

AMERICAN REPERTORY BALLET
Nutcracker AUDITION 2019
Information Packet and Checklist



Online audition registration information
at the end of this packet.

Have you:

- Read this booklet from start to finish?
- Determined that participation in *Nutcracker* will fit into your family's schedule?
- Decided that you are willing and able to accept any role in which you are cast?
If there is a role (Mouse, Toy Soldier, Angel, or Party Child) that your child would not be happy to perform – please do not audition.
- Completed the ONLINE AUDITION REGISTRATION no later than Wednesday, September 18?
- Provided a reliable email address that will be monitored by the parent/guardian? Audition results and schedule information will be sent via email. Make sure that princetonballetschool@arballet.org is on your safe list.

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

Nutcracker Rehearsal and Performance Guide

We must receive the **online registration** by Wednesday, September 18, in order for your child to participate in the audition.

AUDITION Sunday, September 22 - Registration begins at 12:00 Noon

Princeton Studio rehearsal schedule

September 28 through November 17

Saturday rehearsals will take place in the Princeton studios on 9/28, 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26, 11/2 for a 1- 2 hour period sometime between 1:30-6:30.

Sunday rehearsals will take place in the Princeton studios on 9/29, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20, 10/27, 11/3 for a 1- 2 hour period sometime between 10:15-6:30.

Final studio rehearsals in the Princeton Studio are usually a bit longer.

Those dates are Saturdays and Sundays, 11/9, 11/10, 11/16, 11/17

Tentative Theater Schedule - This is only a guide

Date	Time	Location	City	Rehearsal/Performance
Fri 11/22	Afternoon/Evening	Union PAC	Rahway, NJ	Theater rehearsal
Sat 11/23	Evening	Union PAC	Rahway, NJ	Public Performance
Sun 11/24	Matinee	Union PAC	Rahway, NJ	Sensory Friendly Performance
Tues 11/26	Afternoon/Evening	McCarter Theatre	Princeton, NJ	Theater rehearsal
Wed 11/27	Afternoon/Evening	McCarter Theatre	Princeton, NJ	Theater rehearsal
Fri 11/29	Matinee & Evening	McCarter Theatre	Princeton, NJ	Public Performances
Sat 11/30	Matinee & Evening	McCarter Theatre	Princeton, NJ	Public Performances
Sun 12/1	Matinee	McCarter Theatre	Princeton, NJ	Public Performance
Fri 12/6	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Sat 12/7	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Sun 12/8	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Thur 12/12	Afternoon/Evening	State Theatre	New Brunswick, NJ	Theater rehearsal
Fri 12/13	Morning	State Theatre	New Brunswick, NJ	School Show
Fri 12/13	Evening	State Theatre	New Brunswick, NJ	Public Performance
Sat 12/14	Matinee & Evening	State Theatre	New Brunswick, NJ	Public Performances
Sun 12/15	Matinee & Evening	State Theatre	New Brunswick, NJ	Public Performances
Fri 12/20	Afternoon/Evening	Patriots Theatre	Trenton, NJ	Theater rehearsal
Sat 12/21	Matinee	Patriots Theatre	Trenton, NJ	Public Performance

Performers are required to arrive at the theater well before performance time.

This schedule is to be used as a guide

This schedule is subject to change.

If you have read this booklet and still have questions
call Cindy or Sara at 609.921.7758
Monday – Friday, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm.

American Repertory Ballet

Nutcracker Auditions 2019

Sunday, September 22, 12:00 noon

Princeton Ballet School

301 North Harrison Street

Princeton, NJ 08540

Important Information

(Conditions and Regulations)

Nutcracker is a copyrighted, professional production of American Repertory Ballet with students from Princeton Ballet School appearing as guests.

As a student of Princeton Ballet School enrolled in Primary B through Level 4, your child may choose to audition if s/he measures 3'8" (44 inches) or taller and is at least 6 years old by October 1. We will be using both new and existing costumes for *Nutcracker* 2019, so there are very specific height requirements for admission to the audition.

- Students in Primary B through Level 4 will participate in the *Nutcracker* general audition. This includes all Conservatory students through Level 4 Conservatory.
- Anyone in Level 5 and above who wishes to participate in *Nutcracker* should contact Cheryl Whitney, cwhitney@arballet.org, to discuss participation in the PBW Jr program.

