

The Victorian Nutcracker

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On December 18, 2013, I went to The Victorian Nutcracker by Portland Ballet with my family and friends from co-op. We got there at 9:40 a.m. and the show would start at 10:00 a.m. Our friends from NH, the Leavitt's, were late and didn't get there until the show had started.

Just after we entered Merrill Auditorium and were seated, I scanned the stringed instrument side of the orchestra pit, looking for Auntie Ju Ju, who I knew would be there playing her viola. I spotted her tuning her instrument. I pointed her out to Bethany, Sarah, and Titus. Titus waved and caught her attention. Then she saw us and waved back. I waved, too.

The entire orchestra played a small piece and the show started with a puppet show preceding it. The curtain opened and there was a frozen scene of a Victorian Christmas party. After a moment everybody started moving. There was fun, games, dancing and presents for the girls and boys. All the girls got dolls except for the Star. She got a nutcracker. After the party was over, everybody went home and the family who hosted the party went to bed. Their daughter, the Star, comes out into the living room with her nutcracker in her hand. She fell asleep with her head on the sofa. She dreamed that her nutcracker came alive and turned into a prince. He tries to fight off mice to save her, but at the end of the battle, she ends up killing the mouse king instead. From the time her dream started, there was a kind of magician man there. He didn't do much, though. Sarah Tajonera, Emmy's best friend, was the mouse with the pink bow by her ear. After, the magician took them to a skating rink where they watch girls skate-dance with a boy.

Then there was intermission. The curtains closed and a lady came out with a microphone and talked some about memory and how the dancers have to have a great memory. After a few minutes, she went away and the curtains opened again revealing the magician and the Star coming into a very pretty room. It had painted stained glass windows in the middle of which were two chairs. The nutcracker-prince had disappeared. People from different countries including India, Oriental, and Finland or Holland, I wasn't sure which. There were also angels. One boy who was dancing was wearing pants way, way, way, too tight!! That was so totally inappropriate and unacceptable. It ended with the girl's mother waking her up and sending her to bed.

I had a seat where I could see Auntie Ju Ju as clearly as possible, so at times I just watched her play. The music was my favorite part. I could have sat there and listened and watched them play for hours. But I also liked the ballet part. The dancers were very good and it was evident that they had practiced hard. Sarah Tajonera was a silver angel. Emmy missed a dress rehearsal, and so was kicked out of that show. That was upsetting to more than one person. But, Sarah was her understudy, so she got to play Emmy's part, a silver angel.

After the show was over, we decided that the boys would go with Mama and Mrs. Leavitt would take us girls. We were walking down the sidewalk and went around a corner and saw Auntie Ju Ju standing on the sidewalk waiting for Uncle Jonathan to pick her up. We said hi and she asked me if I liked the show, knowing that I had never seen The Nutcracker before. I said yes, because I did. Then Uncle Jonathan came and we went on to the van.