The Nutcracker and the Mouse King

Choreography: Jennifer Owen
Music: Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky - arranged by Patrick Alonzo Conway, Brad Cox, Jeff Harshbarger, Forest Stewart, The People’s Liberation Big Band of Greater Kansas City
Costume Design: Peggy Noland, Peregrine Honig, Mark Southerland

Lighting Design: John “Moose” Kimball
Number of dancers: 9
Number of musicians: 16
Number of local students: 6
Run time: 90 minutes in two Acts

Premiere: December 11, 2009
H&R Block City Stage Theater
Kansas City, MO

Almost everyone is familiar with the traditional version of the holiday story The Nutcracker. Far fewer are aware of the original and notably darker inspiration for this beloved ballet--E.T.A Hoffman’s 1816 story The Nutcracker and the Mouse King. This modern jazz adaptation of The Nutcracker and the Mouse King features both original music and radical rearrangements of Tchaikovsky melodies created by a host of innovative Kansas City jazz musicians.

“...the Owen/Cox production succeeds because each element is top-notch, from the dancers to the music to the bright, polka-dot costumes. It seems poised to become a classic in its own way as the production’s fans spread the word.”

-Ann Spivak, The Kansas City Star