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Family Plays

NUTCRACKER ... THE MUSICAL

Book and Lyrics by
DEBBIE MEYER

Music arranged by
WAYNE LARRIVEY

Based on E.T.A. Hoffman's
"The Nutcracker and the
Mouse King"



NUTCRACKER ... THE MUSICAL

Debbie Meyer, the producer of *The Sky Is the Limit* Community Theatre in Baltimore, has directed many acclaimed productions of important plays. Fascinated by Tchaikovsky's music and the plot of Hoffmann's story, she searched for a good dramatization of *The Nutcracker*. Finding none, she wrote her own. It was a resounding success in Baltimore, where audiences were delighted with the opportunity to see Hoffman's story and Tchaikovsky's music in play form.

Christmas fantasy. Book and lyrics by Debbie Meyer. From E.T.A. Hoffman's The Nutcracker and the Mouse King. Tchaikovsky's music arranged by Wayne Larrivey. Cast: 17+ actors, flexible. When Marie's godfather gives her a toy nutcracker for Christmas, she puts it under the Christmas tree just as a mouse scampers by. As we watch, the Nutcracker grows to life-size as a handsome soldier, the mouse grows into a man-size Mouse King, and Marie is transported to the land of the Sugarplum Fairies, where duels are fought and romance blossoms. This dramatization by Debbie Meyer gives theatres the opportunity to mount the immortal story on stage as a musical play, minus the ballet dancers. However, dancing may be added if the director chooses. The fantasy elements may be spectacularly displayed or simply presented; the story and the audience's imagination will fill in any missing details. Young and mature audiences alike will love this story of the personified Nutcracker, the Mouse King, the Sugar Plum Fairies and the other enchanting characters. The ballet based on Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* is one of the world's best-loved Christmas entertainments (suitable any time of year). Tchaikovsky composed the passionate music in 1892, the year before he died. *This play can include a very flexible cast as small as 17 (many may be men or women) or as large as your stage can hold. Set: ballroom in Act I with forest and the land of the Sugar Plum Fairies in Act II. Costumes: from the 1800s. Approximate running time: 70 to 90 minutes. Piano-vocal score available. Vocal score available. Demo/accompaniment CD available. Code: N81.*

Family Plays

311 Washington St., Woodstock, IL 60098-3308
Phone: (800) 448-7469 / (815) 338-7170
Fax: (800) 334-5302 / (815) 338-8981

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(NUTCRACKER ... THE MUSICAL)

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NUTCRACKER...The Musical

Cast of Characters

(In order of appearance)

ACT I

Silvi, maid to Silberhaus
 Marie } The Silberhaus
 Fritz } Children
 Clara }
 Nanny May
 Mother
 Father, a judge
 Grandmother
 Martha }
 Emma }
 Anna }
 Andrew }
 Joseph }
 David }
 Rosamond }
 Jacob }
 Hans }
 Godfather Drosselmier
 Nutcracker/Prince Nathan
 Mouse King
 Sugar Plum Fairy
 Snow Angels
 Adult Chorus

Visiting
Children

ACT II

Sergeant-at-Arms
 3 Soldiers
 4 Peasant Girls
 Fairies and Flowers (Children's
 Chorus)
 Page
 King
 Queen
 Princess Pirlipat
 Exterminator
 Ladies in Waiting

Production Notes: Cast size can be cut in half by having the Act I characters double for those in Act II. The mother can play the Queen and the father, the King, the children can play soldiers, etc. Also, the children's chorus can be cut down or eliminated depending on your needs.

Time: The 1800's

Synopsis

Act I: Ballroom of the Silberhaus home

Act II, Scenes 1 and 2: A forest

Scene 3: Land of the Sugar Plum Fairies

Dedication: To everyone who believes “reality can be a wonderful thing, and who knows where we can go or what we can achieve, for after all, the sky is the limit!”

NUTCRACKER...The Musical was premiered by “The Sky is the Limit” Community Theatre, produced by Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks Office of Therapeutic Recreation Services in Maryland, directed by Wayne Larrivey, with the following cast:

