

"The Nutcracker" - 2006 Handbook

ELIGIBILITY: Dancers must be at least 7 years of age by September, 2006, with a minimum of 1 year dance experience and currently be taking at least one Ballet class per week. No beginning students, regardless of age are eligible. (Exceptions are made for 'Party Boys').

STUDIO REHEARSAL POLICY: *Please note: All rehearsals are held at The Dance Centre until production week.

Since "Nutcracker" is an extra performance opportunity and not a full studio recital, several different rules apply. When selecting dancers for specific roles, we must consider many things, the most important of which is ~ behavior, regular attendance, and conduct in class. Most rehearsal time is outside of class, making rehearsals fairly intense. EVERYTHING must be accomplished in a very short time - only 12 weeks. So, we DO NOT have time to deal with problematic dancers. Everyone must be able to stay focused during their entire rehearsal period. Your dancer should be prepared to give his/her full attention/effort to participate in "Nutcracker". No one should begin rehearsals only to drop out when something else becomes available.

RULES

I.

Rehearsal scheduling is at the discretion of the artistic staff, and attendance is MANDATORY. NO unexcused absences will be permitted. Many roles will be understudied, so if your child is not ill and is absent, the understudy will be called and your dancer WILL BE REPLACED THAT SAME DAY. If you wait until the next time your dancer comes to class to explain an absence, it will be too late. THERE IS NO EXTRA TIME BUILT INTO THE REHEARSAL CALENDAR, SO MISSED REHEARSALS CANNOT BE MADE UP (even if the dancer is ill).

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES: sleepovers, parties, shopping trips, "I forgot", "lost my schedule", no ride.

Each dancer will receive a complete rehearsal calendar and schedules will be posted throughout the studio. ALTHOUGH EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO ADHERE TO THIS SCHEDULE, WE ASK THAT YOU CHECK THE "NUTCRACKER" BULLETIN BOARD IN THE LOBBY AND DANCE ROOMS EVERY VISIT IN CASE OF NECESSARY CHANGES.

Since most of our dancers depend on parents to transport them to and from rehearsals, you should check your personal calendars against the rehearsal calendar for any possible conflicting dates as soon as you receive it. Failure to attend rehearsal because the parent forgets to check the schedule, or because the dancer does not have a ride will still result in the dancer being replaced. Please notify us IMMEDIATELY if there are problems. We truly regret having to replace any dancer, however, there is NO extra time to make up missed rehearsals.

Rehearsals are arranged around the conflicts you give us, so no one will be excused from rehearsals due to things that are added AFTER the schedule is finished. This includes extra cheerleading practices and competitions, speech meets, choral and band competitions, gymnastics meets, swim meets and soccer games. We must do this in order to ensure the quality of the best possible production. Please do not put yourself or us in the awkward position later on of asking to be excused due to changes with your other activities. Your commitment to this production is just as important as your other commitments.

II.

Plan to arrive no more than ten (10) minutes prior to rehearsal time with your dancer ready to begin at their scheduled time. We will have limited space, so plan to drop your child off and return when rehearsal is over. DO NOT BRING SIBLINGS AND/OR FRIENDS WITH YOU TO REHEARSALS. We need total concentration by everyone and guests prevent this. Please get

into the habit of checking the "Nutcracker" bulletin board in the lobby for any changes or corrections in rehearsals or other important information. This is IMPORTANT, as we do not always have the time to contact people individually.

Each dancer is expected to practice on their own between rehearsals. We schedule a MINIMUM of rehearsal time for each dance in order NOT to monopolize your spare time. This is especially important for solos and small ensemble pieces. Even though you are awarded a specific role, IT WILL BE GIVEN TO THE UNDERSTUDY IF YOU DO NOT PRACTICE ON YOUR OWN TO IMPROVE IT.

Choreography for some roles can be adjusted according to the dancers who are doing those roles ~ other roles have specific requirements and more technically demanding ~ only dancers with these skills will be given those roles.

Each dancer must be picked up at the scheduled end of rehearsal, ON TIME. If the child's ride is late, we will wait at the studio with the child, however, after two (2) such incidences, the child will be replaced. Like you, the staff also has other commitments.

BEHAVIOR REQUIREMENTS: self-discipline is required!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! If your child is consistently reprimanded, he/she will be replaced. If your child causes problems backstage during Dress Rehearsal or any Performance, he/she WILL NOT PERFORM.

Each child must ~ pay attention and not climb on bars

~ refrain from loud talking and keep hands to themselves

~ take all rehearsals seriously and respect the privilege of participating ~ in a professional production

III. SCHEDULE

Rehearsals and costume fittings will begin in early September and continue through production week. Most children will rehearse on Fridays and/or Saturdays. All rehearsals are held at The Dance Centre until production week ~ usual dance class attire should be worn for all rehearsals.

Dress Rehearsal is a closed rehearsal ~ that is, no guests are invited to observe rehearsal. Parents who do not wish to drive home (if there is a real distance involved) and back again may stay. However, be forewarned that those who do stay are usually put to work. Parents wishing to make their own videotape NEED TO DO SO AT DRESS REHEARSAL ONLY. No one is allowed to tape during either performance on Saturday. HCE-TV, Channel 2, will videotape both shows on Saturday, and copies may be purchased through them.

