

General Audition Information ***The Nutcracker***

Please carefully read the Letter of Agreement including Terms and Conditions for a detailed description of the rehearsal and performance schedule for *The Nutcracker 2021*, absence policy, fees, mandatory family meetings, and family and dancer volunteer requirements. Below is an introduction to auditions and a brief overview of the time and financial commitments involved in taking part in *The Nutcracker*.

Nutcracker Performance Dates

CU Ballet's *The Nutcracker* will be performed at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

The performance dates are as follows:

Friday December 3 at 7:30pm

Saturday December 4 at 2:00pm and 7:30pm

Sunday December 5 at 2:00pm and 6:00pm

Thanksgiving Weekend Rehearsal

There will be no rehearsals from Thursday, November 25th through Saturday, November 27th. Happy Thanksgiving!

Age at Time of Audition

Please be aware that the age groups posted for auditions are based on the age of the dancer on the day of auditions—September 11, 2021—NOT upon his/her age at the time of the performance. To audition for CU Ballet's *The Nutcracker*, a child must have been born on or prior to September 11, 2016.

Audition Registration and Check-In

Auditions will take place at Champaign Ballet Academy, 2810 W. Clark Road in Champaign on Saturday, September 11th. Please complete and submit the audition registration form online at www.cuballet.com. Deadline for registration is **5pm Saturday, September 4th**. The \$10 audition fee (cash or check) is due at the time of audition on September 11th.

Children auditioning should arrive at check-in at the time noted for the child's age group. Due to limited space, please **do not** arrive any earlier/later than the scheduled time. Please refer to the audition schedule detailed at www.cuballet.com. At the time of check in, the \$10 audition fee (cash or check) will be collected. Each child auditioning will be assigned an audition number and his/her measurements will be taken.

Audition Class

Each group audition is a short, age-appropriate ballet class. Once an audition class has begun, late arrivals will not be admitted. In order for the artistic staff to fairly evaluate all children, it is important that your child stay for the duration of the audition class. Please note that you will not be able to view your child's audition.

Audition Attire

Ballet attire (leotard, tights, and ballet shoes) or other dance/exercise apparel is recommended. If he/she does not have ballet shoes, bare feet are acceptable. Hair should be pulled back securely off of the face.

Posting of Audition Results

Audition results will be announced no later than 5pm on Wednesday, September 15th. The cast list will be posted online at www.cuballet.com and posted on the door at Champaign Urbana Ballet, 2816 W. Clark Road.

Cast Fees

If your child is selected and you choose to have him/her participate in *The Nutcracker*, there is a non-refundable cast fee of \$200 which must be paid at the **mandatory** family meeting on **Friday, September 17th**. Should you elect to pay by credit card, a service fee will be added. If more than one member of an immediate family is cast in *The Nutcracker*, the fee is \$300/family. This fee covers rehearsals, costuming, cast party attendance, and a commemorative tee shirt. The costume itself will remain the property of the ballet company. You are responsible for your child's tights, shoes, make-up, hair products and other personal items. Professional videographers will record the performance and produce a DVD. A professional dance photographer will photograph *The Nutcracker*. If you wish to order a DVD of the performance or photos of *The Nutcracker*, you will have that opportunity. CU Ballet does not receive any profit or portion of sales from those items.

COVID POLICY

Champaign Urbana Ballet's key objective is to protect the health and wellbeing of its performers, volunteers, audiences, crew, and staff. CU Ballet acts in accordance with the guidelines of public health agencies at the federal, state, and local levels in addition to the requirements of organizations hosting CU Ballet events, such as Champaign Ballet Academy, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and the University of Illinois, the Virginia Theatre and Champaign Park District. Participants in CU Ballet activities, and in particular those unvaccinated for COVID-19, may be required to wear face coverings over their nose and mouth, including during rehearsals and performances, in addition to practicing social distance and other risk mitigations in an effort to prevent the spread of illness. See the Terms and Conditions for additional information.

Terms and Conditions - Letter of Agreement

A signed Letter of Agreement, including Terms and Conditions, is required for all cast members and must be submitted at the September 17th Family Meeting. A parent or guardian must sign for each cast member under the age of 18.

Family Commitment

1. **Rehearsals** Please read Terms and Conditions for detailed rehearsal schedules for each age group. Rehearsals begin on Saturday, September 18th. With only 10 rehearsals to prepare, attendance at rehearsals is mandatory.
2. **Family Meetings** A **mandatory** Family Meeting will be held on **Friday, September 17th from 5:30-6:30pm**. **All dancers** along with at least one parent must attend this meeting. Dancers should attend in dance attire as additional costume measurements may be required. A second Family Meeting for families new to *The Nutcracker* is scheduled for Saturday, October 30th. Please mark your calendar accordingly. More details will be provided at a later date.
3. **Service Hours** Every cast member family has a service hour requirement of 12 hours minimum leading up to and/or during the production. There are a variety of jobs available and general information about those responsibilities will be shared at the Family Meeting.
4. **Costume Fittings** Attendance at scheduled fittings is mandatory. Every effort will be made to schedule fittings before or after scheduled rehearsals.