

# THE NUTCRACKER JOURNEY

CHRISTMAS SEASON IS QUICKLY APPROACHING AT THE NATIONAL BALLET SCHOOL WHICH MEANS ONE THING...WHO WILL BE CHOSEN TO DANCE THE ROLE OF CLARA IN THE NUTCRACKER? LETS REWIND 8 YEARS TO SEE AVA'S JOURNEY...

SINCE AVA WAS A LITTLE GIRL SHE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A BALLERINA

ONE DAY...

REMEMBER  
CHIN LIFTED,  
TUMMY IN, POINT  
MY TOES...AND  
MASK THE PAIN  
WITH A SMILE!

SHE WORKED HARD EVERY  
WEEK IN BALLET CLASS

5TH  
POSITION  
KILLS MY  
KNEES!!!!

HOLIDAY SEASON WAS QUICKLY APPROACHING WHICH MEANT ONE THING...

## NUTCRACKER CASTING CALL

YEARS DOWN THE ROAD AVA WAS FINALLY ACCEPTED IN TO PRESTIGIOUS BALLET SCHOOL



WHO SHALL BE MY CLARA THIS YEAR?



I  
THINK I CAN,  
I THINK I  
CAN...



COMPETITION WAS TOUGH FOR THIS PARTICULAR YEAR WITH LOTS OF TALENT

THE NEXT DAY...

## CAST LIST GOES UP

AND AVA WAS CHOSEN TO PLAY THE LEAD CHILD ROLE OF CLARA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I GOT THIS!



AUDITION DAY CAME AND THE COMPETITION WAS TOUGH AMONGST HER PEERS

OH MY GAWD!!!



LONG AND GRUELLING REHEARSALS BEGAN THE NEXT DAY WITH INTRICATE CHOREOGRAPHY AND SPECIFIC DIRECTIONS FROM THE CHOREOGRAPHER...

CHASE, PAS DE  
BOURRE,  
GLISSADE,  
GRANDE JETÉ  
EN TOURNANT

GULP



WEEKS PASSED BY AND  
THEY WERE FINALLY  
STAGE READY

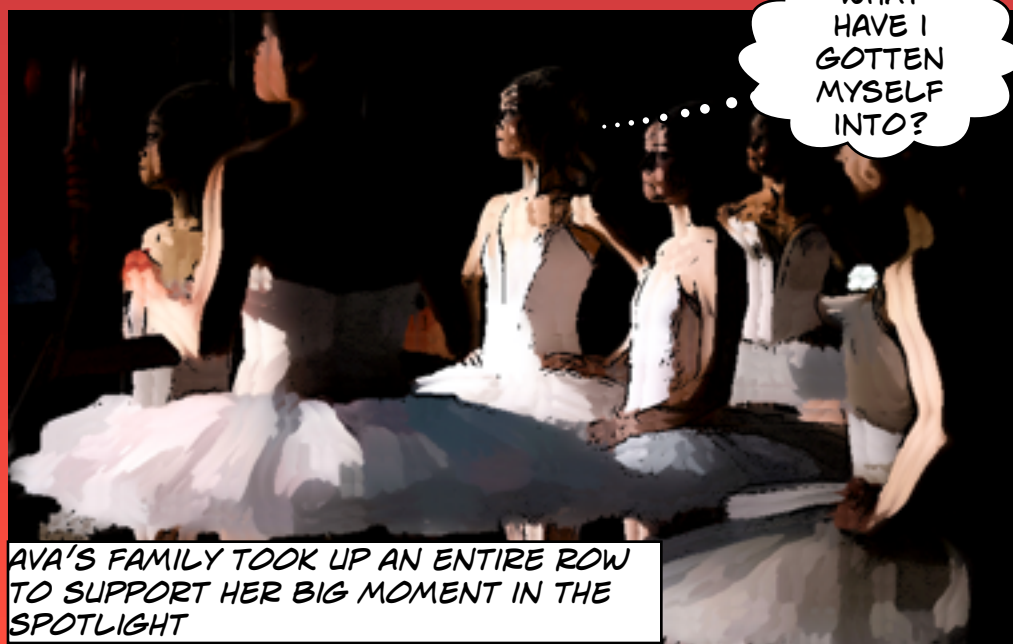
AMORE



# OPENING NIGHT THE CURTAIN RISES



WHAT  
HAVE I  
GOTTEN  
MYSELF  
INTO?



