



The Nutcracker

AUDITION
GUIDELINES

southern
new Hampshire
YOUTH
Ballet

SCHOOL & PERFORMING COMPANY



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. Students auditioning for a dance role in *The Nutcracker* must be enrolled in and attending 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.

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

- Familiarize yourself with all *Nutcracker* 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, here 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 Go Motion Account you will be assigned to 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.



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. All cast assignments be provided to families and dancers in a timely manner.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Rehearsals for *The Nutcracker* are held Friday afternoons and evening, Saturday afternoons and Sundays from September and up to production week. All those auditioning for the *Nutcracker* must be available and able to attend all rehearsals.

Rehearsal schedules are posted (on the studio bulletin board) and emailed well in advanced to all cast members and families. It is the responsibility of all cast members (and families) to check their email and the studio bulletin board regularly for updates and changes. Schedule revisions are always clearly marked, emailed 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 – whether it is 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. The staff of Southern NH Dance Theater and Youth Ballet reserves the right to dismiss and replace any cast member at any time.

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**. Students and parents will be informed 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.

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 junior company 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.

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 between 2 to 4 performances. Chaperone assignments will be coordinated by a staff member. Parents are advised to wait to purchase their performance 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 NEW HAMPSHIRE DANCE THEATER & YOUTH BALLET

Nutcracker 2026-27

----- AUDITION & PRODUCTION FEES -----

Ages 8 – 12: Nutcracker Production fees paid via SNHYB Go Motion Account as follows:

A \$50 Non refundable Audition Fee will be billed to your account one week prior to the audition.
\$250 Nutcracker Production Fee – upon acceptance to the Production, once casting is announced

Ages 13 and up: Nutcracker Production fees paid via SNHYB Go Motion Account as follows:

A \$50 Non refundable Audition Fee will be billed to your account one week prior to the audition.
\$300 Nutcracker Production Fee – upon acceptance to the Production, once casting is announced

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

Fall Classes Begin Tuesday, September 8, 2026

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

Rehearsals Begin Friday, September 11, 2026

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

Mandatory Nutcracker Production Meeting **November 1, 2026 (TENTATIVE)**