

with it's rendition of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*

dance snowflakes and an exquisite of twirling flowers to the Czar's lavish palace. At the Czar's Palace, they are entertained by dancers from the Maryinsky Theatre in splendid divertissement (a collection of dances), performed by Spanish, Arabian, Chinese, and Russian dancers, as well as by an 8-foot tall pastry chef and his cadre of gymnastic candies. Michael Curry, co-designer of the Broadway hit *The Lion King* and a member of the design team for the opening ceremonies of the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, created the pastry chef costume for Oregon Ballet Theatre. In Oregon Ballet Theatre's production, designer Campbell Baird, who has also worked with The Joffrey Ballet and the Metropolitan Opera, pays homage to Tchaikovsky (the 1993 premiere of the production marked the centennial of the composer's death), drawing inspiration from sources as diverse as photos of Tchaikovsky's home, to the jeweled designs of Faberge eggs. Many of the characters in the production are inspired by figures in Russian history, including the Von Meck family, hosts of the Act One party scene, who befriended and provided financial support to



Tchaikovsky; Kschessinskaya, the ballerina Assoluta; and Monsieur Faberge, who takes the place of the Drosselmeyer character in other productions of *The Nutcracker*, is based on the fabled jeweler Peter Carl Faberge who produced the jeweled eggs for the Russian aristocracy and royal family. Oregon Ballet Theatre has also adapted the familiar score to *The Nutcracker* to include selections from Tchaikovsky's *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Symphony No. 2*, *Swan Lake*, and *Suite No. 3* befitting the production's unique story line and choreography.

Tickets to *The Nutcracker* are on sale now and may be purchased through the Oregon Ballet Theatre Ticket Office (1120 SW Tenth Avenue in downtown Portland) by calling 503-2-BALLET (503-222-5538) or toll free at 1-888-922-5538, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 am to 3:00 p.m. Tickets range in price from \$5.50 to \$87.00. Tickets are also available through

Ticketmaster (503-790-2787), G.I. Joe's stores, and the Portland Center for the Performing Arts (1111 SW Broadway, downtown Portland).

Free "Nutcracker Storytelling Hour" at Washington Square

In conjunction with its performances of magical holiday classic *The Nutcracker*, Oregon Ballet Theatre (OBT) has scheduled a free "Nutcracker Storytelling Hour" at Washington Square on Saturday,

November 27 at 2:00 pm. The "Nutcracker Storytelling Hour" features a reading of OBT's unique Imperial Russian version of beloved tale, accompanied by over ten students from The School of OBT costumed as characters. For more information call 503-2-Ballet.

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