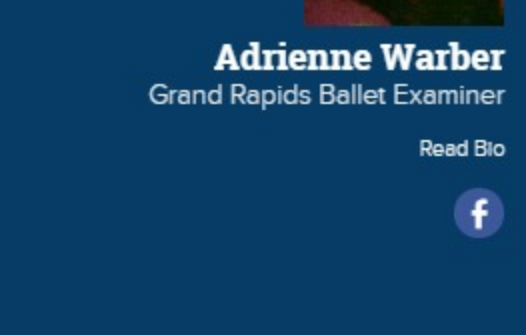


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Adrienne Warber Grand Rapids Ballet Examiner

Behind The Scenes Of 'The Nutcracker' Ballet

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Just try to bring two worlds together, something old and something new, because those are the two worlds I grew up with.



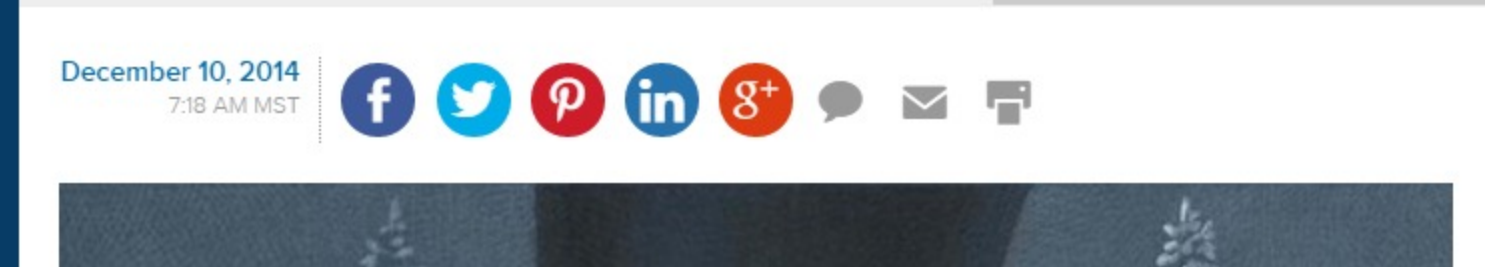
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Anton Yelchin was laid to rest in a private funeral attended by his loved ones five days after he was found dead outside of his home.

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Grand Rapids Ballet brings Chris Van Allsburg's art to life in new 'Nutcracker'

See also: dance, the nutcracker, grand rapids ballet, chris van allsburg, val caniparoli, eugene lee



Drosselmeyer image by Chris Van Allsburg

Original Sketch by Chris Van Allsburg for Grand Rapids Ballet

'The Nutcracker' is about the magic of Christmas and childhood imagination. The story told through the artistry of dance ushers in the Christmas season for many West Michigan families.

The selection of a set designer was a critical element so that Van Allsburg's art is presented correctly and fluidly in the set design. Van Allsburg recommended award-winning set designer Eugene Lee to develop the 'Nutcracker' set.

Barker brought in Val Caniparoli of the San Francisco Ballet to do the choreography. Caniparoli is one of America's most sought after choreographers, and has built a distinguished career over the past 35 years.

'Val Caniparoli was my only choice for choreographer. I've worked with Val a lot over my 27 year career. I love his ability to tell a story, and how he works with the dancers.

A Cross-Country Collaboration: For two years, the creative team of Barker, Van Allsburg, Lee and Caniparoli, have developed this new 'Nutcracker' from across the miles.

A Show with Special Meaning: This 'Nutcracker' has special meaning for Chris Van Allsburg and the Grand Rapids community. Grand Rapids native Chris Van Allsburg was inspired to collaborate with the Grand Rapids Ballet's new 'Nutcracker' project.

For the Grand Rapids community, this 'Nutcracker' is a unique production that was created especially for West Michigan and will be performed by the Grand Rapids Ballet dancers.

Grand Rapids Ballet Executive Director Glenn Del Vecchio comments on his hopes for audience reaction to the show, 'I hope the audience feels a sense of pride. This is a national level show and it will be performed in major metropolitan cities by our dancers, starting next year.

'Nutcracker' Set Installation: This week, the Grand Rapids Ballet has been installing the new 'Nutcracker' set at DeVos Performance Hall. This set is entirely new, based on Van Allsburg's art and Lee's design collaboration.

Anyone who saw the Grand Rapids Art Museum exhibition, 'Re-envisioning The Nutcracker,' which opened November 20 and runs until January 11, will be struck by how much the set matches the original Van Allsburg sketches.

Commenting on the set installation process, Grand Rapids Ballet Stage Manager Melissa Slack says, 'This is a time to make sure that all the parts and pieces come together. We're making sure we carve out enough time for each person in each department to get everything that they need done.

What will it be like for the dancers to dance on the new set? The rehearsals on the set will help the dancers get oriented to the new scenery and staging.

