



# NASHVILLE'S NUTCRACKER

FEATURING THE NASHVILLE SYMPHONY

## YOUTH CAST HANDBOOK 2023

## Communication:

**Email and Phone:** If you still cannot find an answer to a question you have on the website, please email [youthcast@nashvilleballet.com](mailto:youthcast@nashvilleballet.com) or call the youth cast hotline at (615) 297-0287.

Email is crucial to *Nashville's Nutcracker* youth cast communications. We will send important information, rehearsal schedules, casting details and more via email. Please be sure that you check your junk/spam filters in your inbox and mark [youthcast@nashvilleballet.com](mailto:youthcast@nashvilleballet.com) as a safe sender to receive all our emails.

Please add the youth cast hotline number into your contacts. It is the only number you should call for all things youth cast, including at the theater (for example if you are running late or have a sick child.)

School Administration staff will be at Nashville Ballet Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Website:** Use the youth cast page on our website as your first resource for information. It will be updated with the most current information, including what we've sent through email: <http://www.nashvilleballet.com/nutcracker-youth-cast>. Once we post a schedule on the website, we will not change that information.

## Important Dates to Remember:

- **Friday, September 15** - Audition Results & Preliminary Schedule Emailed
- **Monday, September 18**- Mandatory In-Person Parent Meeting for First Time Dancers at 6:30 p.m.
- **Friday, September 22**- Acceptance Deadline
- **Saturday, October 21** - Mandatory Weekend Rehearsals Begin
- **Wednesday, November 1** - Performance Assignments & Schedule Emailed
- **Saturday, November 4** – Youth Cast T-shirt Pickup
- **Week of November 13** - Mandatory Weeknight Rehearsals Begin
- **Week of December 4** - Theater Rehearsals Begin at TPAC
- **December 8** - *Nashville's Nutcracker* Performances Begin

## Roles vs. Casts:

Now that your child has a role in *Nashville's Nutcracker*, the next step will be for him/her to be placed in a cast. Each role will have several children learning the same part, and these children will be placed into multiple casts by color. The number of cast for each role is listed on the acceptance form. The color of the cast will be your map to follow through the final rehearsals and performances. At the first rehearsal, the stagers will separate the children into these casts. **You will receive notification of your child's cast, final rehearsal schedule and performance assignments on Wednesday, November 1 via email.**

## Number of Performances and Siblings:

There are multiple casts for each role. Your child can expect to perform in up to eight of the fifteen performances. We will keep siblings in the same cast.

## Rehearsal Attendance:

**Rehearsal attendance is mandatory** and very necessary. We have shortened the rehearsal period for the children before they join the company. Repetition is crucial to a child's comfort level, which ensures great performances. Please do not accept your role without knowing you can commit to your child's attendance at all rehearsals. All potential rehearsal schedules were listed on the Audition Registration form. All rehearsal schedules are on the Youth Cast website page.

## Rehearsal Attire:

**Option A:** Solid color leotard, pink or flesh tone tights, and ballet slippers. No additional t-shirts or sweaters.

- Party Girls Only: Highly recommended 18" or 14" black character skirt.

**Option B:** Solid color shirt and black cotton shorts or tights. Ballet slippers.

- When coming to and from rehearsals and performances, please make sure that your child has a cover up over their rehearsal attire. Jacket/coat and athletic pants are suggested when outside for winter weather.
- Ballet slippers should never be worn outside the building.
- Clearly label your dancer's name in any clothing, ballet shoes, dance bag, or water bottle.

Students with long hair should have their hair secured in a ballet bun for rehearsals.

