

Don Your Tutu

If you're a "balletomane", which in layman's terms means a ballet fan, not only will you love the divine projects inspired by *The Nutcracker* on page 22, you'll also adore all these gorgeous products we were able to find when we went shopping recently. So if the words arabesque, glissade, plié or tour de force get the heart racing, then indulge yourself in a little shopping spree.

1. Add the finishing touch to your child's bedroom with this exquisite wooden wall plaque distributed by **Mediterranean Markets**. Featuring three-dimensional dancers in classical ballet positions, the timber sign, handpainted in a delicate palette of pink and cream, measures 2.5 x 35.5 x 65cm.
2. If you have a little ballerina in the making, then why not send her off to dance class with these gorgeous lunch accessories from **Belinda Jane's**. The fully insulated, wipe-clean lunch bag measures 26 x 20 x 8.5cm and the matching 400ml aluminium bottle will keep your little one's drink refreshingly cool.
3. Spend time with the family or simply grab some quiet time for yourself by creating this beautiful jigsaw puzzle available from **Mind Games**. Depicting one of Edgar Degas' famous artworks of a dance lesson taking place backstage at the Paris Opera, this 1000-piece Clementoni puzzle will keep participants amused for hours.
4. Make a dramatic statement on your living room or bedroom wall with this exquisite artwork by Vencent Ko. Entitled *The Ballerina*, Ko's Abstract Expressionist style is created using mixed media, forming a texture that gives the work an almost three-dimensional appeal. Measuring 120 x 175cm, this magnificent painting is available from **Sydney Galleries**.
5. Don't let it rain on your parade with this exquisite umbrella from **Clifton Australia**. Made from 100% polyester with a wooden one-piece shaft/handle and unbreakable fibreglass ribs, this divine accessory features the inspiring artwork of Degas' *Ballet Lesson*. It will certainly add cheer, and colour, to a dreary rainy day. A matching handbag is also available.
6. This incredible Alessi toothpick holder box from **Peter's of Kensington** is handmade in Italy from pear wood and chrome-plated brass. When you push the ballerina down, a little drawer opens and dispenses a toothpick. She will then bend gracefully down, pick up the toothpick and hold it for you. A truly unique piece!
7. Boring car trips will be a thing of the past when your child has this fabulous magnetic play set to keep them amused. Move the pieces around to create a new picture scene each time — great for imaginative and pretend play, as well as developing fine motor skills. Available from **Just Toy'n Around**.
8. This adorable fabric from **Duckcloth**, printed with the cutest ballerinas as well as some of France's most famous landmarks, comes in a range of designs and weights, including a divine cotton/linen mix, which would make the perfect furnishing fabric.
9. Lladró — just the mere mention of this amazing company conjures up images of some of the world's most enchanting porcelain sculptures. So indulge yourself with this dainty piece called *Little Ballerina I* available from **Peter's of Kensington**. It's crafted by hand, hand painted and decorated, and beautifully presented in a Lladró gift box.
10. Perfect for girls of all ages, these stunning Jennifer Birkhead-designed invitations will surely create the mood when your own little ballerina hands them out to friends. Available from **Mon Trésor**, the Tutus & Twirls pack comes with a set of 10 invitations in the prettiest shades of pink.
11. Delight a ballet enthusiast with these exquisite bookmarks and cards by Queensland artist **Christine Fitzgerald**. Depicting an assortment of ballerinas in elegant tutus, each piece has been printed from original artwork painted by Christine. Simply divine!
12. Perfect for toting your groceries, gym gear or pointe shoes about town, these fabulously sturdy 100% cotton canvas bags will certainly add some "cheekiness" to your daily routine. Available from **The Australian Ballet**, each limited-edition bag has been designed and printed in Australia and measures a roomy 12.5 x 38 x 45cm.



Stockists

- Companies marked with a * are wholesalers only and will direct you to your nearest retail stockist.
- Belinda Jane's** Ph/fax: (03) 9885 9300, website: www.belindajanes.com
 - Christine Fitzgerald** Ph: 0408 623 609, website: <http://christinefitzgerald.com>
 - Clifton Australia*** Ph: 1800 036 161 or (03) 9388 8988, website: www.cliftonaustralia.com
 - Duckcloth** Ph: (03) 8503 7615, website: www.duckcloth.com.au
 - Just Toy'n Around** Ph: 0402 840 623, website: www.justtoynaround.com.au
 - Mediterranean Markets*** Ph: (03) 9427 1988, website: www.mediterraneanmarkets.com.au
 - Mind Games** Ph: (03) 9923 7723, website: www.mindgamesmelbourne.com
 - Mon Trésor** Email: suzanna@montresor.com.au, website: www.montresor.com.au
 - Peter's of Kensington** Ph: (02) 9662 1099, website: www.petersofkensington.com.au
 - Sydney Galleries** Ph: (02) 9281 6911, website: www.sydneygalleries.com.au
 - The Australian Ballet** Ph: (03) 9669 2712, website: www.australianballet.com.au