

General Audition Information ***The Nutcracker***

Please carefully read the Terms and Conditions - Letter of Agreement 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!

Audition Registration and Check-In

Auditions will take place at Champaign Ballet Academy, 2810 W. Clark Road in Champaign on Saturday, August 28th. Dancers auditioning for *The Nutcracker* must complete and submit the online audition registration form by **12 Noon on Friday, August 20th**. The \$10 audition fee (cash or check) is due at audition check-in.

Audition Class Schedule

Experienced dancers age 10-12 audition from 10:30am – 12:15pm

Some dancers may be asked to stay for the afternoon auditions.

Experienced dancers age 13 and up audition from 12:30 – 3:00pm

Some dancers may be excused earlier than the published ending time.

Audition Attire

Male and female dancers should wear ballet class attire. Dancers on pointe should bring their pointe shoes.

Posting of Audition Results

Audition results will be announced by 5pm 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.

Performance and Fees

Dancers 13-years of age and older audition simultaneously for a position in Champaign Urbana Ballet Company and a role in *The Nutcracker*. Dancers 10-12 years of age audition simultaneously for Junior Company/Apprentice membership in CU Ballet and a role in *The Nutcracker*. It is not necessary to be a Company member to perform in *The Nutcracker*. Should a dancer be accepted to and choose to join CU Ballet, he/she will attend mandatory Company class prior to Saturday rehearsals from 12:30 – 2:00pm. Dancers who accept membership in the Company (Senior Company, Junior Company/Apprentice) are committing to participating in the spring production at the discretion of the Artistic Director on May 6-7, 2022.

To participate in *The Nutcracker*, there is a non-refundable cast fee of \$225 which must be paid by cash or check at the **mandatory** Family Meeting on Friday, September 17th. If more than one member of an immediate family is cast in the Nutcracker, the fee is \$375/family. This fee covers rehearsals, costuming, cast party attendance, and a commemorative tee shirt. There is a separate \$225 casting fee before participation in the spring production. The costume itself will remain the

property of the ballet company. Dancers are responsible for his/her tights, shoes, make-up, hair products and other personal items.

Professional videographers will record the performance. An experienced dance photographer will photograph *The Nutcracker*. If you wish to order a DVD or performance photos, 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. Dancers 18 years of age and older must sign this letter. A parent or guardian must sign for each cast member younger than 18 years of age.

Family Commitment

1. **Rehearsals** Rehearsals will begin on September 18th. With only 10 weeks to prepare, attendance at rehearsals is mandatory. Should an emergency arise, dancers must contact the Assistant to the Artistic Director, Hailan Shanbhag, via email at staff@cuballet.com. See Terms and Conditions for more detailed information on rehearsal schedules.
2. **Senior Company and Junior Company/Apprentice Class** Senior Company and Junior Company/Apprentice classes, held each Saturday prior to rehearsals from 12:30 – 2:00pm are **mandatory**.
3. **Costume Fittings** All scheduled costume fittings are mandatory. Dancers should not schedule regular activities on Friday evenings or Saturdays before company class and/or following rehearsals because costume fittings, which will be announced in advance, may be scheduled during these times.
4. **Family Meetings** A **mandatory** family meeting will be held on **Friday, September 17th from 5:30-6:30pm**. **All dancers** along with **any first-time Nutcracker parent(s)** must attend this meeting. A second family meeting will take place on Saturday, October 30th for parents new to *The Nutcracker*.
5. **Service Hours** Every cast member family has a 12-hour minimum service hour requirement leading up to and/or during the production.
6. **Company Dancer Service Hours** Company members are required to complete 15 hours of service. Junior Company/Apprentice dancers will be asked to provide service hours when possible. A dancer's service hour requirement is in *addition* to the family's service hour requirement. Many service hour opportunities will take place on Saturday mornings before company class.