Silvi.....	Jennifer Steffen
Marie Silberhaus.....	Dorna Elam
Fritz Silberhaus.....	Tommy Tracey
Clara Silberhaus.....	Christina Bandoch
Nanny May.....	Carey Dillon
Mother.....	Debbie Meyer
Father.....	Wayne Larrivey
Grandmother.....	Cathy Steffen
Martha.....	Beth Pulaski
Emma.....	Erin Roche
Anna.....	Dawn MacKinnon
Andrew.....	Greg Hayward
Joseph.....	Joey Grasso
David.....	Jordan Hadfield
Rosamond.....	Tara Webb
Jacob.....	Nick Staigerwald
Hans.....	Brandon Ambrosino
Godfather Drosselmier.....	Leo Rosendale, Russell Knight
Nutcracker/Nathan.....	Brookes Evans
Mouse King.....	Buddy Staigerwald
Sugar Plum Fairy.....	Faye Tilles
Sergeant-at-Arms.....	Thomas Lewis II
Soldiers.....	Joshua Bandoch, Joe Bradley, Joshua Ramos, Kevin Talman
Four Peasant Girls.....	Erica Tilles, Danielle Cerne, Tiffany Stroh, Julie Gibbons
Page.....	Mark Melton
King.....	Jimmy Grasso
Queen.....	Denise Presley
Princess Pirlipat.....	Lisa Dillon
Exterminator.....	William Lundy
Adult Chorus.....	Cheryl Bandoch, Jim Bolling, Shannon Rosendale, Suzan McLaughlin, Kristen DeVoe, Peggy Rodriguez, Julie Sullivan, Heather McLaughlin, Debbie Loube, Rachel Ramos, John Lundy
Children's Chorus.....	Jennifer Bayer, Ryan Steffen, Jamie Hitt, Aurora Tallman, Lauren Ambrosino, Brittany Shinaberry
Flowers.....	Sarah Steffen, Krystle Belcastro, Sarah Melton, Erin Loube
Snow Angels.....	Kelly Gilbert, Ashley Markiewicz, Julie Gibbons, Shannon Falkenhan, Jennifer Kovacs

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ABOUT THE PLAY

The ballet based on Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* is one of the world's best-loved Christmas entertainments (suitable any time of year). Tchaikovsky composed the passionate music in 1892, the year before he died. This dramatization by Debbie Meyer gives theatres the opportunity to mount the immortal story on stage as a musical play.

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The fantasy elements of the play may be spectacularly displayed or simply presented. The story and the audience's imagination will fill in any missing details. Young and mature audiences alike will love this story of the personified Nutcracker, the Mouse King, the Sugar Plum Fairies, and the other enchanting characters.

Playing time is about 90 minutes.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Properties

ACT I

Desserts for sideboards

Candelabra with lights

Presents under the tree and for guests to carry

One large box with oversized night gown

Swords—Fritz and Nutcracker

Presents, magic tricks, and black bag—Godfather Drosselmier

A prop mouse

Champagne glasses

Nuts

Doll and play crib under the tree

Large crib for Nutcracker

ACT II

Doll in bassinet

Mouse puppets

Table on wheels

Sausage (stuffed nylon stockings)

Flour in a bowl

Mouse dressed as Queen

Bag with mouse tails showing—Exterminator

Swords—Soldiers

Costumes

(Details are listed in stage directions)

Act I—Costumes are turn-of-the-century ball gowns for the women and girls and tuxedos or white tie and tails for the men. Boys wear white shirts, black string ties, and knickers. The Silberhaus children need night gowns and night shirts. Nanny may wear a long dress with a pinafore. People interested in ballroom dancing may be enlisted to add to your production if desired. It never hurts to ask!

Act II— The Children's Chorus may wear ballet costumes. King, Queen, and Sugar Plum Fairy, along with soldiers, wear appropriate costumes.

The Mouse King and Nutcracker wear the same costumes for Act I and Act II. The Nutcracker and the Mouse King wear papier-mache masks.

The Nutcracker mask must be large enough for easy removal on stage. It should be able to rest on the actor's shoulders.

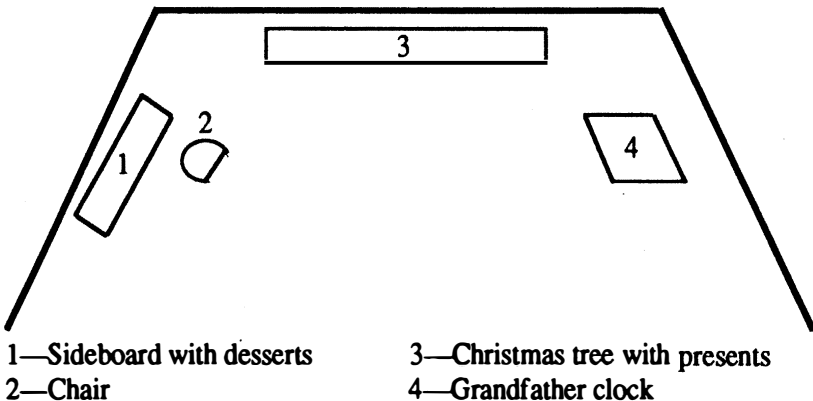
Music

A piano/vocal score, a separate vocal score, and a demonstration/accompaniment audio cassette tape are available from I. E. Clark Publications, P.O. Box 246, Schulenburg, TX 78956-0246 (telephone 409-743-3232).

