



### **Who can audition?**

Auditions are free and open to all dancers regardless of studio affiliation. The minimum age is 6 years old (on or before the September 1).

### **What do I need to know when signing up?**

You're in the right place! Reviewing this list of FAQs will provide you with the essential information. When registering for the audition, please pay close attention to your dancer's rehearsal availability. It's crucial not to limit your selection to your preferred rehearsal time alone. If you do so, your dancer will only be considered for roles within the chosen available times. Dancers with greater availability increase their chances of being cast.

Also, please make sure to list all possible conflicts with Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from the weekend after Labor Day through Thanksgiving, and then all possible conflicts starting the Sunday after Thanksgiving through the second weekend of December.

### **Where are the auditions held?**

Auditions are held in the Rehearsal Room at The FoCAL Center, 1150 Dahlonge Hwy, Cumming, GA 30040 the last Saturday before Memorial Day weekend. Please arrive at least 30 minutes prior to your scheduled audition time. [Click here to see where to go on audition day.](#)

### **What should my dancer wear to the audition?**

Please ensure that your dancer is dressed appropriately for a classical ballet production:

#### Girls:

- Solid colored leotard
- Pink tights
- Ballet shoes
- Hair should be neatly pulled back into a bun
- Please avoid wearing any jewelry during the audition.

#### Boys:

- White t-shirt
- Black tights or shorts
- White socks (optional)
- Ballet shoes

### **How does the audition process work?**

Dancers will check in, answer additional questions, be assigned an audition number to be pinned on by parent/guardian, and have height and costume measurements taken by SBT volunteers. Please arrive at least 30 minutes prior to your scheduled audition to allow ample time for all the above listed items.

We highly encourage dancers to use the bathroom and be audition ready before heading into the rehearsal room to warm up for the audition. Dancers should not bring anything with them into the rehearsal room. Once in the audition, dancers will be asked to perform various steps and combinations as directed by the artistic staff.

Auditions will go the full length of the scheduled time slot. Once released, dancers will turn in their audition numbers to the check in desk. Please safety pin both numbers together before returning.

### **How can my dancer prepare for a good audition?**

- **Arrive on Time:** Be punctual for the audition. Arriving early allows you to get settled, warmed up, and mentally prepared. It also shows respect for the audition process.
- **Dress Appropriately:** Wear the recommended attire and ensure that your hair is neatly pulled back in a bun or a secure hairstyle that won't distract you during the audition.
- **Warm Up:** After checking in, take the time to warm up your body with stretches and exercises. This prepares your muscles for movement and reduces the risk of injury.
- **Listen Actively:** Pay close attention to the audition instructions and any guidance provided by the instructor. Stay focused, avoid talking, and maintain concentration.
- **Stay Positive:** Even if you make a mistake or things don't go as planned, maintain a positive attitude. Remember that auditions are opportunities to learn and grow as a dancer.

Bonus Tip: Remember to thank the audition panel and instructors at the end of the audition. Gratitude and politeness go a long way in making a positive impression.

### **Can dancers audition for the role that they want?**

Dancers audition for participation in the Nutcracker production as a whole, not select roles.

### **How does casting work and how will it be announced?**

Casting decisions are made by the Artistic Director based on factors such as availability, skill level, costume requirements, and suitability for the production. Casting is not influenced by seniority or placement in previous shows. Not all auditioners are cast in the production. The final cast list will be posted on the [Audition page](#) of the SBT website the Thursday evening following auditions. SBT does not email or make phone calls to inform dancers of casting or deadlines. *Please remember your dancer's audition number as that is how all cast members will be listed.*

### **How much does it cost to participate in *The Nutcracker*?**

There is a non-refundable performance fee of \$175 per dancer that covers expenses related to auditions, rehearsals, instructor fees, costumes, sets, and more.

All roles require dancers to provide their own personal dance attire (i.e. shoes, tights, camisole undergarment/dance belt). Some roles will require additional attire. For example, soldiers will need black jazz shoes and a black tank or spaghetti strap leotard.

## **What can dancers expect to get out of the production experience?**

Children will:

- Collaborate with dancers of various levels
- Handle emotions constructively
- Enhance self-sufficiency
- Observe choreography development
- Learn and practice dance etiquette
- Gain insight into the world of theater production

## **When is my contract and performance fee due?**

The deadline to submit your electronic contract and performance fee payment is on or before September 1. Failure to submit your completed electronic contract and payment by then will result in the assumption of your decision not to participate, and in such cases, a waitlisted dancer may be assigned your spot.

## **Do I get to keep my costume?**

Rather than requiring parents to purchase costumes annually, we're curating a collection of quality costumes that will be cleaned and stored for the next year. Dancers need to provide their tights, shoes, and required undergarments.

## **Will Nutcracker apparel be offered?**

Yes, all performers will receive a cast t-shirt as part of their performance fee. Additional attire will be available for purchase for all cast members, family, and friends.

## **Why are parents required to volunteer in addition to paying the performance fee?**

Annually, SBT benefits from around 2,000+ volunteer hours, amounting to a financial equivalent of over \$14,000 at minimum wage rates. In essence, the successful execution of *The Nutcracker*, with its high standards of quality and professionalism, heavily relies on the collective contributions of our dedicated volunteers.

Here is one testimonial that speaks to the issue... "As a parent initially reluctant to volunteer, after doing so I now understand the necessity. Volunteering really builds *The Nutcracker* community, adds to the performance magic, and gives all those involved a greater pride in the final production."

