

Parent Picks

Video

I Want to be a Ballerina
Clayton Productions, \$14.95

Hip-Hop for Kids
Jumping Frog Video, \$14.95

THOUGH THEY HAVE different functions, both of these tapes will likely get a kid moving. *I Want to Be a Ballerina* is a tour of ballet, its people and their responsibilities, within a production of the classic "Nutcracker." This makes it timely: if your child is eager to see a holiday production, or even be in one, she or he could get a nice introduction to the larger context. Best yet, the tape is done at a kid's level; efficient segments follow lessons, auditions and rehearsals and, while the details are limited, there's a strong sense of what to expect, both backstage and in the audience. Ages 3 to 12. To order, call: (800) 700-8622.

Hip-Hop for Kids is basically how-to, featuring non-stop and irresistible music (that is, if your taste includes rap and R & B). It's like an aerobics tape in that the primary view is of a room filled with exerciser-dancers. While there isn't a whole lot of close-up or text-based instruction, there are some endearing cutaway shots of other kids trying out the moves in their own homes. Parents will want to watch along, but they can be assured the tape progresses soundly from warm-up to basics to the more advanced moves. Ages 6 to 12. *Hip Hop* is sold at Musicland stores or call: (800)-72-HOWTO.—*Phil Anderson*