



Source: allevents.in

The ballerinas come together for Swan Lake, one of the most popular dance and song ensembles in The Nutcracker ballet. Swan Lake was first performed in 1877, the music composed by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, a very iconic composer.

The Nutcracker: A Holiday Tradition

Ashley Hutchinson / Editor

“The Nutcracker” is a holiday ballet production that is known all around the world. The Akron Civic Theatre has been displaying “The Nutcracker” for over twenty-seven years and is the proud home of the Ballet Theatre of Ohio.

This special ballet production originated in 1892 by Russian composer Peter Tchaikovsky. It eventually became very popular and was introduced into the United States in 1944. Following the popularity of this ballet, the Ballet Theatre of Ohio started producing “The Nutcracker” in 1992.

Performances can be seen over a span of weekends at the beginning of December, with six total performances. While ticket prices are expensive, around \$40 each, many claim the price is worth it and continue to return every year.

Almost everyone has seen or heard a part of “The Nutcracker” at some point in their lives. Some of the easily-recognizable dances include “The Waltz of the Flowers” and the “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy.”

“The Nutcracker” is the traditional tale that is famous around the world and tells the story of Clara and the enchanted Nutcracker doll given to her by the mysterious Drosselmyer at her family’s Christmas party.

Also, the Akron Beacon Journal has voted the specific production of “The Nutcracker” as Akron’s #1 Holiday show. Many families return to the show every year as a prized and special holiday tradition.

With engaging choreography, the ballet captures the attention of all audience members and makes them feel as if they are in a magical winter wonderland. With gorgeous cos-

tumes and beautiful sets, it may be hard for one to take their eyes away.

A holiday experience is truly shown through the decorations of The Civic. There are large and beautifully decorated Christmas trees where many choose to take photos. Audience members attend the show wearing formal holiday attire to honor the special occasion.

The Akron Civic is the perfect location for these special performances. It is such an intimate venue where audience members are able to feel connected to the storyline. The decorations are so beautiful and elegant that it matches the regal atmosphere portrayed by the ballet.

Overall, it is clear why “The Nutcracker” is such a staple holiday tradition around the world. It is enjoyed by people of all ages and the timeless story leads attendees into their own winter fairytale.

Hannah’s Hot Hits: “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood”

Hannah Bartels / Editor

IMDb Rating: 7.9/10

Personal Rating: 10/10

If there is one universal truth that people anywhere and any age can agree on, it is that people want to be loved and to love, for it is out of love that happiness blossoms. Without love, happiness can not exist. Accumulating more money, advancing in a career, gaining fame and praise are all nice, but it is never enough.

This very theme is the central focus in “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood.” The story begins with some old-school cinematography of the actor playing Mr Rogers: Tom Hanks.

When Mr. Rogers crosses paths with a deeply troubled soul, Lloyed Vogel, he realizes Lloyd is much harder of an egg to crack than anyone else. Lloyd is a famous writer for a magazine and has many popular articles, mainly recognized for their constant, negative approach.

Lloyd is given a report to write over Mr. Rogers and is dumbfounded when he realizes he must write a positive article [something he never does]. Lloyd does not just struggle in coming up with a story, he struggles with his relationship with his father, wife, and son. He also has immense depression and grudges, sorrow, and pain he has carried with himself for life.

Lloyd spends some time with Mr. Rogers getting to know him and his life is flipped by Mr. Rogers in ways he never imagined possible. He helps Lloyd re-establish his relationships with those around him in healthy ways and he gives him a new perspective on life.

Lloy ends up writing a very positive article on Mr. Rogers in the end and finds incredible happiness.

“A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” is a beautifully, well-done movie and so inspiring to watch. It really focuses on the importance of how kindness and how great of an effect it has over people.

Effects of kindness are more extreme than people think, and it is a truly beautiful thing. Tom Hanks is incredible in this movie and portrays the real Mr. Rogers perfectly.

This movie makes one very emotional and makes one feel what the characters are feeling. It is one of those movies with a huge message and meaning.

I recommend everyone makes a trip to the theaters and sees Mr. Rogers. In doing so, one will see the world from a different perspective and one’s soul will be touched.

STAN HYWET SHINES AFTER MAKEOVER

Samantha Cole / Staff Writer
Review

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is open year-round, boasting large estates and charming decor. This month, the estate was given a makeover.

One million Christmas lights coat Stan Hywet during its annual “Deck the Hall” event. In the gardens, there are traditionally lit evergreens, rainbow archways, a beautifully decorated greenhouse and an enormous Christmas tree.

Stan Hywet gives off a refreshing feeling from its theme.

Families are left mostly

to their own devices to explore the house and gardens. Upon entering the grounds, I was greeted by a cozy plaza featuring a gift shop, cookie/hot cocoa stand, bonfire, and Santa Claus himself. Additionally, the plaza featured a diorama reproduction of the Flatiron Building.

While the diorama looks neat on its own, what really made it shine was its commitment to this year’s “Deck the Hall” theme: a Classic Comic Hero Christmas. The diorama displays tiny superheroes living it up in the middle of Akron.

Superheroes were

otherwise lacking on the gardens front, but I did not mind in the slightest, for two reasons: the lights are incredible on their own, and the hall committed.

Both Marvel and DC heroes were represented. In addition, Stan Hywet’s kitchen has been transformed into a verifiable Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle heaven.

An essential part to any holiday display, the decorating was exquisite. Homemade ornaments meant to look like the turtles’ heads poked out of garland. There were even red Solo cups and crumpled up napkins to accompany the party-ridden college student aesthetic the turtles express.

My favorite decoration was the Hulk tree. It is a green tree with green ornaments and green lights. It also has a startling amount of hulk masks.

Typical Christmas trees are topped with an angel or a star; however, the Hulk Christmas tree was topped with a Hulk.

In addition to decorative trees and dioramas, all of the rooms are creatively decorated and have

a lot of genuine care that really complements a local tradition as old as Stan Hywet’s lights.

Admittedly not committed to the theme are the gardens. However, super-heroes probably would have cluttered up the legitimately neat experience of the gardens.

While lights were wound around every section of flowers and bushes in sight, what really stuck out to me were the longer expanses of lights.

Stan Hywet features two long walkways in their gardens: one is a path through some evergreens with arches of lights, and the other has vineyard-queues scaffolding with fake grapes.

Both are fantastic. There’s some element intrinsic to walking through a quiet section of trees that really stuck out to me. Both the stars and the lights were amazing to behold.

It may be a bit silly to be this passionate about a few lights, but Stan Hywet really deserves it.

As a superhero enthusiast, I enjoyed the hall immensely.

I would recommend absolutely visiting Stan Hywet because no one will regret seeing the gorgeous lights and decorations.

Source: Flickr

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WE COULD ALL USE A LITTLE KINDNESS

A BEAUTIFUL DAY
IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Source: imdb.com