

Nutcracker²⁰¹¹

NUTCRACKER 101

*EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT NUTCRACKER,
BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK*

WHEN IS THE SHOW? WHAT ACT AM I IN?

DALA will perform The Nutcracker on Friday, December 2nd at 7 pm and Saturday and Sunday December 3rd & 4th at 2 pm at the Duane Smith Auditorium. The Nutcracker is a full-length ballet in two acts with a running time of approximately 2 hours including intermission.

There are three scenes in Act I: Party, Battle, and Snow. There is one scene in Act II: Land of Sweets.

The following people are in the Party Scene: Clara, Fritz, Maid, Governess, Butler, Mayor & Mrs. Stahlbaum, Grandfather, Friends of Clara, Party Parents, Party Girls, Party Boys, Party Tots, Drosselmeyer, Harlequin, Ballerina, & Gypsy Dolls, Lead Angel

The following people are in the Battle Scene: Mice, Rats,, Rat Queen, Soldiers, Toy Soldiers, Nutcracker Prince, Clara, Drosselmeyer

The following people are in the Snow Scene: Snow Queen, Snow Demi Soloists, Snow Corps de Ballet

The following people are in Act II – Land of Sweets: Clara, Drosselmeyer, Angels, Spanish, Arabian, Mirliton, Chinese, Peppermint, Clowns, Waltz of the Flowers (Rose Queen, Flowers, Garlands), Sugar Plum Fairy, Cavalier

HOW SHOULD I WEAR MY HAIR?

- Party Girls & Clara: Hair is in curls, pulled away from the face. Foam curlers are suggested to achieve this look. Begin with damp hair. Spray hair lightly with hair spray or spray gel. Pull hair at the top of the head away from the face and secure with an elastic. This will remain in place after the curlers have been removed. Begin rolling sections of hair on the foam rollers. Continue until all hair has been set on rollers. Spray entire head with hairspray. Leave curlers in overnight. Carefully remove curlers a few hours before the show (Yes, you will be going to school with curlers in your hair!). Spray again with hairspray. An ALTERNATIVE, we have some clip-on curly pony tails for an easier option if they have to have their hair in ballet bun for another dance.
- Party Moms: Wear your hair in a dressy style that works for you. DALA has a few wigs if your hair is very short and you'd like a more Victorian style.
- Maid & Governess: Hair in a bun.
- Mice: Long hair needs to be pulled back away from the face in a bun in the middle of the head. Short hair needs to be secured away from the face.
- Soldiers: Pull hair away from the face in a bun that is high on the head. No bangs! Short hair should be secured away from the face. Soldiers wear hats, so the hair must be somehow tucked inside the hat.

Nutcracker²⁰¹¹

- Dolls, Snowflakes, Angels, Spanish, Arabian, Merliten, Chinese, Peppermint, Clowns, Flowers, Garlands: Hair pulled straight back from the face and secured in a bun in the middle of the head.

WHAT ABOUT MAKE UP?

We have a list of suggested make-up types and brands that you can purchase if you don't already have some. Some specifics:

- Party Girls: Strive for an “enhanced natural” look. These are young girls and they should look like young girls. They need base (foundation) in a shade that matches their natural skin tone, or possibly one shade darker for very fair girls. Use a rose toned blush on the apples of the cheeks.
- Brown or black eye liner should be used to outline the eyes, but not extend beyond the eye. Use several coats of black mascara and brown eye shadow. Use a rosy pink lipstick.
- Mice: Wear base/foundation to match skin tone, black eye liner that does not extend beyond the eye, black mascara. Other makeup for whiskers will be done by backstage volunteers to ensure uniformity. It will include whiskers using eye liner pencils and a nose. Make up will be provided by DALA.
- Soldiers: Wear base/foundation to match skin tone, black eye liner that does not extend beyond the eye, black mascara. Red cheeks will be applied to all soldiers by backstage volunteers. Make up will be provided by DALA.
- Snowflakes, Angels, Spanish, Arabian, Mirliten, Chinese, Peppermint, Flowers, Garlands: All should wear standard stage make up that includes base/foundation, blush in a complimentary tone, black mascara, black eye liner, brown or neutral eye shadow, rose or red lipstick. False eyelashes are not necessary. Dolls may wear false eyelashes to accent the eyes.
- Clowns: Wear base/foundation to match skin tone, black eye liner that does not extend beyond the eye, black mascara and bright red lipstick. Clown “cheeks” will be applied by backstage volunteers.

