

# BALLET continued from page 9

This production of “Don Quixote” also has the dryad scene take place in clouds, Travis said.

“He fights the windmills and they send him up to the clouds where Amore is usually dressed in a Greek toga kind of thing but for our production she is wearing a petite, clever darling tutu with hand beading and mostly nude on top with golden heart-shaped armour on her chest. It’s really the prettiest thing in the show so far,” Travis said.

Travis said this show is a mix of historical and cutting edge construction techniques.

“My mom (artist Cheryl Peterson Halsey of Springfield) made hat blocks for the matador hats,” Travis said. “We made all the hats in the traditional way they were made hundreds of years ago. You have the wooden form and you stretch the fabric, they used rabbit fur then across the forms. My mom made the forms and we have several different sizes. We also make our tutus in pretty much the same way they have always been made and have done miles of hand-beading on the toreadors.”

As for new technology Travis is having the tiaras for the girls in the dream sequence laser cut at a metal shop so each one will be exactly the same shape as the next.

“Usually you use wire and hand shape them and the first one comes out beautiful and the more you do the smaller and uglier they become because you are just tired of doing it,” he said. “I also use a new way of printing synthetic fabrics called dye sublimation for the top plates of the tutus.”

Dye sublimation is a way to print specif-

ic design right into the fabric, Travis explained.

“I do the design in Photoshop and send that to a plant in Tennessee where they print that specific design onto a special kind of paper then they lay that paper over the fabric and use a propellant to blow the dye through the paper and into the fabric. It’s something that Cirque de Soleil does and I’ve found it great for our needs,” Travis said. “Say you want some pants with fish on them but if you went out and found fish patterned fabric you would have a snake pattern all over the pants. But with sublimation I can design a pant leg with a snake twirling up and around a leg and then I can have that printed, then all I have to do is cut it out and assemble.”

Travis said this is the largest production the Joffrey of Chicago has built in-house and Travis is the first designer utilized in-house. In his role as first assistant to head of wardrobe, Travis usually works on construction and pattern-making.

“I love to design and I get the line that they don’t want to let me design because I’m good at pattern making and they don’t want me to stop doing that,” he said. “Designing is my motivation to stick around so I won’t get bored. I’m very happy they let me design this huge show and it’s so much nicer to construct it in house. We aren’t having to e-mail London dozens of times about the placement of a button. It’s been really helpful to be self-sufficient.”

Travis said it’s also great that his mom, Cheryl Peterson Halsey, has gotten to help with this show.

“She’s such a gifted artist and there were so many things in this show that were right



## Simplifying Life's Most Difficult Decisions

“Dying is one of the events in life certain to occur, yet one we are not likely to plan for.” We spend more time getting ready for two weeks away from work than we do for our last time on Earth” *(Time Magazine)*





**Tami Keller**  
Funeral Director



*Guiding and serving families with compassion and trust.*  
**PSAHL-KOSTEL**  
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.

Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton  
Memorial Resource Center, Tyndall • Memorial Chapels, Tabor & Menno  
665-9679 • 1-800-495-9679 • [www.opsahlkostelfuneralhome.com](http://www.opsahlkostelfuneralhome.com)