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 *Nutcracker* last year or in previous years that s/he will be selected again.

Presence at the September 22nd audition is an absolute necessity if your child wants to be considered for a role. There is no "make up" date.

Results of the audition will be emailed 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: 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. Of course, we do understand that family comes first. Please review your family calendar and if an important engagement is scheduled during rehearsal or performance weekends, **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 (both Saturdays and Sundays) beginning Saturday, September 28. It may also be necessary to schedule a weekday rehearsal, 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. We do our best not to schedule rehearsals during your regularly scheduled class times, but if this does happen you may make up your missed class at any time. Most roles will have rehearsal both days of the weekend. Your young dancer must be available for all rehearsals.

All absences, including PBW students, **must** be reported to the *Nutcracker* hotline, **and** your rehearsal director. The Artistic Director, the ballet masters, and your rehearsal director will be kept apprised of all absences. Missed rehearsals and/or late arrival to rehearsals may result in a reassignment of performances.

- 2 **Availability for ALL performances.** This means that dancers will be available Friday, November 22, through Saturday, December 21. Any vacation plans, flights, and travel arrangements should be made for Sunday, December 22, the day after our final performance. While each cast member appears in roughly one quarter to one half of the shows, you must remain available for all. This will mean missing school on several days. However, if you are not cast at a particular theater, you will not need to attend that theater's rehearsal.

- 3 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.
- 4 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 *Nutcracker* staff and selected volunteers.
- 5 Parents are responsible for any hotel costs and transportation to all theaters and rehearsals.
- 6 Be advised that your child's participation in *Nutcracker* cannot be linked to transportation provided by another cast member. Casting will not be adjusted to facilitate car pools.
- 7 Roles and Cast are assigned by the Artistic Director, PBW Ballet Masters, and Rehearsal Directors.

**ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL.
YOU MUST BE WILLING AND ABLE TO ACCEPT ANY ROLE
IN WHICH YOU ARE CAST. REFUSING A ROLE OR CAST
MAY AFFECT FUTURE CASTING.**

- 8 Shoes, tights, leotards and make-up are to be provided by the family.
- 9 For uniformity, you must be willing to purchase *Nutcracker* performance footwear and tights from Giselle of Princeton.
- 10 Dancers cast as MICE must purchase our *Nutcracker* Mouse make up kit.

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

While participation in *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 (on page 2) 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 herself/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 small, 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 and any leftover food will be disposed of at the end of the audition. **Do not bring anything that is not disposable.**
- 2 **Ensure that your child's snack is completely NUT FREE.** Some of our students have *life-threatening* allergies to nuts. Remember that the Princeton location, and all of our rehearsal and performance spaces need to remain nut free to keep all our students safe.
- 3 **All students will remain in the studio through the entire audition so that they can be evaluated for a number of roles.**
- 4 **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.
- 5 **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
- 6 **Students should come to the registration table in their Princeton Ballet School uniform.** For safety reasons no one will have access to the studio lobby, rest room, 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. Again, we ask that you stay with your child until s/he has entered the audition room. At that point 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.
- 7 **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.

8 **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.

9 **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 audition participants in the studio until a parent or responsible adult comes to claim them.

10 **Casting Notification.** Results of the audition will be **emailed** to the parent/guardians of audition participants by Wednesday, September 25. **Results will not be sent by regular mail.** Make sure that you give us a reliable email address that will be checked by the parent/guardian of your young dancer and put princetonballetschool@arballet.org on your safe list.

11 **Keep the entire weekend of September 28 & 29 open since you won't know your rehearsal time until September 25.**

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 *Nutcracker*, 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 many of the same performances, we will not guarantee that friends or carpoolers will be in the same performances - please do not ask. We cannot make the same promise for students with older siblings in PBW.
- 3 Remember, by submitting 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. 8/19/19)



After you have read through this information please
Complete the online registration form by
using the following link

<https://forms.gle/B1r9AEk49SMDvgch8>

You will need to gather the following information regarding
your young dancer **BEFORE** you begin the online registration:

- 1 Princeton Ballet School 2019-2020 level
- 2 Uniform leotard or t-shirt size
- 3 Uniform tights or leggings size
- 4 Height in inches (not centimeters)
- 5 Weight in pounds (not kilograms)

Register as soon as possible!

If you have difficulty with the online registration
call Cindy or Sara at 609.921.7758 *beginning 8/26/19.*