

Champaign Urbana Ballet “The Nutcracker”
2025 Tech Week & Performance Orientation
WHAT TO EXPECT

Cast Members should report to the assigned dressing room by the specified call time (see Tech Week Schedule) with appropriate hair, dress, and base make-up (foundation) applied.

Wranglers must report 15 minutes prior to the posted Call Time for all dress rehearsals and shows. Call Times are listed in the Tech Week Schedule.

DO NOT ARRIVE EARLY. ARRIVE ON TIME. Allow ample time to get ready (with hair, foundation make-up, etc.) and travel to the Krannert Center so that your child arrives at the dressing room by the specified call time. This is extremely important. As you know, children in alternate casts share costumes and serve as understudies for one another. For example, if Mouse #2 in Cast Red is ill or late, Mouse #2 in Cast Blue will be called to take his/her place. **If your child is not present at the dressing room at Call Time**, CU Ballet staff **will contact the substitute dancer** (from the other cast) and begin making any needed costume alterations. There have been cases where a dancer has been late in reporting to the dressing room and, as a result, was not allowed to dance in that performance.

In case of illness or emergency resulting in your dancer being unable to perform, please notify Kay Greene immediately at 217.840.3640 so we may provide sufficient notice to the alternate cast member. Cell phones are unreliable in the basement of Krannert. Telephone contact via voice or text must be made prior to 3pm on weekdays and 12 Noon on weekends. Please be sure your message is acknowledged. **If you do not receive a response from Kay, or you are attempting to make contact after 3pm on weekdays or 12 Noon on the weekend, you must send a messenger directly to the Green Room located on the 2nd Floor of Krannert to make contact.** (The Green Room will be identified during the tour at Krannert Orientation.)

Parents of children not dancing in a particular performance need to be prepared for the possibility that your child could be asked to dance with rather short notice. Though this rarely happens, please be mindful that it has happened.

Parents must sign their dancers in/out of the dressing room. Be advised if someone other than you will be picking up your dancer, his/her name must be provided and added on the sign-in sheet at the time your dancer is signed in. If there is a possibility your child would need an inhaler or Epi Pen (for allergies), medication must be clearly labeled and delivered to Head Wrangler Ali Lewis in the Opera Room.

Listed below are items each dancer MUST bring with him/her:

- makeup (for touch-ups) in a Ziploc bag clearly labeled with child’s name;
- required shoes and undergarments clearly labeled;
- chapstick in a Ziploc bag clearly labeled with child’s name;

- light, zippered jacket/cardigan and pull-on pants (the dancers will not get into their costumes until appropriate times in the performance - sweatshirt jackets or cardigans with *front zippers* are needed so that they can be worn or taken off without smearing makeup).
- quiet entertainment (e.g., books, papers and pencils – NO markers or crayons or things that may soil or smear the costumes).
- non-messy snack and **water**. Please **do not bring snacks or gifts that contain nuts**. There are children in the cast with a nut allergy.

All costumes must be treated with care at all times. There is NO eating or drinking (except for water) once the dancer is in costume. There should be no rough play or mishandling of the costumes. In the past, some wrangler parents have pre-arranged quiet activities for the dancers during the long waiting times.

PREPARING FOR LATE NIGHTS

During the final rehearsals and evening performances, dancers may be asked to stay up past their usual bedtimes. During rehearsals and performances, the excitement of the performance and the company of fellow dancers are more than enough to keep the young dancers alert and active. However, children are likely to be tired the next morning.

Dutch Dairy could potentially have late nights during dress rehearsals on Tuesday and Wednesday of tech week, depending on their cast. They may be at the theatre until 10:00 or 10:30 that evening. Soldiers and mice face the possibility of being at the theatre as late as 10:30 on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings of tech week. Hopefully, this will not be the case, but it is possible.

The running time of the show is approximately 2 hours (including intermission). That means that an evening performance starting at 7:30pm or shortly thereafter will run until 9:30pm. Allow for a more relaxed schedule during performances. CU Ballet suggests you speak with your dancer's school teachers ahead of time regarding the anticipated schedule.

WHAT DO NON-WRANGLER PARENTS DO?

Non-wrangler parents should drop off their children at the specified call time (ready with hair, foundation make-up applied, appropriate undergarments, snacks, books, etc).

Parents should pick up their dancer from the dressing room promptly following the performance if their child is in the curtain call (see section below titled Curtain Calls).

If your child is NOT in the curtain call:

Parents should pick up **mice and soldiers** from the dressing room by the end of Act 1 (45 minutes after the show starts). **Dutch Dairy** should be picked up by parents at 9:10pm for Fri/Sat evening show; 7:40pm for Sun evening show; or 3:40pm for matinee performances.

