

Box Office Open For "Nutcracker"



Tickets for NEVADA DANCE THEATRE's annual production of the "NUTCRACKER" are on sale at Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall box office.

Seventeen performances are scheduled at Judy Bayley Theatre, December 12 through 23, nightly at 8 p.m., plus matinees at 2 p.m. December 13, 15, 21, 22. Mervyn's is the principal sponsor of the "NUTCRACKER."

This production features all new scenery designed and executed by local artist Bill Meyer. His artistic imagination, meticulous eye for color and detail, and sensitivity to Vassili Sulich's concept makes this year's "NUTCRACKER" a more magical and beautiful spectacle than ever.

Last year's production was the beginning of a project to have all new costumes designed by Ballet West's Lavid Heuvel. This year the lavish new costuming will be complete.

Artistic Director Vassili Sulich has made a few choreographic changes. In particular, the "Debutantes" dance by tiny 6 year olds will now be an appearance by Snow White and the cutest seven dwarfs.

The original "NUTCRACKER" premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia in 1892. In Sulich's adaptation of the libretto, the first act of the ballet invites the audience to share the Christmas Eve celebration of the Village Mayor's family and friends, through the use of story-telling mime and festive groups dances for both children and adults. The Mayor's daughter, Clara, is given a Nutcracker by her godfather, Dr. Drosselmeyer - a magician who provides entertainment at the party. After the guests have left, Clara creeps downstairs, and falls asleep with the Nutcracker in her arms.

The audience is drawn into her magical dream. After the Nutcracker grows and saves her from invading mice, he comes to life as a Prince, who escorts her through the Snow Kingdom to the Kingdom of Toys. The Sugar Plum Fairy welcomes Clara to her Kingdom where she is entertained by dances of different countries. As Christmas day dawns, Clara's dream continues as she is transported away from the Kingdom of Toys.

Tickets are \$15, \$10, \$6, children and senior citizens \$10, \$7, \$5. Discounts are available for groups of 20 or more. Box office hours are 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday and one hour before performances. Patrons may charge tickets on either Visa or Mastercard. Since "NUTCRACKER" traditionally sells out, it is advisable to purchase tickets early. Call 739-3801.

Guffawing In The Colosseum

A combination of some of the merriest forms of clowning that have kept audiences laughing for 21 centuries, since they first set Romans to guffawing in the Colosseum in 200 B.C., is coming to the Union Plaza Hotel and Casino on December 24th.

This musical comedy, "A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM," scored a 28-month run in New York from 1962 to 1964, brightened life for theatre goers in 44 other American cities, and toured London and Paris. And now it is coming to the Union Plaza where the tradition of Broadway theatre is carried on in Las Vegas.

The musical's credentials go back a long way. Its tomfoolery has been drawn from a half dozen plays by Plautus, the rowdiest gagwriter in ancient Rome, whose slapstick comedies used to pack the Colosseum around 200 B.C. and have been box-office ever since, in adaptations by Shakespeare, Moliere, W.C. Fields, the Marx Brothers and countless burlesque comedians.

The plot of this Roman holiday is an unashamed medley of all the time-honored stock situations of farce - mistaken identities, masquerades, loves sweet and loves profane, the absurdities of an aging man still trying to be a Romeo, the desperate deceptions of a schemer always on the verge of being found out.

The tongue-in-cheek blending of the world's oldest and most sure-fire gags in "A FUNNY THING..." was accomplished by writers Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim.

Give yourself a special gift this holiday season and catch "A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM" at the beautiful Union Plaza Hotel. Showtimes will be 8 p.m. (dinner) and 11:45 p.m. for the cocktail show.

Elegance Of Broadway Show At Las Vegas Prices

The elegant surroundings of the 650-seat theater, the best plays of Broadway, talented name performers and music and comedy are high priority items with the Union Plaza.

Theater-goers in New York and Los Angeles can bank on the high cost of being entertained when going to the theater. But consider the ease in which millions of tourists and the half million locals come to downtown Las

Vegas and pay less than \$20 for dinner and a stage play, or under \$10 for the cocktail show. It's an unbeatable price anywhere and the audiences that have attended the plays night after night know it!

The current play "The Mind With The Dirty Man" is a perfect example of the very affordable bit of live theater but worth a million dollars to have seen it. Locals say if

there was only one Broadway show they could see, they would be happy it was the hilarious "Mind With the Dirty Man."

Starring the unmatched comedy of Phil Ford and Mimi Hines and a top-notch cast, the show rings with quips and digs that will make you laugh long after the show is over.

The dinner show is at 8 p.m.; the cocktail show at 11:45 p.m. Come to the Union Plaza's shows in the most spirited resort downtown!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS WILL NEVER BE THE SAME!

**START
SAVING YOUR
RIVIERA DOLLARS... NOW!**

The Hollywood Game Show starts December 18th and you'll want to have plenty of "Riviera Dollars" to play for fabulous prizes. You could even walk away a winner with thousands of dollars in merchandise, trips and much more! Anything's possible at the Hollywood Game Show, but you need "Riviera Dollars" to play.

Earn your "Riviera Dollars" by playing our special \$1 and 25¢ "Riviera Dollars" slot machines located throughout the hotel.

Earn... Save... Play!

Starts December 18th
THE HOLLYWOOD GAME SHOW
8 PM Wednesday Nights in the Versailles Theatre
FREE ADMISSION — Come Early, No Reservations

"Riviera Dollars" may also be used to purchase prizes at the Riviera Redemption Center daily.

All Rules and Regulations Apply as Posted at the Riviera Hotel Redemption Center.

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RIVIERA

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