

Boston Ballet's *The Nutcracker*

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This Wednesday, December 19th, will not only mark my first time going to see Boston Ballet's *The Nutcracker* at the Boston Opera House, but my first time seeing *The Nutcracker* in general. And though I won't notice them, because I'm new to the show, many people are very interested on seeing how these changes affect the show. Mikko Nissinen plans for his revised performance of the play to bring a lavish and sophisticated change to the traditional formula, that he not only hopes will improve the play, but will make it more accessible to everyone. I know that I'm very excited to see how it turns out.

Anna Barrell, a sophomore at Marblehead High School, has been going to see *The Nutcracker* since she was in preschool, and has already gone to see this year's version. When asked about her initial reaction to the new version, she told me, "I wondered what they would improve on, since it was already a great show. Once I saw the changes, I liked the new scenery because it is very detailed and well thought out." Rose Kanarick, also a sophomore at Marblehead High School, used to be a part of Boston Ballet's show, but is now dancing for the Brookline Ballet School. When asked about her reaction to the new version, she says, "I was not surprised about the changes because I knew it would happen eventually." When asked about their favorite part of *The Nutcracker*, Barrell says, "I like how they incorporate younger dancers because it brings a little more life into it, and I like how it always gets me and my mom in the Christmas spirit." Kanarick adds, "I like the first act because it tells the story of Clara, but I also really like the second act as well."

When I go *The Nutcracker* on Wednesday, I am looking forward to seeing to whole performance in general and getting to hear the superb music. As a first-timer, I feel that I will be able to look at the new version of the show objectively, and won't compare it to past years. Instead of a comparison, it's important to look at the show as a standalone, a completely new and innovative performance. *The Nutcracker* is a show that really exemplifies the Christmas spirit, and is the perfect performance for this time of year.