

kidsline

Linda Lombroso's
kidsnotes

Featured Creature

Onlinegames

videogames

comingup/coolstuff

back to theLine

Archive:

Choose Date

kidsnotes...



kidsnotes *Linda Lombroso*

Kids news and notes.
llombros@thejournalnews.com or 914-694-5059



No Selling!
No Inventory!
Click Here!

✉ [Email this story to a friend](#)

'Nutcracker' on TAP

(Original publication: December 9,
2004)

Even if you've already seen "The Nutcracker" this year, here's a fresh reason to see it again: the fast-tapping jazz-inflected "**Clara's Dream: a Jazz Nutcracker**," which makes its New York debut Friday at the Paramount Center for the Arts.



The show, presented by the New Hampshire-based MaD Theatricals, features live music and a cast of 16 dancers tapping through the revamped Tchaikovsky classic, set to tunes inspired by the Duke Ellington/Billy Strayhorn jazz version of "The Nutcracker."

"One of our goals was to find a new audience through this familiar lens," says artistic director Drika Overton, who created the show in 2000 with music director Paul Arslanian, and dancers Dean Diggins and Bob E. Thomas. "It is family fare, but there is sophisticated music and dance that audiences of all ages can relate to. People are often surprised by that."

This version of the story portrays Clara's transformation from childhood to young adulthood, as she's guided along the way by her Auntie Groove, played by tap dancer Brenda Bufalino. "Jazz is the manifestation of letting go and finding her voice," says Overton, who portrays Clara's mother. "She wants to break away from her staid upbringing."

Although the basic story line has remained the same since the show made its debut, Overton says the production evolves each year — which, in a way, reflects the improvisational nature of jazz tap. "That's one of the things we love about it," she says. "It grows like a child."

Wonderfully wacky

Physical comedian Tomas Kubinek will bring his act to the Performing Arts Center this weekend, presenting a one-man show geared for kids and families. The Czech-