
AUDITION GUIDELINES &
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Junior Members



*Explore Your Potential
and Realize Your Dream*

Patricia Lavoie, Artistic Director

Southern
new Hampshire
**YOUTH
BALLET**



SCHOOL & PERFORMING COMPANY

ABOUT SOUTHERN NH YOUTH BALLET

Welcome to Southern NH Youth Ballet (SNHYB), the official performing company of Southern NH Dance Theater. We are pleased to announce the addition of our junior company for ages 8 to 11.

The Youth Ballet has been educating dancers and inspiring audiences throughout New Hampshire since 1998. For more than fifteen years the Youth Ballet has also been the resident Nutcracker Performing Company at the historic Palace Theatre in Manchester, NH. By providing young dancers with unique performance opportunities, intensive dance training and individual coaching, the Youth Ballet continues to inspire the youth in our community by fostering their artistic growth and enriching their lives.

WHAT IS A JUNIOR COMPANY MEMBER?

A junior company member is for young dancer ages 8 to 11. This introductory level to the Youth Ballet provides:

- Several performing opportunities
- Opportunity to perform with a live orchestra in The Nutcracker, at the Palace Theatre in downtown Manchester
- Work with some of the industry's leading choreographers
- Exposure to the dance community on a national level

HOW DO I BECOME A JUNIOR COMPANY MEMBER?

- Attend the junior company auditions held in the fall of each year.
- Be enrolled in one ballet class levels 2 through 4 at Southern NH Dance Theater (age 8-11)
- Be enrolled in a second discipline such as jazz, contemporary or tap at Southern NH Dance Theater

Participation is a full year's commitment September through June. If you are involved in other activities that meet regularly on Fridays, Saturdays and/or Sundays, you may need to reconsider auditioning for the Youth Ballet, as the potential for conflict may exist. From time-to-time, students may be invited by the Artistic Director to join the company without an audition.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

As a non-profit organization, the Youth Ballet relies heavily on fundraising events to support its endeavors. Parents and or guardians of all company, apprentice and trainee members are asked to participate as volunteers. Areas where help is needed will be made available at the fall auditions.

CLASS ATTENDANCE, PERFORMANCE AND SUMMER DANCE REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for junior company members are as follows:

- **Attend one ballet technique class and one other discipline such as modern, jazz, tap or hip-hop every week September through June.**
- Participate in all performances of The Nutcracker, the Youth Ballet's Spring Production and the School's Year-End Performance.

**Participation in the annual Regional Dance America Northeast Festival is optional for those who meet the age requirement.*





PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

THE NUTCRACKER

Since 2001, Southern NH Youth Ballet has been and continues to be the official Nutcracker performing company at the historic Palace Theatre in downtown Manchester, NH. Accompanied by a professional live Orchestra, the Youth Ballet traditionally presents six performances each holiday season.

SPRING PERFORMANCE

Since 2001 Southern New Hampshire Youth Ballet has celebrated the coming of Spring with a wide array of productions. From our original **Spring-Fling** to **The New Hampshire Choreographer's Showcase** to our most recent children's storybook series at the Palace Theatre in Manchester, company members have the opportunity to perform classic and original ballets. This year the Youth Ballet will present **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs** and **The Princess & the Pea**.

ABSENTEE POLICY

Dancers and/or parents who are aware of a potential date of conflict are given the opportunity to submit a date of conflict to the director and panel of judges **at the time of company auditions**. Both the dancer and their parent will be informed prior to the audition class 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 (if chosen) in the Youth Ballet's season.

Please note that family vacations that conflict with the Youth Ballet calendar are viewed as a date of conflict. Dancers will be replaced if an absence from rehearsal due to illness or other emergency is viewed as hindering them from participating in a given production.

CASTING PROCEDURES

Casting is at the sole discretion of the artistic director and/or choreographers and any judges present at auditions. Dancers and their families are not permitted to make suggestions or question the director regarding casting decisions. All dancers are required to learn and dance the parts they are cast in.

WHEN ARE REHEARSALS HELD?

All rehearsals for junior company members are held outside of regular class time. These rehearsals are held Friday afternoons or evenings, Saturday afternoons and occasionally on Sundays. Junior company members must attend all rehearsals and performances outlined in the Youth Ballet calendar. Rehearsals for various roles are held on the same day at the same time from week to week. However, all junior company members must be flexible to schedule changes, whether it is a change in day or time.

It is the responsibility of the dancers to check the studio bulletin board regularly for any schedule changes. Schedule revisions are always clearly marked, posted and emailed to families on Mondays or Tuesdays prior to the rehearsal weekend.

Absences from a rehearsal or costume fitting, leaving early or arriving late are all grounds for dismissal from the Youth Ballet. The school and Youth Ballet staff reserves the right to dismiss and replace any company member at any time.



WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED?

