

NUTCRACKER AUDITIONS and other Nutcracker info -

It's hard to believe, but it's already almost time for Nutcracker auditions!

Please read the following information very carefully. Please note the companies listed are your ballet companies for the 23-24 dance year, not the previous year.

- NUTCRACKER auditions are for Ballet Company dancers only. Only dancers who are members of a Ballet Company may audition for solo or featured roles:
 - Queens: Sugarplum, Rose, Snow
 - Clara
 - Fritz
 - Dream Fairy
 - Doll
 - Cats and Kitten
 - Jester
 - Senior Maid
 - Butler
 - Head Handmaiden
 - Clara's Friends
 - Arch Angels
 - Junior Maids
 - Handmaiden
 - Dream Boy-Doll (NEW)
- **In order to audition, dancers MUST sign up via the Audition sign up genius:**
We apologize for the extra step, but this is necessary for organizational purposes and we will need to know exactly who is auditioning for what in order to communicate with them on audition day. The sign ups will be kept private and accessed only by CAPA staff organizing the auditions. Please have your dancer audition/sign up for all parts that they are interested in (minimum of two).
- General auditions will be held starting at **11am, Sunday, September 10th**. We will start **sharply** at 11am. Check in and number distribution will start at 10am in the courtyard on the street side of Studios A and C. Each dancer must be healthy, uninjured and symptom free in order to enter the studio for the audition. Please, please, please do not have your dancer attend the audition if your dancer is sick or injured.
- It is critical that your dancer is checked in on time, warmed up and ready to dance at their audition time.
- We will be assigning each company a Studio B, C or D dressing room time slot, but again, please do not arrive until your dancer's call time.

- Please stay tuned to the text number you provided in the sign up because if we are running late we may need you to delay arrival so as to avoid overlapping companies in the dressing rooms.
 - Parents will not be able to wait in the lobbies as they will either be in use as dressing rooms or staging space.
- Auditions for the roles of the three queens - Snow, Rose and Sugar Plum, will be held on **Sunday, August 27th, starting at 11am sharp**. Only Senior Ballet dancers may audition for Queen roles, and all Senior Ballet dancers are expected to audition for all roles. Any Senior Ballet dancer not cast in a queen role is HIGHLY encouraged to come to the general audition. There are a number of roles suitable for Seniors and we really hope you'll try for them!
 - Dancers should come to auditions in ballet attire – Neatness counts, as does audition behavior.
 - Girls: black leotard (no colored trim), Primasoft pink tights, hair in neat buns (no necklaces or dangly earrings - no skirts). Dancers auditioning for Clara will need a romantic length tulle skirt for the variation only. Dancers auditioning for Dream Fairy may wear a wrap skirt. No other skirts will be permitted.
 - Boys: white dance shirt, black dance pants, hair away from face or in neat ponytail.
 - We are sorry but no spectators are allowed in the lobbies. We will be using the space for dressing rooms and staging. Dancers under 13 years of age MUST have a parent/guardian in the vicinity to supervise their dancer before and after their audition. Parents may wait in the courtyard, but may not wait in the lobbies. Those spectating from the courtyard must maintain quiet so as not to disrupt the auditions.
 - We will be publishing a schedule with arrival times a few days before the audition. Please be on time, but do not arrive before your assigned call time. Again, please stay tuned to the texts because if we are running late we may need you to delay arrival. Dancers may **not** enter Studio A until a staff member allows you in.
 - We will be auditioning all dancers by role – and because your dancer will be auditioning for more than one role, there may be a bit of waiting in between. We will provide you with a schedule as to when we will audition each role, and we will not start the auditions for a role before the time stated on the schedule. We may however run late. We do not know how long auditions will last. It is likely it will take longer than we expect. Your patience will be appreciated.
 - **The dress rehearsal dates will be Saturday, Dec 2, Sunday, Dec 3, Monday Dec 4 and Tues, Dec 5, the performance dates will be Thursday, December 7 through Sunday, December 10.**

What roles should your dancer audition for?

