

Brothers kick, spin, jump their way into the Nutcracker

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THE GAZETTE

Broad shoulders. Thick feet. Tough-guy brows. Guess the sport of these two boys. Football? Hockey? Guess again. Mason Ewing, 11, and his 8-year-old brother, Keegan, are dancers in the Nutcracker Ballet.

Mason, 5 feet tall with a shock of brown hair, is a party boy at this weekend's youth Ballet Society of Colorado Springs shows. Keegan, a blond hunk, shares the key role of Fritz with another boy.

The brothers will jump, kick and spin across the Rampart High School stage.

Don't dare call them ballerinas.

"I don't do ballet," Keegan says, squinting his face. "I just do boy dance."

They don't wear tights. They wear knickers.

They don't wear ballet shoes. They wear dancing shoes.

Semantics? Not really.

More like antics.

Keegan got the ballet bug while watching his sister Madison, 13, dance in the Nutcracker a few years ago.

He said, "I want to be able to pick up all those girls someday."

Pick up as in lift in the air, that is.

Keegan, the youngest of eight children, was 5 when he started taking dance classes at the ballet society school.

It got the nod from his dad, Kevin, a former [Air Force Academy](#) all-America football player. Two older Ewing sons, in their 20s, didn't want their kid brother on "tippytoes, doing little girl things," says Jeri, mother of the clan.

Keegan says he doesn't do that stuff.

His grown brothers approve. After shows, they rub his head and say, "Hey, good job" and hand him candy, not flowers.

Keegan likes that part.

That inspired Mason to take up dancing.

Keegan says he's outlasted the boys he started with.

"Lots of them stopped dancing over the years," he says.

"Because they had other stuff to do," Mason adds.

So does this duo.

The home-schooled boys are working on black belts in tae kwon do and play dodge ball at church. They also play piano.

"All-American men," their mom says.

The boys tolerate the glamor prep.

"They starched my hair," Mason says.

"They put stuff on our cheeks," Keegan says.

Any jitters before shows?

"No," Mason says. "We play Game-Boy."

Madison says guys steal the show because "girls are more common."

"Boys hardly have to do anything and the crowd goes wild," says their mom.

Suits Keegan just fine.

"I like attention," he says. "Girls like me."

Tell me your stories: 636-0253 or andrea.brown@gazette.com.