Choreographer Val Caniparoli talks about how the set installation affects the choreography, 'When you see where the sets go, things will change daily as we work on stage. You see things differently when you are on stage than in the studio sometimes.

'Nutcracker' Ticket Information and Show Times: Grand Rapids Ballet will have a special viewing of the new 'Nutcracker' at 'The Nutcracker Premiere Gala' on Thursday, December 11 in partnership with Hospice of Michigan at DeVos Performance Hall.

'The Nutcracker' opens on Friday, December 12, and will present eight shows that run on the weekends of December 12-14 and December 19-21 at DeVos Performance Hall.

This is a 'Nutcracker' that promises to surprise and delight the entire family.

SUGGESTED LINKS

- Grand Rapids Ballet: Tickets on sale now for 'The Nutcracker' world premiere
Grand Rapids Ballet: How choreographer Val Caniparoli creates 'Nutcracker' magic
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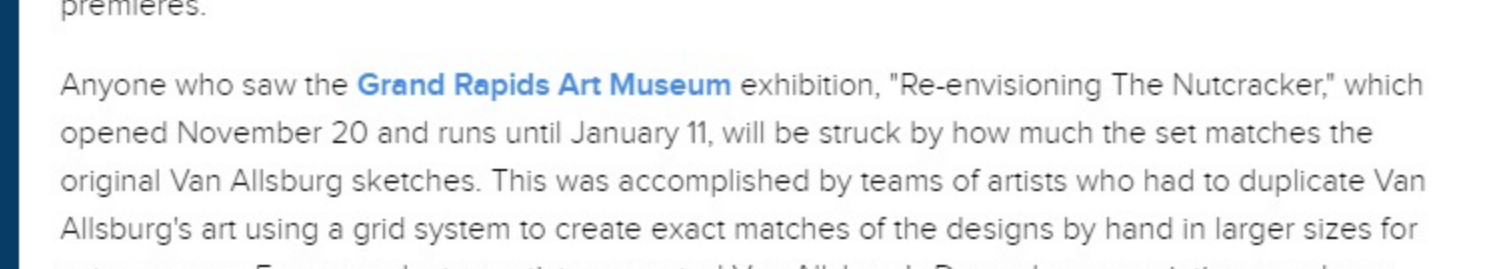
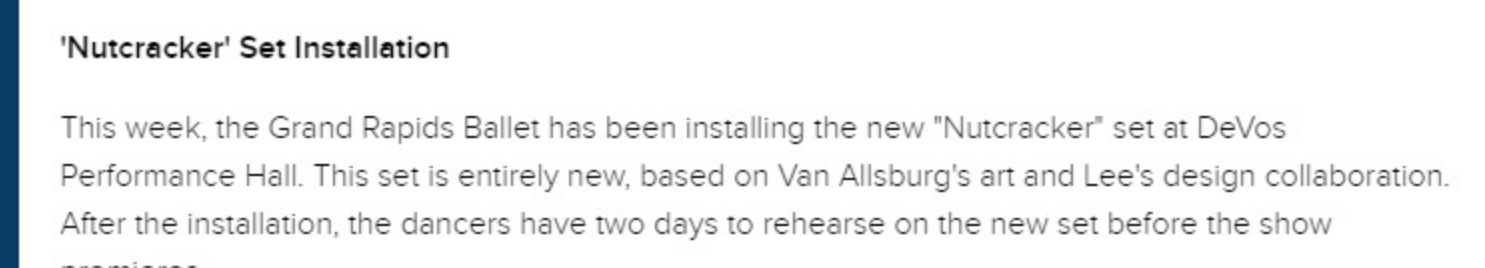


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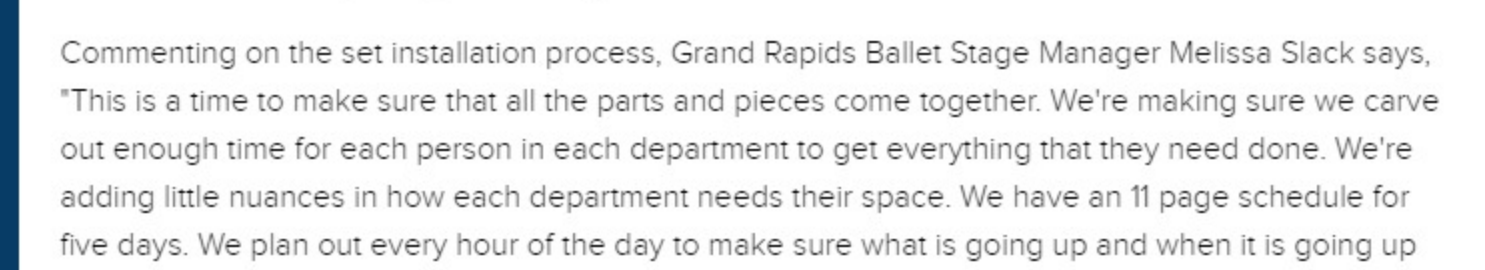
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