DRESS REHEARSAL: Thursday, December 14, 2006, 7:30pm-9:30pm (everyone)

DRESS REHEARSAL: Friday, December 15, 2006, 7:30pm-10:00pm (everyone)

PERFORMANCES: Saturday, December 16, 2006, 1:30pm and 6:00pm

****PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME FOR EVENING PERFORMANCE

TECH REHEARSAL, STAGE REHEARSAL, DRESS REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCES HELD AT THE PAC ~ HARDIN CO. PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE AT JOHN HARDIN HIGH SCHOOL.

IV. PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs will be taken for the display board in the lobby of John Hardin High School. Times and places will be clearly marked on your rehearsal calendars. For these photos, all dancers should come to that rehearsal wearing light makeup for the younger children and somewhat

heavier for the upper level dancers. Girls in the Opening Party Scene should wear hair curled and styled; all other girls should have hair in a classical bun with NO SIDE PIECES OR BANGS HANGING DOWN. All boys should have hair neatly combed and sprayed (if needed) in place. These are group photos so everyone should be uniform in appearance. Soloists will also be photographed. We will NOT have time to style hair for individuals or do their makeup, so plan to have this already done before arriving. We will send home a more detailed note about hair and makeup requirements ahead of time. These photos will be enlarged and displayed in the commons area at the PAC on performance day. Copies of these photos may be purchased if you wish; however, there is no obligation to do so.

V. COSTUMES/JEWELRY

There is a \$10.00 per costume rental fee and a \$5.00 jewelry rental fee. Jewelry fee is a result of things being lost, broken, or not returned.. Costume fees help to cover the cost of cleaning ~ tutus can cost up to \$20.00 each as they must be dry cleaned by hand. You will be credited the jewelry fee when turning costumes back in after the final performance. These fees are necessary, but not meant, in any way, to cause financial hardships for anyone.

VI. COMMITTEES

Parents are required to help with some aspect of "Nutcracker". Committees are:

1. SETS ~ Repair or repaint existing sets - NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
2. PROPS ~ Repair, refurbish or replace existing props (AT HOME PROJECT)
3. MAKEUP ~ a one Performance or Dress Rehearsal commitment (MUST STAY BACKSTAGE)
4. DRESSERS ~ a one Performance or Dress Rehearsal commitment (MUST STAY BACKSTAGE)
5. BOUTIQUE ~ operate Boutique during Dress Rehearsal, before and after each performance, and at Intermission. Closed during Performances.
6. PACKING ~ Several people are needed to help pack all costumes, hats, props, etc. before Load In.
7. LOAD IN/OUT ~ Man or woman-power needed to move everything to the PAC during production week. PAC staff are able to help but it requires several people to load the truck and unpack it at the PAC. Also need help to tear down after the final Performance. This is not so much muscle as it is lots of hands to gather everything together.
8. PUBLICITY ~ IMPORTANT COMMITTEE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We prepare flyers and necessary information for you to give to your church bulletins, civic organizations, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, church groups, nursing homes, public service announcements for local radio stations. It more than simply hanging posters. WITHOUT PUBLICITY WE HAVE NO AUDIENCE.
9. COSTUMES ~ Make alterations, sew-on buttons, etc. (take-home projects), press costumes. Help is also needed to gather costumes after the final Performance.
10. STAGE CREW ~ Need 10 people (male or female) to pull curtains, operate "fog" machine, Snow Curtain, move scenery; must have same group for all performances and rehearsals as duties must be assigned. MEN VERY HELPFUL - NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY .

The "Nutcracker" ~ 2006

Load In ~ Tuesday, December 12, 8:30am at The Dance Centre

Load In continued ~ Wednesday, December 13, 10:00am at the PAC

Dress Rehearsal ~ Thursday, December 14, 6:30pm (everyone)

Dress Rehearsal ~ Friday, December 15, 6:30pm (everyone)

Performances ~ Saturday, December 16, 1:30pm and 6:00pm (everyone)

Load Out ~ Saturday, December 16, approx. 8:30pm

Place ~ The PAC - Hardin Co. Perform. Arts Centre at John Hardin High School

is invited to participate in "The Nutcracker" - 2006. Roles are:

Costume rental fee : \$10.00 X ____ = \$_____

Jewelry rental fee: \$ 5.00 X ____ = \$_____ (jewelry fee will be credited when it is turned back in)

Cut here and return bottom half with costume and jewelry fee (if applicable) by September 15, 2006.

I give my permission for (please print) to participate in "The Nutcracker".

