

Book and Complimentary DVD

Ballet Parking: Performing the Nutcracker as Counter-Revolutionary Act.

By E. Michael Jones

The Nutcracker began as a German fairy tale. It then became a Russian ballet, and now, in its latest incarnation, it has become an American ritual. Every year mothers from the suburbs surrounding South Bend, Indiana set out in their vans and SUVs to slay the rat king in a military campaign against the rats and everything they symbolize. Every year they volunteer their little boys and girls as soldiers in the culture wars so that they can defeat the rats of appetite and disorder and chaos by wielding the weapons of truth, beauty, and grace. The Nutcracker is the 21st century version of the Children's Crusade.

The *Ballet Parking* DVD supplements this analysis with footage of Nutcracker rehearsals and performances at Southhold Dance Theater, as well as interviews with the artistic directors and the people behind the scenes that make these yearly performances possible. The DVD also makes use of Soviet archival footage, which includes extraordinary shots of Lenin and train sequences that look like something out of *Dr. Zhivago*, as well as footage of riots during the American cultural revolution of the '60s. It even contains footage of Napoleon invading Russia taken from Soviet era feature films, as well as a soundtrack that is an anthology of the best music in the ballet repertoire. This book/dvd makes an ideal Christmas present for the culturally astute.

This Book/DVD combination is available for \$29 plus \$5 S & H.

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