

Littleton Youth Ballet and Littleton Ballet Academy

Nutcracker Information

Primary, Intermediate (Ballet 4 only), and Pre-Ballet Divisions

1st Nutcracker letter

August 13th, 2023

Important Dates

Nutcracker Information Meeting (Please attend one meeting-required for new families)

Tuesday, September 19th 6:30 to 7:30 pm Lobby

Saturday, September 16th 10:00 am to 11:00 Lobby

Saturday, September 23rd

Nutcracker Auditions

Open to LBA students in Ballet 2 and Ballet 3 (who are not part of Littleton Youth Ballet)

Pre-Ballet 3 and Ballet 1 students who have been **invited** to take part in the audition should also attend this audition.

2:00 to 3:30 ALL

Wednesday, September 27th

Casting and schedules will be sent over email in the evening

Wednesday, September 27th to Saturday, October 14th

Nutcracker T-Shirts on sale

Saturday, September 30th

Mandatory Rehearsal for The Nutcracker (Pre-Ballet 3, Ballet 1, Ballet 2, Ballet 3).

Dancers in Ballet 4 and Ballet 5 may also have rehearsal.

Wednesday, October 4th

Nutcracker contract due. Fee will be deducted after the 5th. If contract not completed by this date the fee will go up \$25.

Saturday, October 7th to Saturday, December 9th

Regular Rehearsals for The Nutcracker for Pre-Ballet 3, Ballet 1, Ballet 2, Ballet 3, Ballet 4, Ballet 5 (costume fittings will occur as well)

Wednesday, October 11th

Final deadline for Nutcracker contracts due (Fee is \$25 higher).

Friday, October 20th and Saturday, October 21st

NO Rehearsals

Wednesday, October 25th

Nutcracker tickets go on sale at 10 am

Saturday, November 11th

Nutcracker Cast Chili Party 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Sunday, November 12th

Sugar Plum Fairy Tea

Saturday, November 25th

Regular Rehearsals for The Nutcracker

Friday, December 8th and Saturday, December 9th

Imagetek Photo Shoot

Wednesday, December 13th

Mandatory Dress Rehearsal at the Joanna Ramsey Theatre: 5:00 to 9:15 pm All Casts

Thursday, December 14th

Mandatory Dress Rehearsal at the Joanna Ramsey Theatre: 5:00 to 9:15 pm All Casts

Friday, December 15th

Performances at the Joanna Ramsey Theatre: 7:30 pm

Saturday, December 16th

Performances at the Joanna Ramsey Theatre: 2:00 and 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 17th

Performances at the Joanna Ramsey Theatre: 12:00 and 4:00 pm

General Information

- All dancers must have a current registration completed as well as tuition and registration fee paid before the auditions September 23rd.
- Casting will be sent out on Wednesday, September 27th via email
- Most rehearsals will take place every Saturday afternoon between the hours of 2:00 pm and 6:30 pm. This does not mean rehearsals will take place FROM 2:00 pm to 6:30 pm.
- There are NO makeup rehearsals. If you miss rehearsals and you are in Ballet 2 and higher, you are responsible for learning what happened during rehearsals.
- There will be no Sunday rehearsals.
- Rehearsals for The Nutcracker are NOT done during class time.
- **THE FIRST REHEARSAL IS MANDATORY.** If your child is in Pre-Ballet 3, Ballet 1, Ballet 2, or Ballet 3 your child's first rehearsal will be Saturday, September 30th.
- All dancers will continue to have regular rehearsals through Saturday, December 9th.
- All dancers will be required to be at **mandatory** dress rehearsal at the Joanna Ramsey Theatre on Wednesday, December 13th and Thursday, December 14th. Any student that misses a mandatory rehearsal will be dismissed from the production and all fees will be forfeited.
- All dancers may also need to come to additional costume fitting on Saturday afternoons (these will be scheduled around rehearsals or classes).
- Littleton Youth Ballet provides all costumes. No one is allowed to keep any costumes.
- Most rehearsals are 45 minutes to an hour long but later in the production some rehearsals for our youngest children (Pre-Ballet 3 and Ballet 1) may be as long as two hours. They will be given breaks but most of the time all children will be in the studio with the rest of the cast. Most of our young dancers find this interesting and it fosters a further interest in ballet. We do not allow children to run around unsupervised.
- Please make sure your child has eaten before rehearsals. There is a lunch break from 1:00 to 1:30 or 1:30 to 2:00 pm for dancers who are here all day. We allow non-messy snacks for dancers who will be here for longer than

two hours, but please don't come into the studio expecting to sit and eat your snack right away. All dancers are expected to clean up after themselves.