MY COMMITTEE IS (PLEASE CHECK):

Sets

Props

Makeup (Dress Rehearsal, Fri., Dec. 15, Sat., Dec. 16, 1:30pm or 6:00pm)

Dresser (Dress Rehearsal, Fri., Dec. 15, Sat., Dec. 16, 1:30pm or 6:00pm)

Boutique (Dress Rehearsal, Fri., Dec. 15, Sat., Dec. 16, 1:30pm or 6:00pm)

Load In (Tues., Dec. 12, 8:30am)

Load Out (Sat., Dec. 16, approx. 8:30pm)

Publicity

Costumes

Stage Crew (tech. Rehearsal, Stage Rehearsal, Dress Rehearsal and both Performances)

*** PLEASE NOTE: If no preference is marked, we will assign you to a committee and/or performance according to need.

Costume rental fee: \$10.00 X _____ = \$_____

Jewelry rental fee (if applicable): \$5.00 X ____ = \$_____

I have read my "Nutcracker" Handbook and agree to have my dancer at ALL scheduled rehearsals, costume fittings, photo calls, and performances, and understand that ANY unexcused absences will cause my dancer to be replaced.

Signed Date

GENERAL COSTUME INFORMATION

I. SHOES AND TIGHTS

The following are shoes, tights and leotard requirements for "The Nutcracker". Where no tights are listed, they will be provided with the costume.

PROLOGUE FAIRY - pink tights and pointe shoes

PROLOGUE PARTY GUESTS - Ladies ~ pink tights and black character shoes

Gentlemen ~ black socks and black shoes, long sleeved white shirt

OPENING SCENE PARTY GUESTS - Ladies ~ pink tights, black character shoes, nude camisole

Men ~ black socks, black shoes, white long sleeved shirt

Party Girls ~ pink tights, black ballet shoes w/ white elastic, nude leotard

Party Boys ~ black ballet shoes w/ white elastic

DOLLS - HARLEQUIN ~ pink tights, pink ballet shoes, nude leotard

BALLERINA DOLL ~ pink tights, pink ballet shoes, nude leotard

FRENCH DOLL ~ pink tights, pink ballet shoes, nude leotard

SOLDIER GIRL DOLL ~ pink tights, black ballet shoes w/ white elastic, nude leotard

SOLDIER BOY DOLL ~ white tights/socks, black ballet shoes

TRANSFORMATION & BATTLE SCENE -

MICE ~ pink tights, any color leotard, black ballet shoes w/ white elastic

TOY SOLDIERS ~ pink tights, black ballet shoes w/ white elastic, nude leotard

NUTCRACKER/PRINCE ~ everything provided

MOUSE KING ~ everything provided

SNOW FOREST

SNOW PRINCE ~ everything provided

SNOW QUEEN ~ pink tights, pink pointes, nude leotard

FROST MAIDENS ~ pink tights, pink ballet shoes, nude leotard

SNOWFLAKES ~ pink tights, pink ballet shoes, nude leotard

SNOW QUEEN'S ATTENDANTS ~ pink tights, pink ballet shoes, nude leotard

SNOW QUEEN'S PAGES/FOOTMEN ~ white ballet shoes w/ white elastic

LAND OF THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY

CLARA ~ pink tights, pink ballet shoes, nude leotard

CLARA'S ESCORT ~ white ballet shoes

LOLLIPOPS ~ pink tights, pink ballet shoes, nude leotard

GUMDROPS ~ pink tights, pink ballet shoes, nude leotard

SUGAR PLUM FAIRY ATTENDANTS ~ pink tights, pink ballet shoes, nude leotard

COOKS ~ pink tights , pink ballet shoes

CANDY CANES ~ pink tights, pink ballet shoes, nude leotard

ANGELS ~ pink tights, pink pointes, nude leotard

RUSSIANS ~ black tights, black ballet shoes

SPANISH ~ pink tights, pink pointes, nude leotard

CHINESE ~ TBD

ARABIAN ~ tan or pink tights, pink or tan ballet shoes, nude leotard

MIRLITONS ~ pink tights, pink pointes, nude leotard

LAMBS ~ pink tights, black ballet shoes w/ white elastic

WOLF ~ black tights, black ballet shoes

PULCHINELLAS ~ BOYS: black ballet shoes, white camisole or undershirt

GIRLS: pink tights, black ballet shoes w/ white elastic, white camisole or undershirt

GINGERBREAD~ pink tights, pink ballet shoes

MOTHER GINGER ~ everything provided

WALTZ OF THE FLOWERS ~ pink tights, pink pointes, nude leotard

SUGAR PLUM FAIRY ~ pink tights, pink pointes, nude leotard

CAVALIER ~ everything provided

****PLEASE NOTE:** All female dancers over the age of 12 should wear a nude colored camisole leotard under all costumes. You will be grateful for the extra support and coverage when making fast costume changes in the wings. No personal jewelry should be worn onstage (with the possible exception of Opening Scene Ladies having their own approved costume jewelry. Married men in Opening Scene may wear their wedding ring.) The NO-NO'S include: bracelets, necklaces, rings, earrings and friendship bracelets, watches ~ this also applies to men's earrings.

Some black ballet shoes and character shoes are available for loan. In case we do not have shoes your size, you will need to obtain your own personal pair. Ballet shoes can be purchased at Payless Shoe Store in the Town Mall, and can also be ordered through the catalog department at J. C. Penney's, also at the Mall. We strongly urge you not to wait if you need to find your own shoes - last minute shopping can be stressful and sometimes too late to find your size. Also, proper shoes must be worn for all display photographs taken during rehearsals.