

SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**DANCE THEATER**

SCHOOL & PERFORMING COMPANY

## **THE NUTCRACKER**

### **Audition Guidelines**

Please be sure to read all of the following guidelines, which have been established by the staff of Southern NH Dance Theater and Youth Ballet. It is our goal to make this an enjoyable and pleasant experience as well as an educational one – not only for the physical aspect of dance, but for the work that goes into producing a complete show. Please keep in mind that the rules and guidelines that have been set forth will enable all of us to present a professional and well-organized production.

---

### ***PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS***

Participation in Southern NH Dance Theater's production of *The Nutcracker* is voluntary. The auditions are open to all ballet students at Southern NH Dance Theater ages 8 and older. Students auditioning must be age 8 by the date of the audition. Dancers auditioning for a dance role in *The Nutcracker* must be enrolled in and attending a minimum of at least one ballet class per week at Southern NH Dance Theater.

Students and their parents should consider the large time commitment required for rehearsals and performances before auditioning. A commitment of this level is viewed by our staff as a **family commitment**. If you are involved in other activities that meet regularly on Fridays, Saturdays and/or Sundays you should reconsider auditioning for *The Nutcracker*, as the potential for conflict already exists.

---

### ***AUDITIONS***

All dancers must sign up for the audition in advance. You may have your name added to the audition roster at the studio front desk. Numbers will be issued at the audition. Students/dancers must arrive at least 15 minutes in advance of the audition and be accompanied by one parent/guardian. A meeting will be held during the first hour to review all information regarding the production and to answer all questions. All parents/guardians must attend this meeting. All those auditioning will be required to pay an audition fee *prior to the audition*, payable to **Southern NH Youth Ballet**.

All dancers cast in the production who are **not** current SNHYB company or apprentice members (company members & apprentices have a separate financial commitment) will be required to pay a production fee payable to **Southern NH Youth Ballet**.

---

### ***CASTING POLICIES***

*Auditioning for the production does not guarantee that you will receive a part.*

Casting is at the sole discretion of the artistic director, choreographers, and any judges present at auditions. Dancers and their families are not permitted to make suggestions or question the director regarding any casting decisions. Roles in the *Nutcracker* are cast according to skill level. Judges, faculty and directors make every effort to place each dancer into roles most appropriate for both the dancer and the production as a whole. All cast members are required to learn and dance the parts they are cast in, including all understudy roles.

SNHDT staff will make every effort to post the cast list for the *Nutcracker* at the studio the week following the auditions.

## ***REHEARSAL SCHEDULE***

Rehearsals for *The Nutcracker* are generally held Friday afternoons and evenings, Saturday afternoons and Sundays from late September until the production (which may include Thanksgiving weekend). All those auditioning for the *Nutcracker* must be available and able to attend **all rehearsals**.

Rehearsal schedules are posted in advance on the studio bulletin board. It is the responsibility of the cast members to check the board regularly for any changes. Schedule revisions are always clearly marked and posted on Mondays or Tuesdays prior to the rehearsal weekend. In general, rehearsals for a particular role are often held on the same day at the same time from week to week. **HOWEVER**, all cast members must be flexible to schedule changes – be it a change in day or time.

Absence from a rehearsal and/or costume fitting, leaving early, and/or arriving late are all grounds for dismissal from the production. Southern NH Youth Ballet reserves the right to dismiss a cast member who has falsely presented or intentionally withheld a date of conflict. The staff of Southern NH Dance Theater and Youth Ballet reserves the right to dismiss and replace any cast member at any time without warning and without notification. This is strictly enforced.

---

## ***EXCUSED ABSENCES***

Dancers and/or parents who are aware of a potential date of conflict will be given the opportunity to submit a date/time to the director **at the time of auditions**. This may be done by filling out a *Date of Conflict Submission Form*. This form will be reviewed **prior to the audition** and will then be either **accepted** or **declined** as an excused absence. Students/parents will be notified prior to the audition if this date of conflict is **declined** or **accepted** as an excused absence. If declined, the dancer must then decide **at the time of the audition** if they will be able to participate in the production. Conflicts not submitted at the time of the audition will not be considered as excused absence from rehearsals unless deemed an illness or other unforeseen emergency.

Cast members will be replaced if an absence from rehearsal due to illness or emergency is viewed as hindering them from participating in the production.

---

## ***ABOUT VOLUNTEERS***

As a non-profit organization, we rely heavily on a number of volunteers to help the dancers and staff members present a professional, well-organized and polished production. After casting has been completed, all parents will be contacted regarding their volunteer assignments for the production.

### **\*PLEASE NOTE:**

All parents of students attending the *Nutcracker* audition for children's roles ages 8-12 years of age will be **required** to participate as a **chaperone**. A mandatory chaperone meeting will be held prior to the production. After casting has been completed, all parents of young performers (ages 8-12) will be **assigned to chaperone three performances**. Chaperone assignments will be coordinated by a staff member. Parents are advised to wait to purchase their *Nutcracker* tickets after chaperone assignments have been completed. Children of parents who are unable to chaperone during production week and/or are unable to attend the above-mentioned mandatory chaperone meeting **should not audition** for this production.

---

## ***SOUTHERN NH YOUTH BALLET GUILD***

SNHYB is pleased to announce the formation of an official volunteer group, Southern NH Youth Ballet Guild. The SNHYB Guild functions primarily as a volunteer group to help raise additional funds to support the various activities of the performing company. The Guild activities include fundraising, poster distribution, mailings and more. Looking to become more involved? We welcome your support and appreciate your time and enthusiasm.

If you are interested in being a part of the SNHYB Guild, please contact our studio at 603-625-9272 with your name and contact information.