

Magical show twirls into hall

BY JIM WALSH
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

On every piece of literature put out by the people at Memorial Hall, on every banner and on every Web page, the slogan "Experience the Transformation" accompanies any talk of the Carolina Performing Arts Series.

But it was not until Friday, when the Carolina Ballet's rendition of "The Nutcracker" opened on the newly renovated stage, that the grandiose phrase seemed appropriate.

The hall, in its splendor and gilded edges, had until that point not hosted anything so massive. "The Nutcracker" — with its elaborate stage designs and multitudes of dancers — did transform the campus venue, whisking audiences away to a land of childhood innocence.

The magical atmosphere was fully illuminated when the curtain rose, revealing an elaborate set that the stage could not have accommodated three years ago.

Making use of the fly space and rigging that was added during the renovation, the Carolina Ballet brought with it fantastic props and backdrops that made it no difficult task to transport one's self to the land of sweets or watch in terrible wonderment as the nutcracker slew the Rat King.

For the uninitiated, "The Nutcracker" ballet is a study in contrasts that actually has little to do with Christmas. The two-act performance, nearly 120 minutes long, begins in the Victorian home of a wealthy family whose son and daughter fight over a nutcracker during a Christmas party.

The girl goes to sleep and dreams of a battle between her valiant nutcracker and a rat whose worldview



DTH/GALEN CLARKE

The Sugar Plum Fairy, played by Peggy Severin-Hansen, dances in The Land of Sweets during "The Nutcracker" in Memorial Hall on Saturday.

BALLET REVIEW NUTCRACKER CAROLINA BALLET SATURDAY ★★★★

is not unlike that of her brother.

Then she flies away in a giant nut and sits on a cake in the land of sweets as the Sugar Plum Fairy and other delectable dancers charm her with their movements.

The dancers of the Carolina Ballet put on a splendid display, and the sonorous stylings of music director Alfred Sturgis and company supplied the perfect complement to their artistry.

While there were many standouts — notably during the sequences in the Land of Sweets — the company performed as a cohesive unit and together created a magic

that could not have stood on the slippers of any one dancer.

Indeed, when the curtain closed and the lights came up, it was bittersweet. The transformation offered by "The Nutcracker" had come to a close, but the spirit of the dance was cemented firmly within the hearts of audience members.

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

■ There are about 1,200 tickets still available for the men's basketball game Jan. 14 against Miami. Students who didn't receive tickets through the regular distribution process can go at 8 a.m. today to the Smith Center.

■ Students with a meal plan can donate their extra meals to hunger relief in Kenya and Tanzania from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., today to Friday, in the Pit. Those without a meal plan can purchase an all-you-can-eat meal for \$3. The event is sponsored by Students Working in the Environment 4 Active Transformation.

■ In its broadcast at 5 p.m. today, Carolina Week will examine the issues surrounding the death penalty, what it's like for students at UNC who aren't the average college-student age and how the sale of Christmas trees impacts North Carolina's economy.

■ The student organization coun-

cil will hold a meeting at 5 p.m. today at the Top of Lenoir. It will discuss group priorities and will set goals for next semester.

■ Kaleidoscope fashion magazine is having a release party featuring food from Buffalo Wild Wings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. today in the Student Union Cabaret.

■ The Chapel Hill Town Council will welcome new members Laurin Eastham and Bill Thorpe at 7 p.m. today. It also will honor departing Mayor Pro Tem Edith Wiggins and member Dorothy Verkerk.

■ The lecture series by the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies continues at 7:30 p.m. today in the Hanes Art Center auditorium with "The Wizard Behind the Curtain: the De-Fetishization for Jerusalem and the Prospects for Israeli-Palestinian Peace," by Ian Lustick, a political science professor at the University of Pennsylvania. The lecture is free and open to the public.

■ The performance of Marc Blitzstein's opera "The Cradle Will Rock" will continue at 8:15 p.m. today in Playmakers Theatre. Tickets are \$5 general admission.

■ The Lab! Theatre company will continue its performance of "Two Straws, One Drink" at 8:15 p.m. today in Kenan Theatre. Admission to the variety show is free of charge.

■ Pauper Players now is accepting proposals for its February musical review as well as its spring full-length production. Pauper Players is a student-run organization that incorporates its members in all aspects of production and performance. Visit www.unc.edu/pauper/current.html for more information.

To make a calendar submission, visit www.dailytarheel.com for a list of submission policies and contacts. Events must be sent in by noon the preceding publication date.

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Any incorrect information printed on the front page will result in a correction printed on the front page. Any incorrect information printed on any other page will be corrected at the top left of page 3. Errors committed on the Editorial Page have corrections printed on that page. Corrections also are noted in the online versions of our stories.

Please contact Managing Editor Joseph Schwartz, at joseph_schwartz@unc.edu, with issues about this policy or to report corrections.

UNC honored for its virus response system

Award dubbed by network magazine

FROM STAFF REPORTS

UNC was named an Enterprise All-Star by Network World magazine Friday.

The award honors companies in education and other industries for their exceptional use of technology in business. UNC was cited specifically for its automated virus response system.

The system is an integrated program of security and network products that quickly can identify, locate and isolate machines com-

promised by viruses or trojans.

Jeanne Smythe, director for computing policy for UNC Information Technology Services, noted the improvements made in virus response time between the fall semesters of 2003 and 2004.

"We reduced the number of problems at the beginning of the semester by 70 percent, which is substantial," she said.

She said the money and hard work devoted to information security are well worth the results.

POLICE LOG

■ A Chapel Hill man was arrested Saturday on multiple assault charges, according to Chapel Hill police reports.

Kenneth Antwaine Perry, 21, of 2534A Gemena Road, was arrested at 6:30 p.m. on charges of assault by pointing a gun, assault on a female and a felony charge of possession of a weapon by a felon, reports state.

Perry later was charged with second-degree trespassing and possession of a firearm on city property, according to reports.

Perry was remanded to Orange County Jail on a \$25,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear Tuesday in district criminal court.

■ A man was arrested Sunday on charges of shoplifting, Chapel Hill police reports state.

Jose Alfredo Mendez, 18, was arrested at 10:15 a.m. on charges of stealing two boxes of LifeStyles condoms, valued at \$12.39, from Food Lion, 1129 Weaver Dairy Road, according to reports.

Mendez is scheduled to appear Jan. 23 in district criminal court.

■ A Durham Public Schools employee was cited on charges of speeding and driving without a

valid driver's license, according to Chapel Hill police reports.

Melissa Dee Harvey, 28, of 301, 6 Pinegate Apartments, was cited at 10:58 p.m. after she was stopped at the corner of U.S. 15-501 and Kings Mill Road on charges of driving 66 mph in a 45-mph zone and driving with a suspended or revoked driver's license, reports state.

Harvey is scheduled to appear in administrative traffic court Jan. 24.

■ A car accident was reported to University police Thursday, according to reports.

Joseph Alfonzo Bizzel hit the back of a vehicle while driving on Manning Drive, reports state.

He was charged for not having insurance and failing to register the vehicle, according to reports.

■ A woman's bag and its contents were stolen at 5:30 p.m. Saturday from Hanes Art Center, according to University police reports.

She reported that the bag was stolen when she left her chair for five minutes to go to the restroom, reports state.

The bag and its contents — a checkbook, an N.C. driver's license, car keys and medication — were valued at \$30, according to reports.

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