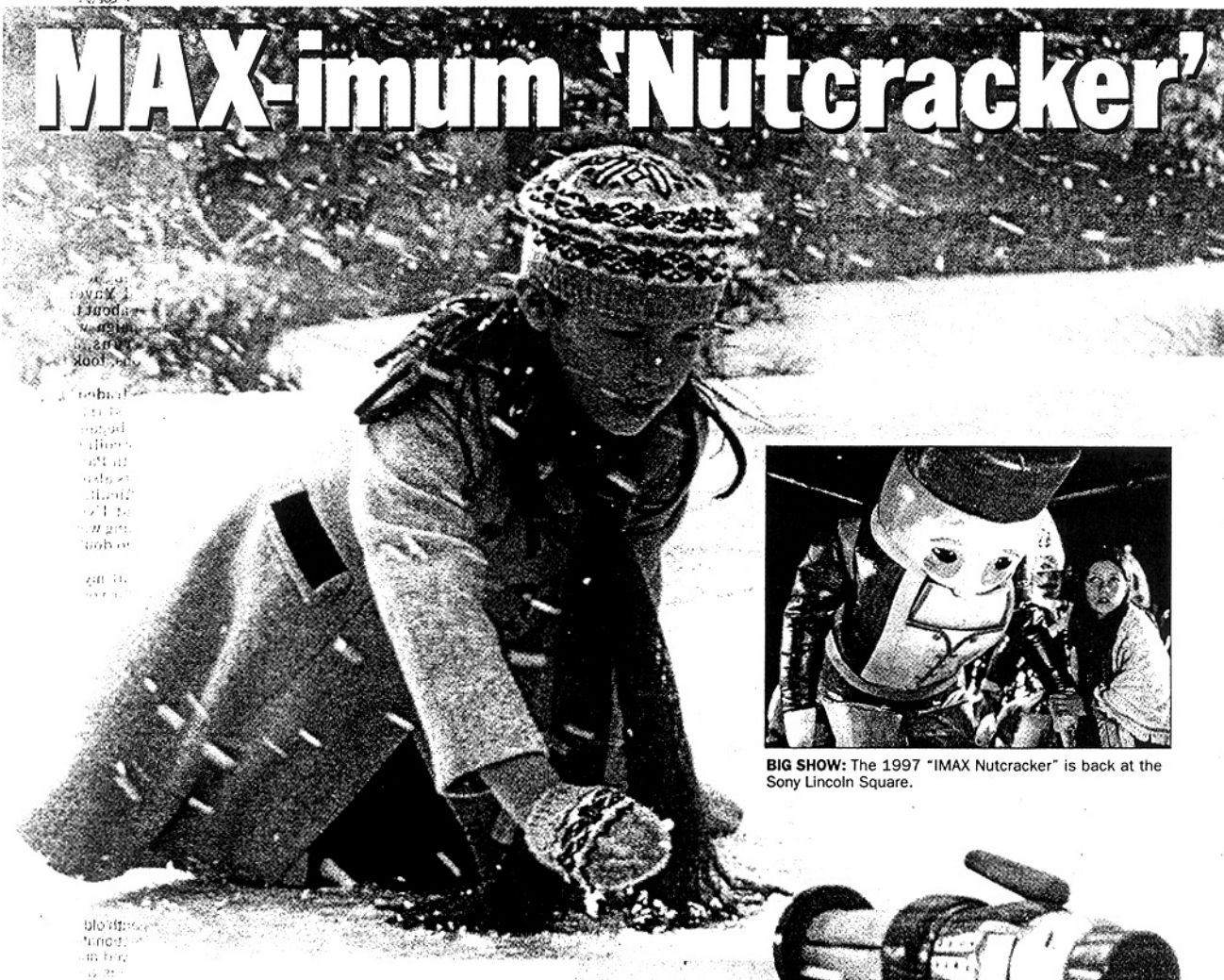


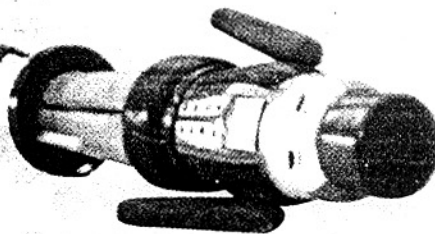
★ CRITICS' ★ CHOICE ★

A selective sampling of this weekend's best bets

MAX-imum 'Nutcracker'



BIG SHOW: The 1997 "IMAX Nutcracker" is back at the Sony Lincoln Square.



Film

By PATRICIA O'HAIRE

There are always plenty of "Nutcrackers" to be seen during the holidays, but the one at the IMAX Theater at Lincoln Square might easily be the largest one around. Filmed in 3-D and using the huge wide-screen technique, "The IMAX Nutcracker" proved so popular last season it was asked back, and now it will run through Jan. 3.

The movie is an elaborate, nondancing adaptation of Tchaikovsky's ballet, based on the fairy tale by E.T.A. Hoffmann, and set in present-day England. It features more than 150 performers, including circus artists, mimes and street-theater types.

The IMAX Theater is in the Sony Lincoln Square complex at Broadway and W. 68th St. Admission is \$9.50 for adults, \$6 for children. The movie, which lasts 45 minutes, will be shown a minimum of twice a day; call (212) 336-5000 for times.

Comic

By ED TAHANEY

Here's a supersized comic book with a story that is straight out of the pages of the Daily Planet. Superman: Peace on Earth (DC, \$9.95) is a timely tale about world hunger by writer Paul Dini and artist Alex Ross.

Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster's poster boy for truth, justice and the American way is in very capable hands in this preachy story involving a sentimental Clark Kent during the holidays. Kent investigates a problem that has been eating at him for some time, and it is up to Krypton's only surviving son to attempt the monumental task of feeding the world.

The colossal, perfect-bound comic (it has the dimensions of a tabloid newspaper) is full of terrific images, bold watercolors and stunning landscapes that are suitable for framing. Cool and corny.



★★★
More critics' choices
and weekend activities
on pages 40 & 41
and online at
<http://www.nydailynews.com>