WHAT SHOES SHOULD I WEAR?

- Party Girls, Clara, Friends of Clara, Mice, Snow Corps de Ballet, Angels and Demi Angels, Peppermint Demi and Corps, Spanish Corps, Clowns, Garlands: Pink ballet slippers
- Party Moms, Maid, Governess: Black character shoes or low heeled black pumps
- Party Dads, Butler, Drosselmeyer: Black dress shoes
- Party Boys, Toy Soldiers: Black ballet shoes
- Soldiers: Pink ballet shoes
- Arabian Lead, Arabian Corps, Gypsy Doll, Harlequin Doll, Ballerina Doll, Snow Demi Soloists, Snow Queen, Lead Angel, Lead Spanish, Lead Mirliten and Demi Mirlitons, Rose Queen, Flower Demi Soloists and Corps: Pink Pointe shoes
- Chinese: Black ballet slippers with pink elastics
- Chinese Lead: Black pointe shoes with pink ribbons & elastic

If you dance en pointe, you should consider having at least two pairs of pointe shoes. They have been known to break just before a performance.

Nutcracker²⁰¹¹

WHAT DO I WEAR WITH MY COSTUME? WHAT TIGHTS OR SOCKS DO I NEED?

- Pink tights should be without seams.
- Party Girls: A camisole style leotard in any color (it won't show) and pink tights.
- Clara: Nude camisole leotard and pink tights.
- Party Boys: Black socks.
- Mice: A tank or camisole style leotard in any color and pink tights.
- Soldiers: Nude camisole leotard and pink tights.
- Dolls, Snowflakes, Angels, Spanish, Arabian, Mirliton, Chinese, Peppermint, Flowers, Garlands: Nude camisole leotard, pink tights, NO UNDERWEAR!!
- Clowns: Any color camisole leotard and pink tights.

Note to all dancers and parents: CB Fox has been a friend and supporter of DALA for many years. If you are in CB Fox, please thank them not only with your words but also with your business. They carry a full line of ballet slippers and tights in the children's department (including adult sizes). Please go there first for your dancewear needs.

Nude camisole style leotards are suggested for any girls that costume changes. CB Fox may be carrying these this year. You can ask at the desk. They can also be ordered online from discountdance.com. There are several styles available in both child and adult sizes. Check out the following style numbers: N8301 & N8301C; N8210 & N8210C; 3532 & 3532C. The DALA office has a Discount Dance catalog available.

WHEN WILL I GET MY COSTUME? WHAT IF IT DOESN'T FIT?

Costumes will not be distributed to individual dancers. They will remain at the studio and will be transported to the theater by volunteers. Some costumes are being purchased and some are being created for you. Others are already in the costume inventory. Please be patient if you have not yet seen or been fitted for your costume.

Costume fittings will be announced for individual scenes/dances. Please make every effort to attend your costume fitting. It is very helpful to the costume mistress if the entire group of dancers can be fitted at the same time. That way, pieces can be swapped so that everyone gets a costume that fits.

When you are at the theater your costumes will be organized by scene or dance. The hanger will be labeled with your name. If your costume has additional pieces there will be a bag attached (also with your name) that contains your accessories. Please keep track of all of the pieces of your costume and return it to the rack after the rehearsal or show on the hanger you were given with all pieces included. A volunteer will be at the theater to check your costume(s) out to you and to check them back in. If you are in more than one dance you will need to check out and return each costume individually.