## Things We Need to Know:

It is our goal to ensure that each youth cast member has a safe and positive experience. As part of that, we ask that parents please let us know important information about your child, such as:

- **Siblings to keep them in the same cast**
- Severe food allergies
- If a child carries an epi pen
- Custody concerns for rehearsal pick up / drop off
- Controlled medical conditions
- Anything else you'd like us to know about your child

**Remember:** It's better for us to know and not need it than need it and not know!

## Illness

Should your child become sick, please let us know by calling the youth cast hotline at (615) 297-0287 **and** emailing [youthcast@nashvilleballet.com](mailto:youthcast@nashvilleballet.com). You should keep your child home if he/she is sick, so we do not spread illness throughout the youth cast or the company dancers. Your child is excused from a rehearsal or performance only if he/she is sick. It is best to let us know as soon as possible, in case an alternate needs to be secured.

## Drop off and Pick up for Rehearsals and Performances:

### **At the studio:**

Feel free to drop off and pick your child up at the end of rehearsals. Rehearsal is never dismissed early. Your child will be asked to remain in the building to wait for pickup. We ask that you are prompt to pick your child up from those

rehearsals as our staff will need to wait with your child before they can close the building. **Please do not form a pick-up line in the parking lot!**

### ***At TPAC (the theater):***

**Only parents that are chaperoning are allowed to enter backstage.** Otherwise, you will drop off and pick up your child at the stage door entrance to TPAC. This entrance is located on Union Street between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. There will be a staffed Greeter present wearing a bright safety vest to supervise your child from your vehicle to the stage door, or vice versa. Each youth cast role has a specific time to be dropped off at the theater and to be released.

We have a fifteen minute drop off window before the performance— ten minutes before call time and five minutes after. We will not be able to let your child inside before then and will call five minutes after call time to ensure you are on the way. If you expect your child to be late, please call the Youth Cast hotline.

Siblings in different roles should be dropped off according to the earliest arrival time and picked up at the latest departure time. **All children must come and go through the TPAC stage door and check in or out with the staff member at the door.**

### Watching the Performance:

If you are watching the performance and your child will remain backstage until the performance is over, just send a note that day to the stage door staff member. Your child will be watched backstage until the performance is over. Children that are cast in Act I of the ballet (Party and Battle Scene) can be picked up at intermission and join their families in the audience to watch Act II of the ballet. *They will need a ticket.* Children performing in Act II will not be able to watch the performance with their families.

### Video and Photography:

Due to our contracts with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra and our copyright licenses, we do not sell videos of our production. During the performance dress rehearsals, our professional photographers will take photos. They make every effort to get as many youth cast member shots as possible. Following the performances, you will be sent a link to those pictures and information on ordering prints.

Youth cast members are encouraged to take their own photos in the dressing rooms; throw away cameras are a great thing to tuck in their dance bag for the theater. School Administration Staff will provide a Cluster for parents to share any photos taken backstage with each other. Please do not use the Facebook group to share photos. **Photos are NOT permitted while rehearsing or performing on stage!**

### Chaperoning:

Nashville Ballet will hire staff at the theater to supervise in the dressing rooms, at the stage door, and runners to take children up to the stage level. **We are asking for parents to help volunteer to assist us in the dressing rooms or for staging.** You can volunteer during a rehearsal or performance. We will be using SignUpGenius.com to handle the scheduling for the youth cast chaperones. Chaperone spots are limited and filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that, due to updated TPAC security policies, an ID check will now be required to enter the backstage area.

### Ticket Information:

As a Youth Cast parent, you receive a special 15% discount on most areas of Jackson Hall. Each student will have an individual promo code to utilize that will be provided on Tues, Nov. 1. School of Nashville Ballet students also get one complimentary ticket per semester.

There are multiple ways to purchase tickets:

- Online: **tpac.org** or **nashvilleballet.com**
- Phone: **(615) 297-2966 ext. 710**
- In Person: Box office located in Nashville Ballet lobby or TPAC box office downtown

**For the best discount, purchase season tickets!**

- 50% off for children 12 and under
- Up to 30% off for adults
- Free exchanges

**Survey:**

At the end of the *Nutcracker* performances, you will be emailed a survey. Your feedback is very important to us! Examples of updates we've made thanks to parent feedback: Safety vest for Greeters and Facebook page.