

**The Orange County Register**

**Nutcracker December 1, 2007 posted by Laura Bleiberg**



*Photo by Paul Wang*

I spent a lovely afternoon at **Youth America Ballet's "The Nutcracker"** Saturday in Fullerton. It's a different experience watching a student show (which this is). During most professional productions of "The Nutcracker," one usually waits impatiently for the second act, when the highly trained dancers get to stretch. It's the reverse in a student show, when the absolute highlight is the first act. That was the case with this "Nutcracker," choreographed and coached by **Tatiana** and **Victor Kasatsky**, former principal dancers with **Moscow Classical Ballet** (with additional choreography by Carol Odom Reeder). And all these children, from the 4 year olds to the 18 year olds showed the imprint of proper Russian training, with beautiful epaulement, lively faces and finished positions. They did themselves proud in the second act, as well, brimming with enthusiasm. The Kasatskys are to be congratulated; they showed off their students to best effect and did well by Mr. Tchaikovsky, too.

Youth America Ballet's "Nutcracker" run continues through Sun., Dec. 9 at **Plummer Auditorium**. Next weekend they will have a guest artist from **Staatsballett Berlin**, **Wieslaw Dudek** as the Prince. If you haven't gotten your annual dose of "**Nutcracker**" yet, consider a student show.