All junior company members are responsible for:

- A non-refundable audition fee due at the time of auditions
- An annual production fee due at the time of auditions.
- Youth Ballet members do not purchase any costumes for productions as these are provided for by the Youth Ballet. However, dancers are responsible for purchasing their own leotards, tights, shoes and undergarments.

**Please see calendar listing for all current fees and important dates.*

READY TO AUDITION? HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

- Familiarize yourself with all Junior Company audition guidelines, requirements, important dates, and fees.
- Review the document Important Information 2020-21 Season.
- Sign up for auditions via sign-up genius and complete all required forms
- Be sure one parent or guardian is available and able to attend pre-audition meeting via zoom. Meeting information will be provided to all families once a student signs up for auditions.
- Provide audition & production fee at the audition. Cash or check payable to Southern NH Youth Ballet. Please see calendar listing for fees and important dates.

REGIONAL DANCE AMERICA

Southern New Hampshire Youth Ballet is a **Regional Honor Company** with **Regional Dance America Northeast**. **Regional Dance America (RDA)** is a national organization of pre-professional dance companies divided into five geographic regions. Its purpose is to encourage and develop young companies with high artistic standards and to offer dancers additional performing opportunities. In the spring of each season, dancers from the Youth Ballet travel to participate in a festival with other member companies where they attend master classes during the day and participate in performances in the evenings.

As a Regional Honor Company with RDA, each spring at the Annual Festival, company dancers have the opportunity to:

- Attend Master classes with some of the country's leading professionals
- Audition for numerous tuition and cash scholarships to some of the country's top summer dance programs
- Perform at the Annual Festival
- Be seen by college & university recruiters as well as artistic directors from all over the country.

Evaluated in 2005, the Youth Ballet is the first company from New Hampshire to be accepted into this organization. In 2014, 2015 and 2017 the Youth Ballet received the prestigious **National Choreographic Recognition Award** for its outstanding performance of Ashley Walton's original works **Ascending** (in 2014) and **Impetus** (in 2015) and **Metamorphosis** (in 2017) at the RDA Northeast and National Festivals.



RECOGNITION OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

On more than one occasion, Southern NH Youth Ballet has been recommended by repetiteurs of the George Balanchine Trust (including Darla Hoover and Deborah Wingert, both formerly of New York City Ballet) to be granted permission to perform Mr. Balanchine's ballet "Valse-Fantaisie." Dancers from the Youth Ballet had the distinct honor of performing this renowned ballet in 2001, 2002 and 2007.

Dancers from Southern NH Youth Ballet have also garnered the interest of several renowned choreographers who have staged original and classic works for the Youth Ballet. Among them are: Ashley Walton, former dancer with Atlanta Ballet & Dayton Ballet; Benjamin Briones, Artistic Director of Briones Ballet; Bafana Matea, former dancer of Battery Dance Theatre; Mary LeGere, Artistic Director of Raleigh Dance Theatre; Jeremy Collins, former principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre; Peter Pawlyshyn, Former Director of Kansas City Ballet School; and Kitty Seale, Artistic Director of Alabama Dance Theatre.

Youth Ballet dancers have participated in many prestigious programs across the country, including Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, School of American Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Miami City Ballet, Houston Ballet, Harid Dance Conservatory, Ellison Ballet, Boston Ballet, Ballet Academy East, and more.

Graduates of the Youth Ballet have been contracted with professional companies including The Joffrey Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Richmond Ballet, Ballet Austin, Sacramento Ballet, Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago, Phantom of the Opera Touring Company, Nevada Ballet Theatre and The Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular.

SOUTHERN NH YOUTH BALLET JUNIOR COMPANY

Performing Season 2020-2021

FEES

Production and Audition Fee

\$250 - A \$50 Non refundable Audition Fee combined with a \$200 Production Fee for all Company, Apprentices and Trainees. This is due at the time of the audition. The production fee is non-refundable if accepted into the Youth Ballet. Cash or check only – payable to Southern NH Youth Ballet (SNHYB)

Please note the above \$250 fee is for Nutcracker Production ONLY. A separate fee of \$150 for the spring season will be invoiced to junior company members' families once all spring performance and events are confirmed.

IMPORTANT DATES

Fall Classes Begin

Tuesday, September 8

Company and Nutcracker Auditions to be combined

Friday August 28 and Saturday August 29*

**Dancers will be auditioned in groups of 8 and assigned to an audition time.*

Nutcracker Rehearsals Begin

Friday, September 11

Nutcracker Production Week

November 15-22, 2020

RDA Northeast Adjudication

March 2021 TBA (Tentative)

Spring Performance

Sunday, April 11, 2021 (Tentative)

RDA Northeast Festival 2020

May 20, 21 & 22, 2021 in Dayton, Ohio
Tentative / Optional – age restriction may apply

Southern NH Dance Theater's Year End Performance

Sat., June 5th & Thurs., June 10, 2021 (Tentative)