

## General Nutcracker Audition Information

Please visit and carefully read Terms and Conditions for a detailed description of the rehearsal and performance schedule for *Nutcracker* 2011, 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 dancing as Polichinelles, mice and soldiers. Each cast of younger children will dance throughout the weekend, but not necessarily in all performances.

The performance dates are as follows:

Friday December 2, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday December 3, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.  
Saturday December 3, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday December 4, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.  
Sunday December 4, 2011 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 27, the Sunday following Thanksgiving. There will be no rehearsals on November 24-26.

### 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, 2011, 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, 2006.**

### Audition Check-In and Registration

Auditions take place at Champaign Ballet Academy, 2810 W. Clark Rd., Champaign. Pre-registration can be done online at [www.cuballet.com](http://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 ponytail 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 [www.cuballet.com](http://www.cuballet.com) by 9:00 PM.

### **Fees for Nutcracker Only**

If your child auditions successfully and you choose to have him/her participate in *The Nutcracker*, there is a non-refundable cast fee of \$200 which must be paid by cash or check at the mandatory family meeting on September 11; 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 t-shirt. 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 have that opportunity. CU Ballet does not receive any profit or portion of sales from those items.

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 11 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 11**. **All dancers** along with a **parent**, must attend these meetings.

A second family meeting for will take place on **November 5** 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 for Polichinelles and 1-hour for Battle (mice and soldiers), and are scheduled 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 Company Dancer membership in Champaign Urbana Ballet and a role in *The Nutcracker*. Dancers who are 10-12 years of age audition simultaneously for Apprentice Dancer membership in CU BALLET and a role in *The Nutcracker*. Should a dancer be accepted to and choose to join CU Ballet, 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 *Coppelia*, May, 2012. It is not necessary to join CU BALLET to dance in *The Nutcracker*.

Company and Apprentice Dancers pay the standard Nutcracker casting fee and a separate casting fee before participation in spring productions.

### **Rehearsals**

Company and Apprentice 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 Hour Commitments:**

Company members and apprentices are required to complete service hours. Company members provide 15 hours and apprentices provide 10 hours each semester. 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.