

## ARTS

# Schibil's Prince : nut all it's cracked up to be

Salman A. Nensi  
The Nutcracker Prince  
Lacewood Productions

Based on the original story by E.T.A. Hoffman, *the Nutcracker Prince* is sure to delight children, but it'll leave those accompanying them yearning for more.

It is quite upsetting to say, since the film is largely a Canadian product, that most of the component parts are substandard.

The main theme in the film is that of a traditional fairy tale. Miracles do happen. Magic does exist.

The plot is just as original. Girl meets wooden boy doll. Boy doll is alive in the Land of the Dolls. Boy asks girl to stay. Girl has to go back to the real world. They cry. Girl comes back to the real world and finds that she has broken the evil spell over the boy.

Boy and girl live happily ever after.

The dialogue is so corny that not even the distinctive voices of Kiefer Sutherland, Meagan Follows, Peter O'Toole, (whose performance was wonderful), and Phyllis Diller, could stop the audience from groaning.

Animated by Ottawa's Hinton Animation Studios, the film was choppy and wooden. It seems as if there are not enough screens per second.

There are a few scenes where the children run and play in the snow. The animators have made them look like little kangaroos, bouncing up and down.

It took over 50 animators to hand-draw more than 70,000 individual cells and I have seen computer games with better animation.

There is one dance scene that looked especially bad.

The animators have used a technique called rotoscoping.

This is where they film a couple dancing and animate over their bodies. The press release calls this a, "perfect blending of art and state-of-the-art technology." I call it bloody obvious!

The backgrounds look cheap and stiff. Some of them have nothing moving in them, and the ones that do, the movements look completely out of place. It is as if the production company ran out of money half-way through filming.

The score, performed by the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Boris Brott, sounded wonderful to me. I have always loved Tchaikovsky, but the Hamilton Spectator's music critic, who was also at the screening, did not seem too impressed!

I am sure some of you will still want to see this film and judge for yourselves.

It does have some good scenes, a few funny moments and a score that sounded fine to

me. The cast gives a marvellous performance, but it was just not enough.

I was looking for some great animation and a beautiful, romantic story line. In short I was looking for the kind of quality that has

made the Nutcracker ballet a holiday favourite for millions.

The film was just over an hour and most of us were glad to be done with it. Schibil's film does not deliver. If you must go, go when it's cheaper!



The Nutcracker Prince

is a true wooden man in this not so wonderful animated fairy-tale

## The importance of being angry

by Jennifer Laidlaw

The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine  
Factory Theatre

At the preview of *The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine*, the audience was able to place themselves within the realistic roles of Ernest and Ernestine.

We roared with laughter at this Dora Award winning comedy about the trials of these newlyweds.

Ernest, played by Robert Morgan, is a neat, organized person,

while Ernestine, played by Martha Ross, is quite the opposite.

Together in their basement apartment they discover that married life is not all peaches and cream.

The play is down to earth and the audience can easily identify with its truism.

The theme of anger works very well through the characters of Ernest and Ernestine. The silliness of the fights between Ernest and Ernestine make the audience realize how ridiculous our own battles can be.

*The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine* works because of the charac-

ter's role reversals which present an uncommon and hilarious perspective of marriage.

The background music is tasteful and appropriate and adds life to the play.

Together through the use of mime, both actors give stunning performances that leave the audience in awe.

This play should be seen. It is not only entertaining but it places our own lives in perspective.

*The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine* shows the anger we can possess even when in love.

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