



AMERICAN REPERTORY BALLET NUTCRACKER AUDITION 2009 Information Packet and Checklist

Included in this booklet is information about the audition, tentative schedules, how to determine if your child should audition, and much more!
Veteran Nutcracker performers - Please read!

Checklist

Have you:

- ▣ Read this booklet from cover to cover?
- ▣ Determined that participation in **The NUTCRACKER** will fit into your family's schedule?
- ▣ Filled in and returned the **AUDITION FORM & MEDIA RELEASE FORM** to the Princeton Studio (**not** New Brunswick or Cranbury) no later than Monday, September 28th?

If you can answer "yes" to all of these questions
we will see you at the audition!

**We must receive the audition & media release forms by
Monday, September 28, in order for your child to
participate in the audition.**

If you have read this booklet and still have questions
call 609.921.7758 x 10 Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm.

American Repertory Ballet

NUTCRACKER Auditions 2009

Sunday, October 4th 11:30 a.m.
ARB's Princeton Ballet School
301 North Harrison Street
Princeton, NJ 08540

Important Information (Conditions and Regulations)

Graham Lustig's The NUTCRACKER is a copyrighted, professional production of American Repertory Ballet with students from ARB's Princeton Ballet School appearing as guests.

As a student of ARB's Princeton Ballet School enrolled in **Children's Intermediate 2 through Student Ballet 5**, your child may choose to audition if s/he measures **3'8" (44 inches) or taller**. Since we will be using costumes constructed for the premiere of **The NUTCRACKER** in 2000, there are very specific height requirements for admission to the audition.

We consider it our priority to make the audition experience as gentle and positive as possible.

Please do not assume that if your child appeared in **The NUTCRACKER** last year or in previous years that s/he will be selected again.

Presence at the October 4th audition is an absolute necessity if your child wants to be considered for a role.

Results of the audition will be mailed to all participants.

Consider the following conditions carefully before making this family decision to allow your child to audition, as you automatically agree and commit to them if you choose to attend:

- 1 Faithful and punctual attendance at rehearsals and performances is required. Please note that it is vital for the entire cast to attend every rehearsal without fail. Birthdays or parties of any kind, school dances, concerts, reunions, weekends out of town, and weddings are not valid reasons for missing Nutcracker rehearsals or performances. We understand that family comes first. Please review your family calendar and if an important engagement is

scheduled, **do not audition**. There is such a lot of material to be learned that your fullest support and cooperation is crucial to the success of the production. Rehearsals take place every weekend beginning Saturday, October 17th. It will also be necessary to schedule a few weekday rehearsals, as we get closer to the opening performance.

Rehearsals generally take place in the Princeton studio on Saturday afternoons, sometime between 1:30 and 6:30 pm, and/or Sundays, sometime between 10:15 am and 6:30 pm. The rehearsals are usually between one and three hours long. Depending on the role, the rehearsals will be held on either one or both days of the weekend. Your young dancer must be available for all rehearsals.

All absences, including ARBW students, ***must*** be reported to the NUTCRACKER hotline (609.921.7758 x 39), ***and*** your rehearsal director. The artistic director and ballet masters will be kept apprised of all absences. Missed rehearsals will result in a reassignment of performances.

- 2 Availability for ALL performances. While each cast member appears in roughly one third to one half of the shows, you must remain available for all. This will mean missing school on several days. No cast member has the option of choosing her/his cast, role, or performances. Review your school's policy on missed school days before you decide to audition.
- 3 Note that we do not have complimentary tickets or passes to performances. There will be no waiting area for parents in the theaters during performances. Performing children will be monitored backstage by The NUTCRACKER staff and selected volunteers.
- 4 Parents are responsible for any hotel costs and transportation to all theaters and rehearsals.

Be advised that your child's participation in The NUTCRACKER cannot be linked to transportation provided by another cast member. Casting will not be adjusted to facilitate car pools.

- 5 Roles and Cast are assigned by the Artistic Director, ARBW Ballet Masters, and Rehearsal Directors.

ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL.

- 6 Shoes, tights, leotards and make-up are to be provided by the family.

**The NUTCRACKER is a copyrighted production -
no videotaping or photographing
of any rehearsals or performances is allowed.**

While participation in **The NUTCRACKER** is an exciting, educational and fun experience for the children, please do not forget that it is also a very serious commitment for the entire family. We have enclosed a tentative schedule that includes studio rehearsals, theater rehearsals, as well as performance dates, so that you can better decide if you want your child to audition. If your child decides to audition, please try to prepare her/him as best you can. An unfortunate number do not realize that this is a try-out, and s/he might be disappointed. Most of all, please help your child feel good about her/himself no matter what the outcome.

