

Southern New Hampshire YOUTH BALLET



SCHOOL & PERFORMING COMPANY

AUDITION GUIDELINES &

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



*Explore Your Potential and
Realize Your Dream*

Patricia Lavoie, Artistic Director

ABOUT SOUTHERN NH YOUTH BALLET

Welcome to Southern NH Youth Ballet (SNHYB), the official performing company of Southern NH Dance Theater. The Youth Ballet has been educating dancers and inspiring audiences throughout New Hampshire since 1998. For more than 20 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.

EXPLORE YOUR POTENTIAL AND REALIZE YOUR DREAM

There are many benefits for company members of Southern NH Youth Ballet. Some of those opportunities include:

- *Participation in several performing opportunities*
- *Perform with a live orchestra in The Nutcracker at the Palace Theatre in downtown Manchester*
- *Work with some of the industry's leading choreographers*
- *Dance alongside professional dancers*
- *Exposure to the dance community on a national level*

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER OF THE YOUTH BALLET?

By attending the company auditions held in the late summer of each year. Participation in the Youth Ballet is voluntary and open to all Southern NH Dance Theater students enrolled in ballet levels 5 through 7. There are no age requirements for students in ballet levels 5-7. **It is very important to remember that the Youth Ballet is designed for the serious dancer.** A commitment of this level is viewed by our staff as **a family commitment.** Participation in the Youth Ballet (if chosen) 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 should reconsider auditioning for the Youth Ballet, as the potential for conflict exists.

From time-to-time, students may be invited by the Artistic Director to join the company without an audition.

CLASS ATTENDANCE, PERFORMANCE AND SUMMER DANCE REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for dancers invited to be members of the Youth Ballet are as follows:

Requirement	Trainee	Apprentice	Company
Attend 3 ballet technique classes per week & all appropriate pointe classes September to June	✓	✓	✓
Attend 4 to 5 ballet technique classes per week & appropriate pointe classes September to June		✓	✓
Make up missed classes within a week of absences	✓	✓	✓
Participate in all performances: The Nutcracker, Spring Production and Year End Performance	✓	✓	✓
Attend a minimum of 2 weeks of Southern NH Dance Theater's Summer Intensive*	✓	✓	✓
Attend a second discipline such as modern, jazz, tap or hip-hop from September to June	✓	✓	✓
Attend modern/contemporary once a week September to June	✓	✓	✓
Participate in the annual Regional Dance America Northeast Festival		✓	✓

**Dancers who attend an approved summer program of at least 5 or more weeks are only required to attend one week of Southern NH Dance Theater's summer intensive. Dancers who are unable to attend SNHDT's Summer Intensive (due to programs that conflict directly with SNHDT's Program) must meet with the director to arrange for an alternative requirement.*

During SNHDT's Summer Intensive company members are observed and evaluated for placement and casting in the upcoming season by staff, faculty, the artistic director, and guest choreographers, including Ashley Pabst. Those who are unable to attend the summer intensive will unfortunately miss this opportunity. In some instances, this may affect casting opportunities.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A COMPANY, APPRENTICE, TRAINEE, OR JUNIOR COMPANY MEMBER?

For students of any age enrolled in Ballet Levels 5 through 7

- **A Company** member is the most advanced level of the company. These dancers have been apprentice members for two or more years.
- **An Apprentice** member is an intermediate level dancer who has been a trainee for one or more years.
- **A Trainee** is the entry level into the Youth Ballet for students in ballet levels 5 through 7.

For students ages 8 to 11, enrolled in Ballet Levels 2 through 4

- The Junior company is the introductory level of the youth ballet for young dancers ages 8-11 enrolled in ballet levels 2-4. See separate brochure for details.

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.

YEAR-END EVENING PERFORMANCE

Along with ballet students from Southern NH Dance Theater (ballet levels 5 through 7), company, apprentice and trainee members perform a collection of classical and contemporary works in the school's annual Year-End Evening Performance.

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, including all understudy roles. Some consideration is given to graduating seniors for the school's Year-End Performance. However, casting for *The Nutcracker* and Spring Production are made based on artistic ability and technical skill.

WHEN ARE REHEARSALS HELD?

All rehearsals for company members are held outside of regular class time. These rehearsals are held Friday afternoons or evenings, Saturday afternoons and occasionally on Sundays. 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 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.

