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John Lehmann/The Globe and Mail

IN PICTURES – En Pointe for The Nutcracker

Yan Zhang from the Beijing Dance Academy ballet department program breaks in a new pair of ballet shoes before rehearsals for the Goh Ballet's Nutcracker at The Centre in Vancouver on Sunday.



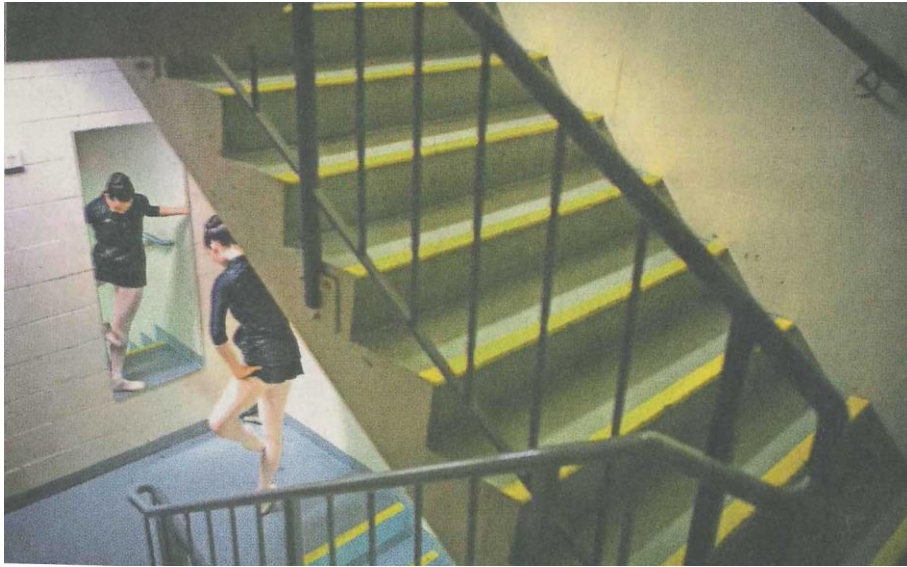


Figure 1: Jennifer Bennet, 18, who will perform as a Snowflake, flower in *The Nutcracker*, stretches before rehearsals.



Figure 2: Yan Zhang from the Beijing Dance Academy mends a pair of ballet shoes during rehearsals for *The Nutcracker* on Sunday



Peek inside the Nutcracker

Three dancers from the Beijing Dance Academy's ballet program are taking part in Goh Ballet's Nutcracker performance, set to open its sixth season Dec. 18 at The Centre. Photographer John Lehmann was at the first practice. Yan Zhang, Chen Wang and Zhen Huo will join an international cast that will include Argentine-American Paloma Herrera, prima ballerina of the American Ballet Theatre in New York, who will be dancing in the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy. The production features more than 200 dancers, some of whom are local, young and participating in the production for the first time.



Figure 3: Dancers rehearse for the Goh Ballet's Nutcracker.