



SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE DANCE THEATER

General 2020 - 2021 Season Information

We are thrilled to begin this year's season with our cherished production of *The Nutcracker*. This classic production has become an important tradition in the SNHDT family. Year after year, *The Nutcracker* brings a joyful sense of community to countless families, engaging everyone from the youngest family members to the oldest. Together we share our passion for dance with one another and cultivate a unique sense of teamwork and camaraderie bringing the production through rehearsal time to the stage. This year, we are faced with the challenge of a global pandemic, during which time SNHDT has, and will continue to, place everyone's health, safety and well-being as our highest priority. While some things may feel very different this year, we are prepared to enjoy the spirit of *The Nutcracker* as we have in past years and rejoice in how incredibly fortunate we are to be able to share this magical production with friends and family — even during these uncertain times.

Please read this document in its entirety, as it contains important information regarding this year's season of performances and events for Southern NH Youth Ballet.

As we begin a new performance season with strict health and safety protocols, please understand that all scheduled events and performances are tentative and subject to change and/or cancellation. We are working closely with each performance venue and the state of New Hampshire to anticipate any and all performance updates. SNHYB will do our best to project schedules in advance to help everyone plan ahead. Again, the health, safety and well-being of our dancers, families, faculty and staff will remain our top priority. With this in mind, all casting, rehearsals and events will be planned, organized and implemented with strict health and safety protocols in place.

SNHDT and SNHYB faculty, staff, dancers, families, volunteers and guest artists who are actively involved in *The Nutcracker* production and other productions will:

- Adhere to all protocols set forth by the State of New Hampshire, including the Reopening Guidelines for Performing Arts Venues;
- NOT travel outside of the New England states for the duration of fourteen (14) days prior to the start of *The Nutcracker* rehearsal period through the conclusion of production week (late-August through late-November)*;
 - **This requirement may or may not apply to other productions later in the season depending on pandemic and quarantine restrictions that are in place at that time.*
- Sign a Hold Harmless Indemnity Waiver to participate in SNHDT or SNHYB productions; and
- Provide SNHDT with an accurate and regularly-checked email address to receive important communications from SNHDT or SNHYB.

General Production information for 2020:

- Casting for our 2020 production of *The Nutcracker* will be adjusted to allow for social distancing in rehearsals, on stage and in the wings.
- *The Nutcracker* production week has been moved forward one week; to November 15 - 22, 2020. This is the weekend BEFORE Thanksgiving.
- Partnering roles among minors will be greatly reduced to ensure the health and safety of everyone involved.

Pre-Production Information:

- Auditions for the SNHYB Company and *The Nutcracker* production will be combined and held much earlier this year: August 28 & 29 (August 30th only if need be).
- Dancers will sign up for an audition in advance, via Sign-Up Genius no later than Mon., Aug. 24th
- The audition date and time will be confirmed via an email sent to the dancer's parent or guardian.
- All audition forms will be completed electronically and is due on Tuesday, August 25, 2020.
- Payment for any and all production fees is due at the time of audition; and the dancer must bring the payment with them to their audition date and time.
- Auditions will be limited to groups of 8 dancers per audition date and time.
- Parents will be required to attend a **brief meeting via zoom prior to auditions**. This information will be emailed to all those auditioning. This is to ensure that families understand all protocols.
- Judges will review all audition forms in advance to identify problems & dates of conflict. All conflicts will be addressed in advance of the audition.
- All audition results will be emailed to families on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.
- Dancers will be informed of *The Nutcracker* casting decisions via email only.
- All rehearsal schedules and important information will also be emailed to families.

Rehearsal Information:

- Rehearsal will be restricted to small groups and spaced out to allow for social distancing and necessary cleaning and sanitizing between groups.
- Dancers and their families will need to adhere to a strict drop-off and pick-up ONLY policy – assuming the State of NH Reopening Guidelines remain in place. Unfortunately, dancers will not be allowed to wait in the lobby before or after rehearsals. There are no exceptions to this rule, as SNHDT must comply with the State of NH Guidelines.
- All performers will need to have the following items on hand for rehearsals and production week, to be used as needed:
 - Face covering
 - Face shield
 - Black and white cloth gloves.
- Gloves will be incorporated into costuming for *The Nutcracker* so that props are not handled by bare hands. Props will be assigned to dancers, labeled and stored in sealable bags.
- Each performer will be responsible for bringing their own gloves home and washing them. Please write your name on the inside of your gloves.

Production Information:

- At the request of the State of NH and the Palace Theatre, performers CANNOT at any time enter the public areas of the theater, such as the auditorium, lobby, and bathrooms during both rehearsals and performances.
- Unfortunately, there will be NO VISITING AT ALL with family members and no entry to the front of house at any time. All performers will be assigned to backstage and dressing areas to ensure everyone's health and safety. Also no deliveries backstage, please.
- Dressing Areas: Very few, if any, performers will be placed in the downstairs dressing areas at the Palace Theatre. The majority of all performers will be placed in large rooms with ample open space and ventilation to allow for social distancing and safety.
- A small number of volunteers may be used for load-in and strike only.
- SNHYB will not be assigning parent volunteers to work in any of the backstage areas this year.
- There will be little to no quick changes in the wings. Casting will reflect this accordingly.
- There will be little to no sharing of costumes between shows being presented on the same day. If sharing a costume, sanitization of the costume will occur before sharing with another individual.
- All hair must be done at home. For many younger performers, all make-up will be applied at home.
- Performers will need to arrive at the Palace Theatre with a face shield if stage make up has been applied. Otherwise, a facemask will be worn during productions when performers are not on stage.

General Production Information:

- Please be aware that fewer seats will be available due to state reopening Guidelines for Performing Arts Venues
- All tickets must be purchased electronically online and presented on your phone for admission.
- Patrons must wear a face covering into and out of the theater and are strongly encouraged to keep their face coverings ON during the show.

