

General Nutcracker Audition Information

Please visit and carefully read Terms and Conditions for a detailed description of the rehearsal and performance schedule for *Nutcracker 2010*, 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*. It is followed by age-specific information for certain age groups.

Nutcracker Performance Dates

CU Ballet's *The Nutcracker* will be performed on one weekend in December at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Older dancers will dance in all performances. There will be two casts of younger children (ages 5-9) dancing as Polichinelles, mice and soldiers. Each cast of younger children will dance throughout the weekend, but not necessarily in all performances, depending on the number of casts: The performance dates are as follows:

Friday December 3, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday December 4, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.
Saturday December 4, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday December 5, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.
Sunday December 5, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Weekend Rehearsal

Please note that the entire cast (with the exception of 5- and 6-year-olds in the Polichinelle variation) will have a mandatory rehearsal from 2:00 till 5:00pm on November 28, the Sunday following Thanksgiving. There will be no rehearsals on November 25-27.

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, 2010, 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, 2005.**

Audition Check-In and Registration

Auditions take place at Champaign Ballet Academy, 2810 W. Clark Rd., Champaign. Pre-registration can be done online at HYPERLINK "http://www.cuballet.com" www.cuballet.com or at the studio on the day of auditions. Online registration is recommended.

Please be aware that you should be at the studio at least 20 minutes prior to the time period slotted for your child's age group if you have pre-registered. We will need to check your child in, collect the \$10 audition fee (cash or check), assign an audition number and measure your child's height. Pre-registration allows check-in to move efficiently, but does not eliminate the need for you to arrive early. **If you plan to register at the door you should arrive 35-40 min before your audition time.**

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. You are welcome to stay at the studio during your child's audition class, but you will not be able to view your child's audition.

Audition Attire

Either ballet attire (leotard, tights, ballet shoes) or other dance/exercise apparel is fine. Please bring socks for your child if he/she does not have ballet shoes. If possible, please have hair pulled back in a pony tail or otherwise off your child's face.

Posting of Audition Results

Audition results will be posted the evening of September 11. They will be posted on the door at Champaign Urbana Ballet, 2816 W. Clark Road, by 8:30PM, and online at HYPERLINK "http://www.cuballet.com" www.cuballet.com by 9:00 PM.

Fees

If your child auditions successfully and you choose to have him/her participate in *The Nutcracker*, there is a non-refundable cast fee of \$100, which must be paid by cash or check at the mandatory family meeting on September 12. This fee covers cast member attendance at cast parties, a Nutcracker t-shirt, rehearsals, and costuming incidentals. The costume itself will remain the property of the ballet company. You will be expected to pay for your child's tights, shoes, make-up, hair products and so on. Professional videographers will record the performance and produce a DVD. An experienced dance photographer will take both posed and action photos of *The Nutcracker*. If you wish to order a DVD of the performance or photos of your child, you will be expected to bear those costs.

A limited number of scholarships are available to cover the cast fee described above. Please contact one of the registrars at the family meeting should you be in need of such a scholarship.

Terms and Conditions, Letter of Agreement

A signed letter of agreement, including terms and conditions, is required for all cast members and must be turned in at the September 12 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

Please read terms and conditions for detailed rehearsal schedules for each age group. Each dancer is permitted one absence from rehearsals, barring emergencies.

2. Family meetings

There is mandatory family meeting on **Sunday, September 12**. **All dancers** along with a **parent**, must attend these meetings.

A second family meeting for will take place on **November 6** for all Polichinelle, Mice, Soldiers, first time *Nutcracker* cast members and their parent(s).

3. Service hours

Every cast family has a service hour requirement of least 12 hours leading up to or during the production. Many different types of jobs are available and information about them will be available at the September 12 family meeting. There is a separate service hour requirement for company dancers, described below.

4. Costume Fittings

Attendance at scheduled fittings is mandatory. Every effort will be made to schedule fittings either before or after scheduled rehearsals.

Rehearsals

Younger children (5-9) rehearse every Saturday beginning on September 18, with the exception of the Saturday following Thanksgiving. These rehearsals generally last from 30 minutes to one hour and are at the same time each Saturday. Each dancer is permitted one absence from rehearsals, barring emergencies.

Special Information for Company Dancers and Apprentices

Performances and Fees

Dancers who are 13-years of age and older, audition simultaneously for the Champaign Urbana Ballet (CUB) and a role in *The Nutcracker*. Should a dancer be accepted to and choose to join CUB, he/she will attend a mandatory company class from 12:30-2:00 each Saturday, prior to rehearsals, and will perform in both *The Nutcracker* and CU Ballet's springtime production of *The Sleeping Beauty*, May, 2011. It is not necessary to join CUB to dance in *The Nutcracker*.

Dancers who are 10-12 years of age audition simultaneously for apprentice membership in CUB and a role in *The Nutcracker*. Should a dancer be accepted to and choose to join CUB as an apprentice member, he/she will attend mandatory apprentice class from 12:30-2:00 each Saturday prior to rehearsals and will perform in both *The Nutcracker* and CU Ballet's springtime production of *The Sleeping Beauty*, May, 2011. It is not necessary to join CUB as an apprentice to dance in *The Nutcracker*. A rehearsal and performance schedule for springtime productions is included in Terms and Conditions.

Company and apprentice dancers pay a non-refundable fee of \$250 at the September 12 family meeting, which covers dancer attendance at cast parties, production t-shirts, rehearsals, company classes, and costuming incidentals for the entire season.

Rehearsals

Dancers who are 10 years old and older will rehearse every Saturday, beginning on September 18, except for the Saturday following Thanksgiving. Depending upon casting, there will also be rehearsals on Monday-Friday evenings. All dancers in this age group must be available to rehearse on the Sunday following Thanksgiving. See terms and conditions for more detailed information on rehearsal schedules.

Company and Apprentice Classes

Company and apprentice classes, held each Saturday from 12:30-2:00 are **mandatory**.

Costume Fittings

We will begin measuring company members and apprentices prior to the family meeting at 2:00 p.m. on September 12. Please arrive at 1:15 PM and bring or wear a leotard. If you are not measured prior to the meeting, you will need to remain at the studio afterwards to be measured.

All scheduled costume fittings are mandatory. Dancers should not schedule **regular** activities on Saturdays between 10:00 and 12:30, because on some Saturdays (announced in advance), costume fittings will be held during this time period.

Most Saturday mornings you will probably be free of ballet responsibilities, but if you are scheduled for a fitting you must be available.

Dancer Service Hours Commitments:

Company members and apprentices are required to complete service hours. Company members need 15 hours and apprentices need 10 hours. 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.