A Parents' Guide for Getting Through the Audition (From one parent to another)

Audition Day

- 1 **Make sure your child has a good leisurely brunch - there will be only a short break for snacks during the audition. Please provide a healthy snack for your young dancer, such as a granola bar or piece of fruit and a small drink in a plastic screw top disposable container. These items should be placed in a plastic or paper bag**

labeled with your dancer's first and last name. The bags will be disposed of at the end of the audition. Do not bring anything that is not disposable.

- 2 All students will remain in the studio through the entire audition so that they can be evaluated for a number of roles.
- 3 For your child's well being, a parent or guardian is required to stay with your child until s/he enters the audition room. Please return to the studio lobby at the end of the scheduled audition to escort your child from the building.
- 4 The studio will be very crowded. Hold your child's dance bag and outer clothing during the audition. Do not put anything in the Dressing Room - I guarantee it will take you a long time to find it when your child is ready to leave.
- 5 Students should come to the Registration table in leotard, tights, and ballet slippers for girls or T-shirt, tights, and ballet slippers for boys. For safety reasons no one will have access to the studio lobby or dressing rooms until they have checked in at the registration table. At the registration table your child will be given an audition number, please help her/him to pin it on. S/he will be re-measured. Again, we ask that you stay with your child until the audition itself begins. Once your child has entered the audition room you will be asked to leave the studio - there is no reason to stay. Parents will not be permitted to watch the audition (it distracts the children) and you'll be too nervous to sit still. Why not take a walk around the shopping center and return about 15 minutes before the audition is scheduled to end, gathering in the 2nd floor corridor outside the studio door.
- 6 **If your child wonders how the audition will be conducted** - you can tell her/him that it will be a lot like regular class only much bigger. The students will be taught several combinations and will go across the floor in groups of 2 or more. They should not be alarmed if they are unfamiliar with some of the steps or if they think some of the steps are "too easy". Several different student levels will be auditioning at the same time for a number of roles. Many people have

asked if it is necessary for the children to prepare a solo for the audition. The answer is no.

7 **Please believe that our goal is to make the audition as anxiety free as possible** so that your child can look back on it as a positive experience. Only after the children have completed the audition will the parents be invited back into the lobby. A large group of anxious adults usually overwhelms the children. We ask that you form a line at the door of the studio to claim your child. Please help us by being patient while we make sure that each child is reunited with the correct adult.

8 **For your child's safety you must come upstairs to meet her/him after the audition.**

The parking lot is unbelievably crowded on Audition Day. We have made it a policy to hold all children in the studio until a parent or responsible adult comes to claim them.

9 **Casting Notification.** Results of the audition will be mailed to all audition participants the week of October 12th. **You will be asked to self address a special envelope during the audition registration process.** The envelope will be collected at the Registration Table just before the audition.

Some Points to Ponder

(Keep them in mind while helping your child decide whether s/he REALLY wants to audition)

- 1 If you think that you or your child would be utterly devastated (different from really disappointed) if s/he is not chosen to perform in **The NUTCRACKER**, perhaps it would be best not to audition. Quite often two or more siblings audition but only one of the children is chosen.
- 2 **While siblings, if they are chosen, will be cast in the same performances, we will not guarantee that friends or carpoolers will be in the same performances - please do not ask.**
- 3 Remember, by signing the Audition Form, you (and your child) have agreed to accept the decision of the Artistic Director of American Repertory Ballet regarding role, cast, and performances. This includes

the unfortunate possibility that your child (or one of your children) may not be selected or that they are not assigned to the role they had hoped for. Do not allow your child to audition if this is unacceptable to you.

- 4 Do not call the studio for results of the audition. The staff at the desk will not have that information.**

Finally:

If you decide to allow your child to audition, please help her/him to feel good about this day. Make it a positive experience. Encourage her/him to show you the combinations s/he learned at the audition. Perhaps you could make a special dinner together; rent a movie; do some quiet but fun family activity.

If your child is not selected to perform this year help her/him to look on the experience as practice for the next audition (in the same way professional dancers try to learn from each of the many auditions they must attend before finally landing a role).

(rev. 8/20/09)

NUTCRACKER 2009

THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE -Tentative Theater Schedule - Subject to change

AUDITION Sunday, October 4 - Registration 11:30 am

Rehearsals will generally be held Saturday afternoons & Sunday mornings/afternoons in the Princeton Studio beginning **Saturday, October 17**. There may be occasional afternoon or early evening weekday rehearsals in Princeton or New Brunswick.

