

THE NUTCRACKER

BY TCHAIKOVSKY

CONCEPT

The environment fluidly transitions from a charming Victorian home to a series of dreamscapes that includes a nightmarish battleground, romanticized snowdrifts and pink upside down cakes with cotton candy clouds. I kept the home formidable, the nightmare fragmented, the snow crystalline and ascending, and the land of sweets delicious. Material choices were based on what best evoked the desired form. Wooden and steel home structures shared a stage with a plastic cup Christmas tree, cellophane backdrop, and garbage bag pine boughs. The stage compositions gave focus to the performers in the expansive vista, a 70 ft. proscenium opening.

MOTIVATION

The venue, a national historic site, is made for 'The Nutcracker' at Christmas-time. With the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and Neglia Ballet Artists, a company that brings together an extraordinary international cast, the production had potential for excellence. I wanted to bring ingenuity and magic to the evening. I dreamt of engineering a dimensional Christmas tree, of re-envisioning Mother Ginger as a giant cupcake, of presenting the holiday classic in a new form.

-LYNNE M. KOSCIELNIAK