

Emma Love

We first featured Emma in the Rogers Ballet, Inc. newsletter shortly after she moved from Wichita, where she lived with her parents Bob and Nancy Love, to Seattle, Washington, in order to study ballet at the Pacific Northwest Ballet School. While in Wichita this January (2010), Emma visited with us again and updated us on her career as a ballerina. For those not familiar with this beautiful young woman, Emma was six years old when she began training under Sharon Rogers. She danced in the Rogers Ballet Spring Performances as well as in the Friends University productions of *The Nutcracker*, performing over the years the roles of Ginger Cookie, Mouse, Party Girl, Clara, Dew Drop, Marzipan, Snow Corps, and Snow Queen. She fondly recalls her role as a mouse: liking the costume, having fun holding onto a soldier's foot while being pulled around the stage, and pretending to be shot by the cannon. Upon graduation from high school, Emma began training as a student in the Professional Division of Pacific Northwest Ballet. Two years later she was asked to join PNB as a paid company member. Now she works from 10:15 am – 7:00 pm, rehearsing and performing. On non-performance days she attends a warm-up class, followed by rehearsals for the upcoming show. After three weeks of rehearsal, the ballet is performed: eight shows in two weekends. Then rehearsals begin for the next production. Some of the ballets she will be dancing in this season include *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Coppelia*, *West Side Story Suite*, and works by other choreographers, including Balanchine. At PNB, Emma still dances in *The Nutcracker*... forty-three performances, in fact, running from the day after Thanksgiving through December 30th. She does not always dance the same role each performance. When back in Wichita during break, Emma will often take ballet class at RBI. She is thankful for the excellent technical training she received from Sharon Rogers which has prevented her from suffering serious injuries that plague so many other dancers.