Special Effects

The Christmas tree growing taller is an interesting effect, but not an essential one. The effect may be created by painting a Christmas tree on muslin and folded so that it can be raised for the dream sequence. In the premiere the grandfather clock also grew larger. The mice stealing the sausage may be hand puppets with the puppeteer(s) concealed behind the stand.

Set



Act I takes place in the ballroom of the Silberhaus home. A grandfather clock that can change during the dream sequence may be used with a curtain in the front for an exit.

Act II takes place in the land of the Sugar Plum Fairies. This can be accomplished with standing scenery or a painted Candyland backdrop.

NUTCRACKER...The Musical

Music No. 1: OVERTURE

ACT I

Scene 1

[Curtain opens on the ballroom of the Silberhaus home. It is set for a grand Christmas party in the 1800's. A large Christmas tree is at Up Stage Center with presents underneath. A sideboard is set with elaborate desserts and candelabra Stage Right and a huge grandfather clock Stage Left. SILVI putters Stage Left and lights candles on sideboard. MARIE, FRITZ, and CLARA SILBERHAUS enter Left followed by NANNY MAY]

MARIE. *[Stops at Center Stage looking around in wonder]* Oh my! It's even more beautiful then I imagined. *[FRITZ and CLARA run over to the tree. CLARA kneels down to shake presents. FRITZ jumps up with a play sword and begins to fight a pretend battle]*

FRITZ. Take that, you scurvy devil, and that. I, the captain of the ship, will make you walk the plank to your watery death. *[He comes menacingly towards MARIE, who shakes her head, ignores him and goes to the tree]*

SILVI. Now, now, Master Fritz, the judge isn't going to like it one bit if you destroy his party decorations before the party begins. *[Exits Right. CLARA has sneaked over to the sideboard and is nibbling sweets]*

NANNY. *[Crossing to Fritz]* Now, now, Fritz, put that down. *[FRITZ comes menacingly toward NANNY as she turns toward Clara]* Clara, no more sweets! You'll be sick for the party! *[FRITZ has sneaked up behind Nanny and pokes her in the behind]* Ahh! *[MARIE laughs]*

[MOTHER and FATHER enter Left. MOTHER crosses to Center, FATHER stays Left. MARIE crosses and hugs FATHER]

MOTHER. Fritz, stop pestering Nanny. Clara, no treats. *[Takes sword, hands it to Nanny, hugs children. NANNY puts sword back under tree]*

MARIE. Father, why can't we open our presents now? It's too long to wait.

FATHER. Because, Marie, it is tradition. We don't open our gifts until our guests arrive and the party begins.

FRITZ. Please, Father, just one!

CLARA. A little one.

FATHER. Mother, why are you just standing there? Help me.

MOTHER. Now, now children, look at the clock. It will be time to open your presents soon enough.

MARIE. But time moves so slowly on this clock.

FRITZ. Yes, it seems as if it almost stops sometimes.

MOTHER. I'm sure it does, especially when you're doing your lessons.

CLARA. Momma, can this clock stop time?

FRITZ. Yes, Clara, it's magic. Didn't you know?

[The CLOCK strikes eight. SILVI enters the room with a tray of sweets and crosses to the sideboard]

SILVI. Eight o'clock, miss. Guests should be arriving any minute.

MOTHER. *[Fixing Father's tie]* Oh, Nanny May, fix the children.

NANNY. *[As she crosses Down Left, a prop MOUSE is pulled across stage and into the clock]* A mouse, a mouse!

MOTHER. Where?

FATHER. Do you see him?

FRITZ. Quick, my sword! I'll show him! *[Gets sword]*

MARIE. He ran into the clock.

MOTHER. Oh, Father, this will ruin our lovely party!

FATHER. Chin up, my dear. *[BELL rings]* Silvi, our guests!

FRITZ. Keep an eye out! I believe it was the Mouse King!

MARIE. Oh, Fritz. *[Walks away but still listening]*

CLARA. Really, Fritz?

FRITZ. I saw him and he had seven heads!

Music No. 2: THE GUESTS ARRIVE

MARIE. Fritz, stop frightening her. You know you're just making that up and it's time for the party!

[GUESTS enter as song begins. GRANDMOTHER enters first]

MARIE. [*Sings*] Grandmother Silberhaus will be the first to enter.
She's always right on time as if the angels sent her.

[*Talks*] Grandmother, hello.

GRANDMOTHER. [*Talks*] Oh, my darlings. Give hugs, I missed you all. [*All kiss*] Here's presents for you, and one for you, and for you, little Clara. [*Leads others into room*]

MOTHER. [*Talks*] I love Christmas. [*Sings:*]

Now as the guests arrive, our party is beginning.