## **Where are rehearsals, and when do they start?**

In general, rehearsals begin the weekend after Labor Day and continue every weekend until performances — rehearsals take place on Friday evenings and Saturdays depending on the role. This equates to 10 weekends of rehearsals in the studio before moving into "tech week" which takes place at the theater. Rehearsals will take place the Friday leading into the Forsyth County Fall and Thanksgiving breaks. There is a mandatory rehearsal the Sunday after Thanksgiving prior to heading into the theater for tech week. All theater rehearsals are mandatory.

### **Can parents sit in on rehearsals, especially for their young children?**

Parents are not permitted to observe rehearsals. This policy is in place to ensure the focus and concentration of the dancers during rehearsals.

### **What's the attendance policy for rehearsals?**

All rehearsals are mandatory; there are no optional rehearsals. Dancers are required to attend all assigned rehearsal times.

For each assigned role, dancers are allowed a maximum of one planned absence after completing the first three mandatory rehearsals. However, after Thanksgiving, no absences will be permitted.

Please note that most roles have 5, 7, or 9 rehearsals. Any dancer missing 3 rehearsals will not be permitted to participate, as they will have missed at least 1/3 to more than half of their scheduled rehearsals. This includes absences due to illness.

### **What if our family has an important, pre-planned obligation that would necessitate missing rehearsal(s)?**

Make the artistic staff aware of the conflict on the Audition Form, but as a rule, the only excused absences that will be granted will be for a school-required/grade-affected event, one's own religious ceremony, short-term injury or illness, or extraordinary circumstances determined on a case-by-case basis. If you cannot make the entire time commitment (and this includes every part of every rehearsal), please do not plan on participating. The staff makes the same commitment to offer your child this opportunity.

### **Why is attendance at tech week at the theater mandatory?**

Translating studio training to the theater setting is challenging, especially for younger dancers. The stage's size, entrances, exits, and orientation can be difficult. Adapting to backstage darkness, bright stage lights, and unfamiliar props is crucial. Rehearsing roles in the full show context is essential, with cues for lights, sound, sets, and curtains. Since most of our performers are school aged, we are constrained to late afternoons and evenings for final rehearsals and have limited practice in the theater before the show opens. Ultimately, for the safety of all performers, especially our youngest dancers, tech week is a critical time. *This schedule may not be suitable for all children or families, and we urge everyone to carefully consider this enormous commitment before auditioning.*

### **What are blocking, tech, and dress rehearsals?**

- Blocking rehearsals (usually combined with technical rehearsals) involve placing dancers on stage so that they understand where to go and what to do during the performances. Dancers dress as they would for a regular studio rehearsal.
- Technical rehearsals are done on the performance stage so that the technical crew can set up and design lighting, scenery, props, and sound for the actual performances. Even though the dancers have been rehearsing for weeks, it looks and feels different on the real stage. Blocking and technical rehearsals are generally long and tedious because the dancers don't do a lot of "dancing" during them, but they are absolutely essential to successful performances. Dancers dress as they would for a regular studio rehearsal.

- Dress rehearsals include costumes and makeup, and usually run through the entire performance.
- All blocking, technical, and dress rehearsals are mandatory for all performers.

### **When are the shows, and how will tickets be sold?**

December 7 & 14 at 7:30 pm

December 8 & 15 at 2:00 pm

Tickets are available on the FoCAL website <https://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/domain/5366>

Adults - \$30

Students - \$25

There are no limits to the number of tickets you may purchase. Please be advised the Sunday matinee performances will most likely sell out.

## About the Production

### **How is the *Nutcracker* structured?**

SBT's *Nutcracker* is a ballet performed in two acts.

Act I:

Party Scene

Battle Scene

Kingdom of Snow

Act II:

Land of the Sweets

### **Which roles are performed in Act I?**

Act I, Scene I

*Clara, Fritz, Mr. & Mrs. Silverhaus, Herr Drosselmeyer, Party Adults, Maids, Butlers, Drosselmeyer's Assistant, Party Teens, Puppeteers, Party Girls, Party Boys, Little Party Girls, Little Party Boys, Dolls, and Soldier Doll*

Act I, Scene II

*Big Mice, Little Mice, Rat King, The Nutcracker, Soldiers, Cavalry, Herr Drosselmeyer, Drosselmeyer's Assistant, and Clara*

Act I, Scene III

*Snow Queen, Snow King, Snowflakes, Snow Angels, Clara, The Nutcracker*

### **Which roles are performed in Act II (Land of the Sweets)?**

*Clara, The Nutcracker, Lead Angel, Angels, Attendants, Pages, Fairies, The Sugar Plum Fairy, Cavalier, Spanish Hot Chocolate, Danish Marzipan (lamb), Arabian Coffee, Russian Candy Canes (peppermints), Chinese Tea, Mother Ginger and her Polichinelles, Dew Drop Fairy, and Flower corps*

**Who is in “Opening Act II”?**

*Angels, Attendants, Pages, Fairies, Spanish, Danish Marzipan Shepherdess, designated Arabian Coffee, Russian Candy Cane Leads, Chinese Tea, designated Polichinelles, Dew Drop, The Sugar Plum Fairy, Cavalier, Reindeer, Clara, and The Nutcracker.*

**Who is in “Finale”?**

*All Company dancers, Reindeer, designated Arabian Coffee and designated Polichinelles.*

**What does “corps” mean?**

*“Corps” means group. The “p” and “s” in corps are silent, so it is pronounced “core.”*

**What is a “variation”?**

*Each segment in Act II is called a variation. The variations are Spanish, Marzipan, Arabian, Russian, Chinese, Mother Ginger, Waltz of the Flowers (Dew Drop and Flower Corps), Sugar Plum Fairy, and Cavalier.*

**How long is the performance?**

*Total running time is just under 2 hours and includes a 20-minute intermission.*