Young Dancers Star in "The Nutcracker," Too!

Photo courtesy the Houston Ballet
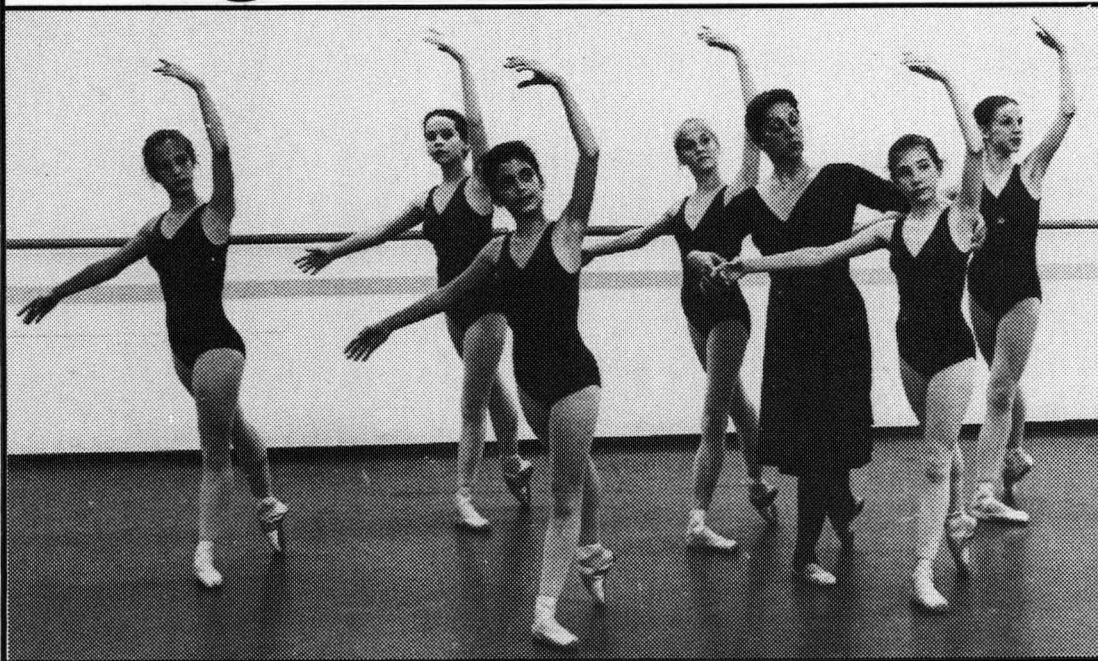
Young ballerinas at the Houston Academy practice for their "Nutcracker" parts with Clare Cravey, their teacher. Later on they will rehearse on stage with the pros of the Houston Ballet Company.

Photo by Jim Caldwell for the Houston Ballet

Photo by Geoff Winningham for the Houston Ballet

Dancers as young as 7 can take part in the party scene. One of the many reasons that the ballet has been so popular for many years is that local children can appear on stage.

Young dancers can also dance the part of the little Gingers, who pop out from under Madame Ginger's skirt. (See page 1.)

Early in November, there is a great deal of excitement at the Houston Ballet Academy in Houston, Texas.

This is the time that the Houston Ballet Company picks the youngest dancers to take special parts in "The Nutcracker" ballet.

The dance company is made up of professional dancers. For a child as young as 7 to dance on stage with the pros is quite an honor.

"Like all ballet dancers, the children learn their parts by imitating. Someone shows them how and they copy it," master teacher Clare Duncan of the academy told The Mini Page.

After the children are chosen, a letter is sent home to the parents. They are asked to sign the letter and agree to get their children to rehearsals and performances on time.

Since the ballet is at Christmastime, the young performers are asked to give up family vacation trips and parties.

But many think it is worth it to find out for themselves what it is like behind stage and on stage at a big ballet.

from The Mini Page by Betty Debnam
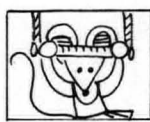© 1981 Universal Press Syndicate

ALPHA MICE

What sound do you hear when you say these TR blend words?

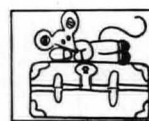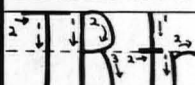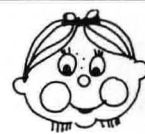|				
tractor	**tremble**	**trapeze**	**trash**	**travel**
trousers	**trinkets**	**trucker**	**trunk**	**trumpet**

This is how you make the letters TR. Practice here:

T R r

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm
Nn Oo Pp Qq (Rr) Ss (Tt) Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

Look through your Mini Page and the rest of your newspaper for words starting with TR.

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ALPHA BETTY

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Here's an Alpha Betty Tongue Twister. Can you read this sentence about some TR things and activities in the picture?

ABCDEFGH
IJKLMN
OPQRST
UV WXY
Z

tr

Tropical tribes train trolls to trim tree trunks.