Day	Date	Time	Theater	City	Rehearsal/Performance
Friday	13-Nov	Late afternoon	Tentative - NB studio	New Brunswick	Possible studio rehearsal
Friday	20-Nov	Late afternoon	Tentative - NB studio	New Brunswick	Possible studio rehearsal
Tuesday	24-Nov	TBA	McCarter Theatre	Princeton NJ	Theater Rehearsal
Wednesday	25-Nov	TBA	McCarter Theatre	Princeton NJ	Dress Rehearsal
Friday	27-Nov	2 Matinees	McCarter Theatre	Princeton NJ	Public Performances
Saturday	28-Nov	2 Matinees	McCarter Theatre	Princeton NJ	Public Performances
Sunday	29-Nov	2 Matinees	McCarter Theatre	Princeton NJ	Public Performances
Wednesday	2-Dec	TBA	Mayo Center	Morristown NJ	Possible Theater Rehearsal
Friday	4-Dec	TBA	Mayo Center	Morristown NJ	Theater Rehearsal
Friday	4-Dec	Evening	Mayo Center	Morristown NJ	Public Performance
Saturday	5-Dec	2 Matinees	Mayo Center	Morristown NJ	Public Performances
Sunday	6-Dec	TBA	Princeton Studio	Princeton NJ	Studio Rehearsal
Friday	11-Dec	Afternoon	Patriots Theater	Trenton NJ	Theater Rehearsal
Saturday	12-Dec	2 Matinees	Patriots Theater	Trenton NJ	Public Performances
Sunday	13-Dec	TBA	Princeton Studio	Princeton, NJ	Studio Rehearsal
Thursday	17-Dec	TBA	State Theatre	New Brunswick	Theater Rehearsal
Friday	18-Dec	Morning	State Theatre	New Brunswick	School Show (Closed to Public)
Saturday	19-Dec	2 Matinees	State Theatre	New Brunswick	Public Performances
Sunday	20-Dec	2 Matinees	State Theatre	New Brunswick	Public Performances

Performers are required to arrive at the theater well before the performance time. This schedule is for general information only. TBA = To Be Announced



AMERICAN REPERTORY BALLET
ARB'S PRINCETON BALLET SCHOOL
GRAHAM LUSTIG | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

NUTCRACKER 2009

Media Release

As a performer in Graham Lustig's **THE NUTCRACKER**, I hereby irrevocably consent to release all rights to photographs, videotapes, or other recordings of me taken by American Repertory Ballet/Princeton Ballet Society during rehearsals, classes, or performances. All negatives and positives together with any and all prints now and in the future shall constitute the American Repertory Ballet/Princeton Ballet Society's property solely and completely. I understand that I may not videotape or photograph any performance or rehearsal.

Performer's name as you would wish it to appear in a program (please print):

_____ (first and last name only)

Academic school _____ Grade _____

Parent/Guardian name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian cell or home phone _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Your local newspaper (list one) _____

BOTH the Media Release and Audition RSVP/Registration form must be completed in order for your young dancer to participate in the audition.



AMERICAN REPERTORY BALLET
 ARB'S PRINCETON BALLET SCHOOL
 GRAHAM LUSTIG | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

American Repertory Ballet
NUTCRACKER 2009 Audition RSVP & Registration Form

Dancer's name _____

(As you would wish it to appear in a program. First and last name only)

Birth date ___/___/___ **Height in inches** _____ Boy ___ Girl ___

Ballet Class Level (circle one):

Children's Intermediate 2 3 Student Ballet 1 2 3 4 5 6

Academic school _____ Grade ___ Student cell phone _____

Parent/guardian _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: (home) _____ (cell) _____

Parent/guardian email address (for updates) _____

I have read and agree to the conditions and regulations outlined in the NUTCRACKER audition packet. My child is available for all rehearsals and performances. I understand that the enclosed schedule is merely a guide and is subject to change. I understand that I am not able to select the role, cast, or performances for my child. I understand that I may not videotape or photograph any performance or rehearsal. I understand that missed rehearsals will result in a reassignment of performances.

Signed _____

(Parent/guardian signature)

Registration will begin at 11:30 am on Sunday, October 4th. A parent or guardian must stay with your young dancer until s/he enters the audition room and return to the studio lobby for pick up at 4:30 pm.

We must have a copy of this form on file in order for your child to participate in the audition.

If your child is going to attend the audition please send the **Media Release** and this **Audition RSVP/Registration** form to the **Princeton Studio** no later than Monday, September 28th.

You may fax the form to 609.921.3249

or deliver it to:

ARB's Princeton Ballet School
301 N. Harrison Street
Princeton, NJ 08540

DO NOT return this form to the New Brunswick or Cranbury studio.