

**Film Title and Release Date:** *Getting to the Nutcracker* (2014)

**Length of Film in Minutes:** 101 minutes

**Film Genre:** Documentary

**Reviewer Name and Grade:** Kallie M., 8th grade

**Date Reviewed:** March 29, 2022

Maurat Daukayav, who was once a star dancer with Russia's Kirov Ballet, is now training a new generation of performers at a studio in Los Angeles. They're focused, driven, and very talented, and, in "Getting to the Nutcracker" they explain how dancing is more than just a performance, it's a way of life. The documentary follows the talented troupe as they prepare to perform the beloved holiday story, spending time with the main players both at home and backstage. Viewers learn who they are as people and how ballet has shaped them into who they are. And finally, magically, we also get to see an amazing performance. Which shows why their hard work was worth it. This movie shows determination and also shows positive role models for younger kids. This movie also shows how you can be a good competitor and teammate. That you don't have to bring down the people that you are competing with to be successful and that you should support one another and each other's accomplishments.

*"How did you find this film on Kanopy?"*

I found this film on Kanopy by browsing through the family section.

*"Did the plot keep you interested?"*

Yes the plot kept me very interested, I found it fascinating how the documentary was able to show how hard the people in the play worked.

*"Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow or just right?"*

I thought the pace of the film was just right.

*"What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?"*

In my opinion this film is appropriate for 3rd grade and up, although younger kids could watch I am not sure if they would really be able to follow the storyline.

I would give this film a rating of 5 stars. I think that it provides such positive and hard working role models for any child who is watching this film. It shows that you have to work hard in order to be successful and that hard work does truly pay off!