Oh, what a joyous time! It's quite a way to end a day.

SILVI. [*Sings*] Please come right in!

MOTHER. And step this way and make yourselves at home,
we pray!

CLARA. I can hardly wait for my presents!

NANNY. Clara, stop your fussing with your pinafore and hair.
Now you're really making messes of your ruffles and your dresses.

Now I know you'll ruin your bow. I just don't know!

CLARA. Oh, I don't care.

FRITZ. I can hardly wait for my presents. [*Has sword again*]

MOTHER. Fritz, now you really must be careful what you say.

Father's looking at you in that knowing way.

MARIE. Mother, can't we start to open presents now?

FRITZ. Almost everyone whose s'posed to be here is.

MARIE. [*Grabs large package from a guest*] I can't wait just one
more minute 'til I see just what is in it.

MARTHA. What is in it?

EMMA. What is in it?

NANNY. [*Talks*] Oh, I can't believe my eyes! [*MARIE opens a present; inside is a very large nightgown*]

GRANDMOTHER. [*Talks*] Oh, my dear, it's just your size. [*Laughs*]
Here's to the judge!

ALL. [*Spoken*] Hooray! And to his wife, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray!
Hip, hip, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray!

MOTHER. [*Talks*] I can't believe it's almost done.

FATHER. [*Talks*] Oh no, my dear, it's just begun. [*Kisses Mother*]

MARIE. [*Talks*] Merry Christmas! [*MUSIC ends*]

MOTHER. But where is Godfather Drosselmier?

GRANDMOTHER. Who?

MOTHER. *[Louder]* Godfather Drosselmier!

GRANDMOTHER. Oh, that old rogue is always late.

MARIE. He brings the best presents. *[ADULTS have gone to side-board mingling; CHILDREN are Down Stage Left]*

MARTHA. Last year, he brought you that dancing doll.

EMMA. She was so beautiful and life-like. She was almost alive.

ANNA. And she could dance like a real ballerina *[mimes dancing]*.

ANDREW. And the year before that, a toy soldier. *[BOYS mime sword fight]*

JOSEPH. With an authentic sword.

DAVID. How does he make them work so well?

ROSAMOND. They're so real!

MARIE. Why, he's an inventor. Didn't you know?

JACOB. An inventor?

ROSAMOND. Really?

HANS. What's an inventor?

FRITZ. *[Who's been half listening]* A grand magician with magical powers.

MARIE. Fritz, he doesn't have magical powers.

FRITZ. Then how does he make things so real?

MARTHA. The toys do seem like they're almost alive.

EMMA. Spooky.

ANDREW. He must be a magician!

JOSEPH. *[Sing-songy]* Fritz is right! Fritz is right! *[The BOYS do a little jig; FRITZ takes a bow]*

MARIE. No, an inventor makes things, creates things. He is very smart, but he's not magic!

FRITZ. Well, we'll just see what your present is this year.

MARTHA. Why do you get all of the best presents, Marie?

MARIE. Because he is *my* godfather!

FRITZ. And she's the favorite.

MARTHA. Maybe it's not always best to be the favorite.

FRITZ. When there's magic involved!

Music No. 3: CHILDREN'S SONG

MARTHA. *[Sings]* I wonder what you'll get this year, Marie—
A pretty dancing doll that will be this tall.

EMMA. Something quite enchanting—it will be your fancy.

ANNA & ROSAMOND. It will be the best present you'll get all of the
year.

MARTHA. I wonder what you'll get this year, Marie,
Anything you wish for you will get and more.

ANNA. Diamonds in a crown.

ROSAMOND. Sapphires all around.

EMMA. Something really glorious will be yours on this special day.

MARIE. It will be so very nice. Whatever it shall be, will be.

[All GIRLS repeat from beginning]

[Last line after repeat of song:] It will be great, just wait and see!

FRITZ. She always gets the very best, the very best of all the rest!

Her presents seem so very nice.

It makes me mad that she's so glad! Why should she be the
favorite one?

It makes me feel oh so glum to hear her as she squeals with glee
At presents that should be for me! *[Twice through]* Presents that
should be for me.

[GIRLS repeat their part] [MUSIC ends]

[GODFATHER DROSSELMIER enters]

GODFATHER. Hello, everyone. Sorry to keep you waiting.

MOTHER. Not at all, Godfather Drosselmier. Welcome!

GODFATHER. Ah, Marie, my godchild! I have something very
special for you this year.

MARIE. Oh, Godfather, I can't wait!

GODFATHER. And toys for all the children.