

Ballet troupe hopes to present the Christmas classic every year

Against a backdrop of cupcakes and candy canes, nearly 50 local dancers performed Concord's first homegrown version of "The Nutcracker" at the Glenn Center last weekend.

The troupe, all dancers affiliated with Rebecca's Tutu dance studio, retold the classic story of Clara, who receives a Nutcracker at her family's Christmas party. She drifts off into a dream world filled with sweets and fairies, but not before a sword fight between the Nutcracker and the Mouse King. The ballet ends with Clara and her Nutcracker Prince waving farewell to the Snow Queen, Sugar Plum Fairy, Dew Drop fairy and their attending chocolates and candies.

About 1,300 people bought \$5.00 tickets to see the Saturday matinee and evening performance. Money from ticket sales will go to the fledgling Piedmont Dance Theatre, a non-profit dance company that teacher and founder Rebecca Massey hopes will be able to perform "The Nutcracker" every year. Massey also owns Rebecca's Tutu.

At Saturday night's show, the audience was packed with kids who marveled at the set's Christmas tree and the snowflakes that swirled around the ballerinas.

The performance was put together from scratch, with Massey choreographing the show, designing sets and costumes and depending on parent volunteers to pull together the details.

