

# The Dance Annex Studio

## Nutcracker Auditions 2024

The benefits of being part of a full ballet production are innumerable. Whether performing in The Dance Annex's annual Nutcracker or Spring Dance Concert, these experiences bring with them the exhilaration of putting on a costume and executing choreography on stage before large audiences. The additional training, discipline, dedication and camaraderie among cast members that comes with this experience is invaluable.

Participation in The Nutcracker requires a substantial commitment of time and energy from both the dancers and their families. The Nutcracker commitment falls during a very busy time of year, and we urge you to carefully consider the weekly rehearsal attendance and performance requirements, as we must strictly adhere to them to maintain the high quality of our production.

Please also keep in mind that not everyone who auditions may receive a role in the Nutcracker. Even so, the audition process is a valuable experience in and of itself. We encourage dancers to attend future auditions even if they are not invited into the cast this season.

### General Information

**Rehearsal Schedule:** Most rehearsals will take place either Saturday or Sunday afternoons. Friday evenings for our older groups. Rehearsal schedules will be posted as soon as possible. Please note that we adjust each week's rehearsal times based on what was accomplished the prior week. This varies depending on the cast, their experience, and how quickly they learn. Rehearsals will be announced as far in advance as possible via email and bulletin board at the studio. Please check the bulletin board frequently for information!

As the performance nears, rehearsals may become slightly longer and may be held on both Saturday AND Sunday afternoons.

**First Rehearsals:** Rehearsals will begin the weekend of September 13-15, but some parts/roles may not begin rehearsing for a few weeks.

**Casting:** Audition results will be emailed and may take 1-2 weeks to complete. Casting decisions are made after many hours of careful consideration, checking, and rechecking. Much consideration is taken into placing each dancer into a role where we believe they will shine! **All casting is FINAL.**

**Understudies:** Understudies are an important part of the cast. Understudies do not perform unless the originally cast dancer is sick or injured. Being an understudy is an opportunity for further learning and supports your castmates in the event of an emergency.

**Participation Fee:** \$90. This helps cover production costs, including costuming, theater rental, tech, etc.

**Tights/Shoes:** Dancers must supply their own tights, shoes and undergarments. All tights can be purchased through The Dance Annex to assure consistent color and style.

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**Managing expectations:** It is essential that dancers and their parents understand and fully appreciate that every role in a Dance Annex production is important. We count on parents to be partners in this journey and to help manage disappointments and accentuate the positives.

**Repeating roles:** It is important to note that it is very normal for a dancer to be cast in the same role(s) for several seasons in a row. This does not mean that they are not improving or that they are not valued. TDA works very hard to give as many dancers as possible the opportunity to participate in our productions and we ask our families to keep this in mind.

**Attendance:** If a dancer is absent for any reason, it will be up to the director whether to continue to include the dancer in that role. This will depend on how much setting, or cleaning, or choreography they have or will miss. **\*\*\*If you accept a role in this cast, you must agree not to make any new plans on weekends from September through December until after each weekend's schedule is finalized.\*\*\***

**Absences:** At registration, an absence form is provided to list any conflicts you have during the rehearsal period, including **major school events, medical or family events such as weddings, or previous medical appointments.** We TRY to work around these, but we cannot guarantee it. If you (or your dancer) have missed a rehearsal for a reason other than a major event or illness, you may be dismissed from the role and/or it may affect future casting. Please be mindful of absences as they affect the whole cast and crew. Be a responsible, respectful dancer.

**Sudden Illness/Tardiness:** If you (or your dancer) are suddenly ill, have an emergency absence or find you will be arriving late, please notify us ASAP. **Please text or call Julie Hebb at 718.928.4124 or email [thedanceannexstudio@gmail.com](mailto:thedanceannexstudio@gmail.com)**

**Safety:** All participants must abide by basic safety rules in the studio, onstage and throughout the theater. Stage and studio directions must be followed at all times for the safety of everyone or they will be asked to leave.

**Covid-19 Safety Guidelines:** The Dance Annex will continue to follow the latest Maine and federal CDC guidelines regarding the coronavirus, and takes into consideration York School District policies and transmission levels in the community. At this time, masking in the studio is optional.

**Volunteer Help:** Please consider volunteering! A volunteer sign-up system will be created and distributed. Information will be emailed. Consider front of house, dressing room 'parent', concessions, or help backstage.

**Boutique:** New Nutcracker Boutique! If you have a great idea for an item that you can contribute please consider it for the new Nutcracker Boutique Table!