admission: Ticket costs vary. Tickets can be purchased online, by phone, or in-person through the Liberty Theatre Box Office; at Maddox Dance Studio, 389 South Main Ave., Warrenton; or one hour prior to each performance at the high school.

For more information: Call Little Ballet Theatre at 503-861-1971.

COLIN MURPHEY PHOTO

Performers take to the stage during a rehearsal of 'The Nutcracker' at Astoria High School.