WHAT DO WRANGLER PARENTS DO?

For all dress rehearsals and performances, there are at least three wranglers assigned to each group of dancers. The main responsibility of a wrangler is to help dancers in/out of their assigned costumes, apply stage make-up **details**, oversee dancers in the dressing room, engage them in quiet activities until their stage appearance, take dancers to/from the dressing room to the backstage area, and be in charge of organizing the costumes (hanging them up, taking the costume rack back to the green room). The Head Wrangler will provide an approximate timeline of when these tasks should be accomplished for the casts of Mice, Soldiers and Dutch Dairy. There will be an experienced Head Wrangler assigned to each group to assist you with these tasks so you are not totally on your own. However, the assigned wranglers are responsible for staying with the dancers at all times. Wranglers may leave the Opera Room only after being dismissed by the Head Wrangler.

Some (or all) Dutch Dairy, Soldiers and Mice will participate in the curtain call immediately following the final number, so wrangler parents need to take dancers to the backstage area before the final dance, and bring them back to the dressing room after the curtain call.

Since wranglers will be working backstage with the dancers, they will occasionally be in the sight lines of seats in the audience. Therefore, please wear black or very dark colored clothing for minimum visibility, and black or very dark colored soft soled shoes that will not make noise while walking around backstage.

PHOTO POLICY AND DVD ORDERS

Below is the photo policy that each cast member and family agreed to when signing the Terms and Conditions in September.

Use of Name and Images

CU Ballet dancers, and their parents/guardians, agree to allow their names and images (photographs, video and likeness) to be used and distributed to private and/or public organizations (including media) for use in promoting Champaign Urbana Ballet, its initiatives and its authorized collaborators. Production photos, videos and photos of dancers in costume remain the intellectual property of Champaign Urbana Ballet and may not be distributed on publicly accessed websites, social media outlets, advertisements, online or print publications, or other media. However, photos purchased as downloadable files from Claire Daly Photography or photos released by Champaign Urbana Ballet into the public domain may be shared on social networking sites. Senior Company members wishing to post photos in costume and not purchased from Claire Daly Photography are required to submit the photo(s) to Kay Greene (kay@cuballet.com) for approval. Approval is granted on a case-by-case basis.

Please adhere to the following rules when taking candid photos of your child at the theatre:

- Be reminded there are no photos in costume. Photos may only be taken after your child has been removed from costume and checked out of the dressing room.
- You may not take photos of other children without the permission of their parents.

KRANNERT CENTER

Parking at the Krannert Center is free and open to the public in the evening. You may park in any of the lots under the building after 4pm. It is best to enter the parking lot (either green or blue levels) from Oregon Street, as the dressing rooms for the Tryon Festival Theater are located on the second floor near the entrances from the south lots. Please do not park at the parking meters in the north lots, which are enforced until 5 pm.

Krannert Orientation on Monday, December 1st If this is your first *Nutcracker* experience, please plan to meet in the Lobby of Krannert Center and be guided by CU Ballet volunteers to the Opera Room. At the end of the meeting, you will have a guided tour of the 2nd floor of Krannert, so that you will know where to go for the rest of the week. See the tech week schedule for your orientation date and time. Children are to come in regular rehearsal attire, with ballet shoes (if applicable for role) and hair pulled away from face.

CURTAIN CALL

There is no curtain call at the end of Act I. For Mice, Soldiers and Dutch Dairy, participation in the curtain call (i.e., bowing to the audience) at the end of the show is optional.

Because Mice and some Soldiers appear in Act I only, taking part in the curtain call at the end of Act II means remaining in the dressing room at Krannert through the entire performance. Dutch Dairy appears toward the end of Act II, so the wait is not as long, but their participation in the curtain call is still optional.

The curtain call is staged and needs to be exactly the same at the end of each cast's performance. This means that if you choose for your child to participate in the curtain call, he/she must take part in the curtain call of every performance for which he/she dances. Participation in the curtain call cannot be made on a performance-by-performance basis. The only requirement is that each cast member participates in a consistent manner. The production staff will solicit your decision relative to whether or not your child will participate in the curtain call at **the Krannert Orientation meeting on Monday, December 1st**.

CAST AND FAMILY PARTY

Monday, December 8th from 6-7:30pm; Jupiter's at the Crossing. Cast members are free. There will be a charge for parents and additional family members. Siblings 5 and younger are free. RSVP to Jo Peelman admin@cuballet.com by Monday, December 1st.

DVD/BLU RAY/DOWNLOADABLE LINK

Both casts will be professionally videotaped, and you will be given the opportunity to purchase the DVD, BluRay and or downloadable link of your child's cast. Orders due on or before Monday, December 1st.