- PLEASE BE **10 minutes early** for rehearsals. If a student is constantly late he/she may be dismissed from the production and no fees will be refunded. **Even being five minutes late can be problematic.** You may drop students off up to 20 minutes early if necessary.
- Dancers are allowed two **EXCUSED** absences only. **All absences must be excused at least TWO WEEKS in advance and needs to be in writing, including the reason.** Email is sufficient. If you send us an email excusing an absence you will receive a response within a day. If you don't please resend the message. **If a student is sick on a rehearsal day, please send us an email to ballerinalba@gmail.com AND call the front desk at (303)794-6694. If no one answers the phone, LEAVE a message.** Dancers with unexcused absences MAY be dismissed from the production and no fees will be refunded. This has happened in the past so please don't test us on this issue.
- Remember **only two absences are allowed** so please plan accordingly. The **ONLY** valid reasons for missing rehearsals are family vacations and illness. Please try not to miss ANY rehearsals.
- **There are NO rehearsals for The Nutcracker on Friday, October 20th and Saturday, October 21st.** At least three school districts have fall break (even if it's a couple days).
- All dancers need to attend the entire rehearsal she or he is scheduled for. Do NOT ask to be excused early. **This will count as an absence.**
- We ARE having rehearsals Thanksgiving weekend. Dancers in Lambs, Clowns, and the Party Scene may have the opportunity to participate in our outreach program, some of which occur during Thanksgiving Week. **All dancers will have rehearsals Saturday, November 25th.**
- Most parts will be double cast. If all goes well, we will let you know final casting by the middle of October (before tickets go on sale. **Please note that most dancers will not perform in every performance (especially our youngest dancers).**
- Please note on the application form at the audition if you only want one part OR want to be double cast. Sometimes two parts are just too much for young kids and other times, they thrive on being busy. You know your child best. The directors will take this in mind while doing casting.
- Double casting means that two students will perform one role and will alternate performances. They will **share** a costume because we do not make a costume for every student but create a costume for each role. During earlier rehearsals, we will be able to run both casts more frequently, but during run-throughs we can only run one cast at a time. However, both casts need to be present at all rehearsals because all students need to be paying attention to what happens during the rehearsal. This is also important in case a student misses a performance due to illness and another cast member needs to fill in.
- If you have questions or problems, please let us know in advance. Bobbie and Ali are rehearsing students on Saturday and we will not have the time to talk to you between rehearsals. (In fact, we don't even go out into the lobby.) If it's something we need to know immediately, please send a note in with your child to rehearsal or let a staff member know.
- Here are our policies regarding casting:
 - You have the right to ask about casting but you may not receive the answer you want and it most likely won't change anything.
 - Observe the 24-hour rule: you have 24 hours to be disappointed if you did not receive the part you want. After that, you need to accept your part and work hard to be the best cast member you can be.
 - We will not have conversations with you about casting for the first 24-hours.
 - Casting is a difficult process and we try to be fair. Students may be asked to learn a few different roles in the beginning to make sure we have made solid decisions.
 - If a student or parent complains about casting verbally, through texts, or on social media sites, the student may be dismissed from the production and all fees will be forfeited.
 - There are NO specific level parts and casting is not always done by level. (For example: the role of Candy Canes has ranged from levels Ballet 2 to Ballet 4 because the costumes are easily adaptable.)
 - Please keep in mind that dancers need to fit into the costumes we already have.

- **It is VERY likely that students will repeat parts. We cannot promise that dancers will receive new parts every year!**
 - Casting is ALWAYS subject to change and we may ask some students to understudy a role in addition to participating in their own role or roles in case of injury or illness.
 - **Please remember that taking part in The Nutcracker is an amazing experience and students should be honored to be a part of the production.**
- All students must continue coming to regular ballet classes in order to participate in performances. Rehearsals do not take the place of class.
 - We require a contract to participate in The Nutcracker as well as a production fee. Log in to the Family Portal and click on Classes and Events in the upper right-hand corner. Click on Find Events. Page down the list until you see Nutcracker Contract. Please fill this form out (it only takes a few minutes) and make sure you read the agreement text.

Nutcracker Production fees are as follows:

(All students who are not in LYB)

If online contract signed on or before October 4th \$125 plus a \$95 media fee

If online contract signed October 5th to October 11th \$150 plus a \$95 media fee

Students with fees not paid or contracts not completed after October 11th will be dismissed from the production.

- The media fee gives you access to ALL professional photos taken during the shows as well as ALL Nutcracker videos.
- December tuition will be due for all dancers performing in The Nutcracker.
- Please let the front desk know ASAP if you cannot participate in the Sunday performance due to religious reasons.
- You will receive a 2nd Nutcracker letter closer to performance. PLEASE read this carefully. We have had some problems with hair and makeup in the past. Let us know if you have any questions.
- There are plenty of volunteer jobs available. There will be an email called Sign Up Genius sent out closer to the show. PLEASE do not volunteer if you are not going to show up OR be late.
- Valid sources of information are included in emails sent from Littleton Ballet Academy and Littleton Youth Ballet, any paperwork we hand out and post on the bulletin board, as well as the following people: Bobbie and Ali Jaramillo who are the co-directors of LBA and our staff at the front desk: Anna Rutter, Erin Dolezal, and Carrie Kemp. **Please make sure questions are first directed to us or our staff so we don't have misinformation circulating.** Also, you will get the same answer no matter who you ask.

The Nutcracker

Presented by Littleton Youth Ballet and Littleton Ballet Academy

December 15th, 16th, and 17th

Joanna Ramsey Theatre

6933 Raleigh St. Westminster, CO 80030

Ticket prices range from \$30 to \$45 for reserved tickets purchased in advance.

Tickets are \$2 higher if purchased on the day of the show.

We perform a full professional production complete with beautiful sets, props, and costumes. People who have attended our productions have been amazed by how professional our Nutcracker is and claimed that our performance was just as entertaining as many professional companies☺ In fact many of our props are similar to Colorado Ballet's because their property master was Bobbie's husband David (and Ali's dad) who made props for both. Participating in The Nutcracker is often a dance student's dream! It is an honor and privilege to perform in The Nutcracker and we are delighted that you are taking part. And if anyone asks if this is the "real" Nutcracker ask all of our young dancers who are so excited to be part of this production! It's definitely real!