



SUGAR PLUM PARTY

KELLEY MOORE PUTS A MODERN TOUCH
ON A HOLIDAY TRADITION WITH A WHIMSICAL NUTCRACKER
BALLET PRE-SHOW PARTY

FROM SWIRLING SUGAR PLUM FAIRIES to toysoldiers fighting evil rats, *The Nutcracker* is a treasured affair, especially here in Seattle where families flock to McCaw Hall every December to see the magic of the Pacific Northwest Ballet's version unfold on stage. ¶ I love *The Nutcracker*, but no one loves the ballet (or the sets designed by *Where the Wild Things Are* author Maurice Sendak) more than my 3-year-old friend Ilaria Kaiser. The daughter of two of my friends—*Oprah* producer Melinda Morrison and Evergreen City Ballet director Kevin Kaiser (also performing *The Nutcracker* this month)—Ilaria is enamored with ballerinas and wears her pink tutu everywhere she goes. That became my inspiration for a new holiday favorite: extending the *Nutcracker* excitement with a pre- (or post-)performance, ballet-themed party complete with a black and red toy soldier area for the boys, and a fanciful sugar plum fairy table for the little ballerinas.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY HAYLEY YOUNG AND REPORTING BY KATE CALAMUSA

▲ A homemade pink tulle tablecloth creates a frilly, enchanted table for the tykes of honor (from left to right), Mackenzie Murphy, Abby Harding and Ilaria Kaiser. To emulate sugar plums in the centerpiece, I glued purple ornaments and plastic grapes together and added glitter, while keeping the place settings neutral so the pink pops of color in the cupcakes (and the outfits) take center stage



▼ I created these easy-to-assemble invitations at home using an online template, glued them onto bright red cardstock and then accented them with a nutcracker sticker. At the end of the soiree, guests take home a ticket diary to collect ticket stubs from performances; as a remembrance of the party, I included a stub from our own festive gathering.



▲ A black table linen decorated with gold glitter garlands and red place settings creates a manly color palette for the toy-soldier-themed table, but the details are all little boy: a plastic soldier hat embellished with a black feather and custom toy soldier cupcakes from Trophy Cupcakes.



▲ In the background, little ballerinas meet real-life dancers from the Evergreen City Ballet; wannabe toy soldier Dylan Walbolm

► On the back of chairs at the Sugar Plum table, I hung pairs of pink toe shoes autographed by a Pacific Northwest Ballet dancer (available at the McCaw Hall gift shop) as a treasured memento for each guest



>> For more holiday entertaining ideas, tune into *Moore to Life with Kelley Moore* on KONG-TV every Saturday morning at 10 a.m.

Nutcrackers for PNB

Support the Pacific Northwest Ballet when you purchase your holiday entertaining décor at Masins (*multiple locations, including Pioneer Square, 220 Second Ave. S; 206.622.5606; masins.com*). Ten percent of the proceeds from the sale of Regents House products, including nutcrackers and carolers, goes directly to the PNB.

▼ Parents party at a table with a red velvet tablecloth and elegant place settings. Black candelabras and wine glasses add drama to the refined spread accented by nutcrackers of different sizes.

