

Friday, December 15

CBS To Present Baryshnikov's "The Nutcracker"

Mikhail Baryshnikov's critically acclaimed production of "The Nutcracker," danced by Baryshnikov and Gelsey Kirkland, with members of the American Ballet Theatre, and previously announced for broadcast on Christmas Night, December 25, will be presented Friday, December 16, at 8 p.m. on WBTB, Channel 3.

Universally hailed as one of the world's great dancers, **WBTB To Allow**

Viewers To Phone

In Questions

A live 60-minute program designed to allow viewers to phone in questions they have about the operation of WBTB, will be aired Thursday, Dec. 15 at 10 p.m. on WBTB, Channel 3.

Community Affairs Director Lou Heckler will host "Inside WBTB" and his guests will be Jim Babb, Vice President and Manage Director; John Edgerton, Assistant Vice President and Broadcast Operations Manager; Dick Tomlinson, Director of Sales and Marketing; and Bill Ballard, News Manager.

"Inside WBTB" will be directed by Bob Morris, producer by Lou Heckler.

Baryshnikov marked his initial choreographic effort with "The Nutcracker." Lauded by critics and public when it premiered at the Kennedy Center Opera House in Washington, D.C., and later at a sold-out, celebrity-packed audience at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City, Baryshnikov's "Nutcracker" does not deviate significantly from the original libretto based on the famous E.T.A. Hoffman tale of Tchaikovsky's classic score.

However, under Baryshnikov's inventive direction, the traditionally lighthearted story of a small girl's dreams on Christmas Eve is transformed into a more complex theatrical experience. The ballet nonetheless retains its universal appeal. The magical aspects delight children, while adults find the work substantially more dramatic, with significantly more dance to enjoy.

Joining Baryshnikov in the role of the toy Nutcracker-turned-Prince and Miss Kirkland as little Clara, the dreamer, is Alexander Minz as Drosselmeyer, the wizard who conjures up the dream and eventually dispels it.

Born of Russian parents in Rija, Latvia, Baryshnikov initially hoped to become a con-

cert pianist, but when he was 12, his mother enrolled him in a local ballet school, where he learned French and developed a passion for dance. At 18, he was taken into the Kirov Ballet, where he was accorded the rare recognition given to such predecessors as Nikinsky, Pavlova and Nureyev.

While touring Canada in 1974, the young star defected. Subsequently, he joined the American Ballet Theatre, where he made his debut in "Giselle." The New York critics acclaimed Baryshnikov's performance as "dazzling," "unbelievable," "overwhelming." Since then, his successes have

been legendary.

Miss Kirkland joined the American Ballet Theatre in 1974. She has danced principal roles in such works as "Giselle," "La Fille Mal Gardee," "Coppelia," "La Sylphide," the "Don Quixote" pas de deux, "La Bayadere," and "The Sleeping Beauty."

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