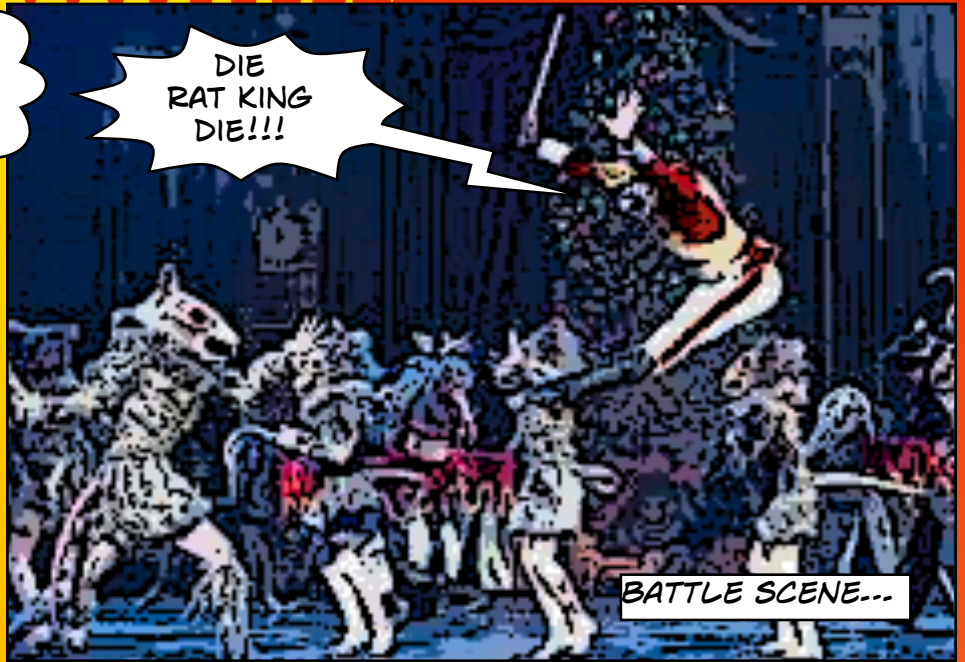
AVA'S FAMILY TOOK UP AN ENTIRE ROW  
TO SUPPORT HER BIG MOMENT IN THE  
SPOTLIGHT





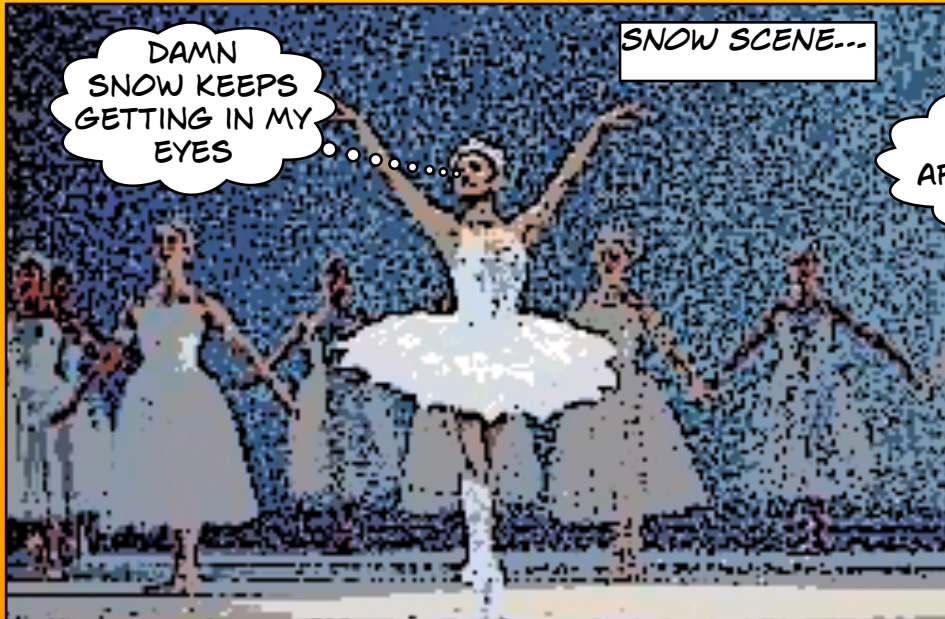
POINTE YOUR  
TOES, TUMMY IN  
AND OF COURSE  
SMILE :)

FAMILY SCENE...



DIE  
RAT KING  
DIE!!!

BATTLE SCENE...



DAMN  
SNOW KEEPS  
GETTING IN MY  
EYES

SNOW SCENE...



AND THE DRAMATIC FINALE...

BURGERS  
AFTERWARDS?

THE CURTAIN WENT DOWN AND A  
THUNDEROUS STANDING OVATION  
ROARED THROUGH THE THEATRE

ENCORE!

BRAVO!

OUTSTANDING

THAT EVENING AVA WENT TO BED WITH SUGAR PLUMS  
DANCING IN HER HEAD.



DREAMS  
REALLY DO  
COME TRUE

NEXT UP, SWAN LAKE AUDITIONS...DOES AVA HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO PERFORM THE GOOD AND  
EVIL SWAN? STAY TUNED...