- Generally, our youngest dancers are cast as Junior Maid and sometimes naughty Fritz or Kitten.
- Dream Boy-Doll (NEW) will be a smaller dancer who must be able to come to Saturday Sylphide classes (technique and company hours) when called, which will be every Saturday during the choreography season.
- A possibility for those with strong gymnastic skills is the Jester.
- If you are small with good leaps, somersaults, cartwheels and splits, try Kitten.
- Clara will be cast from Kitri and Junior ballet companies. Dancers who are Ballet 7 and who are approved by the Ballet Director may audition. Significant pointe expertise is required. She is chosen based on her technical and artistic capabilities. Dancers may only be cast as Clara once. Clara should be around 5'4" or less.
- Butler is great for those dancers 12 yrs+ who love acting and comedy.
- Senior Maid, Cat, Doll and Head Handmaiden all require significant pointe experience.
- Dream Fairy is reserved for Junior Ballet and Senior Ballet dancers only.
- Clara's Friends and Arch Angel can be on flat or en pointe, and are generally roles for dancers Sylphide and above.
- Junior Maids will generally be cast from Aurora and Coppelia company dancers
- Handmaidens are generally on flat and will generally be cast from Sylphide, Kirov and Paquita dancers

Preparing for Auditions and Other Audition Facts:

Dancers should prepare for the audition. They can learn the choreography from last year's Nutcracker video. We will also be providing summer intensive workshops for all roles, other than Queen roles. Some dancers have chosen to take group or individual private lessons in preparation for the audition. This is not required and does not mean that the dancer will be cast in the role for which he or she has been preparing. They may be cast in a different role. Privates are great regardless as they increase the dancer's skill.

No make up auditions:

No "make-up" auditions will be scheduled. Unfortunately, someone may not be able to attend. We are sorry if that happens. Just as in professional auditions, only those present

that day will be considered.

Audition Results:

Dancers are judged by assessment of how well they can perform a role based on the audition. Technique, artistic ability and appropriateness for the role count heavily. No matter how strong a dancer is technically, if we do not see the acting / performance "spark" needed, the dancer will not be cast in that role. If they are not appropriate for a part, they will not be cast, no matter how "strong" they are. Many of the roles have extremely complex and expensive costumes. Please be aware that dancers may be cast in roles that they did not audition for.

All roles will be at least double cast. Some roles may be triple cast.

Depending on the number and abilities of dancers auditioning, it is possible that some dancers will not be given a role, as the number of featured/solo roles is limited. This does not mean these dancers were not good enough - only that the roles available to someone of their age/size and ability were better filled by another dancer this year. It does not mean in any way that they are a failure. The auditioning process is a wonderful life lesson when approached properly and supported by the parents. We ask parents to understand the procedure and trust that we cast only to produce the best NUTCRACKER possible.

Results of the auditions will be sent by email as soon as they are available. Cast assignments may not be changed, nor may you switch days with another dancer. If a parent or dancer refuses the part they are given, they will not be cast in future productions.

Rehearsals are Mandatory:

** PLEASE NOTE casting of ALL Special Parts requires attending mandatory extra rehearsals after casting comes out on Sundays (likely starting 9/24) until shows start. Not every part will be called every Sunday. We will notify the cast on the Tuesday before the Sunday rehearsals what parts are being called. Some Special Parts require meeting on other days, with the Ensemble or Company they dance with (ex. Arch Angels meet with Daisy Ensemble class, Dream Doll Boy will meet with Sylphide class, etc). Please make sure to keep this in mind when you sign up for auditions, so that you are aware of your dancer's commitment.

Failure to attend rehearsals may result in losing your role.

Dress rehearsals are December 2, 3, 4, and 5 with performances Dec. 7, 8, 9 and 10

Thank you and GOOD LUCK!

Happy dancing,

Rachel, Joan and Cathy