NEVER NEVER eat in costume!! Only water is allowed when you are in costume. Younger children may bring an oversized shirt to wear over their costume if they have a long wait backstage and need a non-messy snack. All others should eat before putting on their costumes.

Nutcracker²⁰¹¹

WHAT HAPPENS DURING PRODUCTION WEEK?

Production week is the week just before the show. It begins on Sunday, November 27. It is an extremely busy and important week for everyone involved in the show. Plan on being at the theater just about every day. Exact times have not been confirmed, but here is an idea of what to expect:

- Sunday: Sets, props, costumes are moved to the theater. The sets/drops are hung. Lots of volunteers are needed!!
- Monday: The first day in the theater will be the tech rehearsal. This is done primarily for the benefit of the stage crew, lighting technicians, sound crew, etc. At this point in time, we have not confirmed whether we'll have this be All Cast. Depending on how Nov. 6 rehearsal goes, All, none, or only certain pieces will be called. If all are called, dancers will wear practice clothes and not costumes. We will walk through the show to set the spacing on stage, get lighting and sound cues, etc. This is generally the longest rehearsal of production week and requires patience and a sense of humor. We will do our best to minimize the time you spend sitting around by having a separate call time for each act. We will also do our best to get the younger dancers finished first so that they will be home at a reasonable hour.
- Tuesday: We will run the show in costumes, but not require stage make up or hair (Please wear your hair as you would in ballet class). This will give the dancers a feel for the show as a whole and they will get used to wearing their costumes on stage. It will also give the crew an idea of the scenes/dances that still need attention. There will be a brief warm up class for dancers in intermediate and advanced ballet only.
- Wednesday: A full dress rehearsal with everyone in costume, stage make up and hair will take place on Wednesday. We will run the show from start to finish (hopefully) without stopping!
- Thursday: Only Snow and Act II will be run on Thursday night. It will be run in costume with full stage make up and hair. Dancers who are only in Act I may sit in the audience to watch if they wish, but their presence is not required on Thursday. If snow/inclement weather forces a cancellation of rehearsals earlier in the week the Thursday rehearsal will be a full show dress rehearsal.
- Friday: OPENING NIGHT!!! Warm up class for intermediate and advanced dancers. You will be informed of your call time via email or announcement.
- Saturday & Sunday: Matinee performances on both days. Check email/announcements for time of warm up class and call. Volunteers will be needed on Sunday to gather props, costumes, etc. and return them to the studio. The Marley floor will need to be taken up, also. Don't forget the CAST PARTY!!!! Watch announcements for details.

VIDEO AND PHOTOS

Photography and videography is permitted by parents of their children in the back hall and dressing areas as long as it does not interfere with the show, is not excessive or disruptive, and taken with consideration of the other dancer's privacy. Photography or video during rehearsal from the House is permitted as long as it does not have lights or flashes. Photography or video from backstage during a rehearsal is permitted if it is not interfering with the show, excessive, or disruptive. Photography or video during a performance from backstage is NOT permitted and from the House is

Nutcracker²⁰¹¹

NOT permitted. A professional photographer will be taking photos during the performances. These pictures will be available on CD at a later date. A professional video will be available for purchase following the show.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

It is impossible to put on a production as large as The Nutcracker without an enormous amount of volunteer help. Opportunities range from box office, cookie baker, and monitor to costume transportation, make up helper, and backstage kid supervisor. When asked to volunteer, please sign up so that the work does not rest on the shoulders of only a few. Besides, it's FUN!!

Sign up is online now at

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Ao2XPFVyLnRsdDIMcUISUXhkcGpqZm5qeUpzWjd3Z0E&hl=en_US#gid=0

Thanks to all of the Nutcracker participants and parents! Invite your friends, neighbors, teachers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and anyone else you can think of.

It's going to be a great show!!