VOLUNTEERS & 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 help as volunteers and to participate in Youth Ballet annual fundraising activities. Areas where help is needed along with information about all fundraising events will be made available to families throughout the year.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED?

All families are responsible for a non-refundable audition fee and annual production fee. Families will be directed to set up a Go Motion Account upon signing up for auditions. These fees will automatically be billed to the credit card provided when setting up your Go Motion Account. The non-refundable audition fee will be processed one week prior to the audition. A portion of the production fee will be processed once casting is announced and the remaining portion will be billed in installments as outlined under Production Fees. The cost of a company leotard is included in the annual production fee.

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

- Familiarize yourself with all company guidelines, requirements, important dates, and fees.
- Sign up for auditions ONLINE. Once you have completed the online sign up form you will be directed to Go Motion, where you will set up your Youth Ballet Go Motion Account. All audition and production fees will automatically be billed to the credit card provided. See Listing of audition and production fees and dates due at the end of this document.
- Once you have set up your SNHYB Go Motion Account you will be assigned an audition date and time along with a pre-audition meeting.
- Be sure one parent or guardian is available to attend your assigned pre-audition meeting.

REGIONAL DANCE AMERICA



Southern New Hampshire Youth Ballet is a **Performing 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 Performing 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
- Attend the National Choreographic Intensive. All RDA member company dancers are automatically accepted into this summer program

Evaluated in 2005, the Youth Ballet is the first company from New Hampshire to be accepted into this organization. In 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2021 the Youth Ballet received the prestigious **National Choreographic Recognition Award** for its outstanding performance of Ashley Pabst's original works **Ascending** (in 2014), **Impetus** (in 2015), **Metamorphosis** (2017) and **Bloom** (2021) at the RDA Northeast and National Festivals.

All Youth Ballet Company, apprentices are invited to participate in the annual RDA Northeast Festival. However, a select number are chosen to perform works to be presented for adjudication. Dancers selected to perform adjudication works are required to attend all rehearsals. Not all dancers attending the annual festival are selected for works that are being adjudicated. It is the sole decision of the RDA Northeast Festival Adjudicator as to the arrangement and selection of works to be performed by member companies at the upcoming festival.

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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 Pabst, 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, Nashville Ballet, Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago, Phantom of the Opera Touring Company, Nevada Ballet Theatre and The Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular.

Performing Season 2026-2027

----- ANNUAL PRODUCTION FEES -----

COMPANY & APPRENTICES

\$750 Annual Production Fee processed thru your SNHYB Go Motion Account as follows:

- **\$50 Non refundable Audition Fee** will be billed to your account one week prior to the audition.
- **\$350 paid upon acceptance to the Youth Ballet** - once casting has been announced.
- **\$70 paid in 5 installments** via your SNHYB Go Motion Account -the 1st Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan & Feb

TRAINEES

\$700 Annual Production Fee processed thru your SNHYB Go Motion Account as follows:

- **\$50 Non refundable Audition Fee** will be billed to your account one week prior to the audition.
- **\$300 paid upon acceptance to the Youth Ballet** - once casting has been announced.
- **\$70 paid in 5 installments** via your SNHYB Go Motion Account -the 1st Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan & Feb

** Production Fee Includes Company Leotard

- RDA NORTHEAST FESTIVAL PARTICIPATION FEES -

COMPANY & APPRENTICES

- **Total cost to participate in 2027 Northeast Festival will be provided to families in October**
- **FAMILIES MAY CHOOSE TO PAY IN INSTALLMENTS**

----- IMPORTANT DATES -----

Fall Classes Begin Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Company and Nutcracker Auditions to be combined Friday, August 28 and Saturday, August 29. *Students will be assigned to an audition date, time and pre-audition meeting time.*

Nutcracker Rehearsals Begin Friday, September 11, 2026

Nutcracker Production Week **November 16-22, 2026**

Rehearsals for RDA Works Begin Friday, December 4, 2026 (Tentative)

RDA Northeast Adjudication TBA (February/March)

Spring Performance Sunday, April 4, 2027

RDA Northeast Festival 2027 Dayton, Ohio — May 20–22, 2027
Wednesday & Sunday are travel days

Southern NH Dance Theater's Year End Performance Saturday, June 5 and Wednesday, June 9, 2027