

General Audition Information

The Nutcracker

Please carefully read the Letter of Agreement including Terms and Conditions for a detailed description of the rehearsal and performance schedule for *The Nutcracker* 2026, absence policy, fees, mandatory family meetings, and family and dancer volunteer requirements. Below is an introduction to auditions and a brief overview of the time and financial commitments involved in taking part in *The Nutcracker*.

Nutcracker Performance Dates

CU Ballet's *The Nutcracker* will be performed at the historic Virginia Theatre downtown Champaign. The performance dates are as follows:

Friday	December 4 at 7:30pm
Saturday	December 5 at 2:00pm and 7:30pm
Sunday	December 6 at 2:00pm and 6:00pm

Fall Break and Thanksgiving Weekend Rehearsal

There will be no rehearsal on Saturday, October 10th due to Unit 4 fall break. There will be no rehearsals from Thursday, November 26th through Saturday, November 28th. Happy Thanksgiving!

Age at Time of Audition

Please be aware that the age groups posted for auditions are based on the age of the dancer on the day of auditions—September 12, 2026—**NOT** upon his/her age at the time of the performance. To audition for CU Ballet's *The Nutcracker*, a child must have been born on or prior to September 12, 2021.

Audition Registration and Check-In

Auditions will take place at Champaign Ballet Academy, 2810 W. Clark Road in Champaign on Saturday, September 12th. Please complete and submit the audition registration form online at www.cuballet.com. Deadline for registration is **Thursday, September 10th**. You may register at the door provided there is space available in the age category. The \$10 audition fee (cash or check made payable to CU Ballet) is due at the time of audition on September 12th.

Children auditioning should arrive at check-in at the time noted for the child's age group. Due to limited space, please **do not** arrive any earlier/later than the scheduled time. Please refer to the audition schedule detailed at www.cuballet.com. At the time of check in, the \$10 audition fee (cash or check) will be collected. Each child auditioning will be assigned an audition number and his/her measurements will be taken.

Audition Class

Each group audition is a short, age-appropriate ballet class. Once an audition class has begun, late arrivals will not be admitted. In order for the artistic staff to fairly evaluate all children, it is important that your child stay for the duration of the audition class. Please note that you will not be able to view your child's audition.

Audition Attire

Ballet attire (leotard, tights, and ballet shoes) or other dance/exercise apparel is recommended. If he/she does not have ballet shoes, bare feet are acceptable. Hair should be pulled back securely off the face.

Posting of Audition Results

Audition results will be announced by 8pm on Wednesday, September 16th. The cast list will be posted online at www.cuballet.com and posted on the door at Champaign Urbana Ballet, 2816 W. Clark Road.

Cast Fees

If your child is selected and you choose to have him/her participate in *The Nutcracker*, there is a non-refundable cast fee of \$210 which must be paid at the **mandatory** family meeting on **Friday, September 18th**. Should you elect to pay by credit card, a service fee will be added. If more than one member of an immediate family is cast in *The Nutcracker*, the fee is \$310/family. This fee covers rehearsals, costuming, cast party attendance, and a commemorative tee shirt. The costume itself will remain the property of the ballet company. You are responsible for your child's tights, shoes, make-up, hair products and other personal items.

A professional videographer and photographer will record and photograph *The Nutcracker*. If you wish to order a recording of the performance or performance photos, you will have that opportunity. CU Ballet does not receive any profit or portion of sales from those items.

Terms and Conditions - Letter of Agreement

A signed Letter of Agreement, including Terms and Conditions, is required for all cast members and must be submitted at the September 18th Family Meeting. A parent or guardian must sign for each cast member under the age of 18.

Family Commitment

1. **Rehearsals** Please read Terms and Conditions for detailed rehearsal schedules for each age group. Rehearsals begin on Saturday, September 19th. With only 10 rehearsals to prepare, attendance at rehearsals is mandatory.
2. **Family Meetings and Parent Orientation** A **mandatory** Family Meeting will be held on **Friday, September 18th from 5:30-6:30pm at Countryside School Gymnasium. All dancers** along with at least one parent must attend. Parents **new** to *The Nutcracker* must also attend:
 - Parent Orientation on Saturday, September 19th while your dancer is in rehearsal
 - Tech Schedule Orientation on Saturday, October 24th
Time and location of these meetings are determined by your dancer's role in The Nutcracker and will be announced at a later date. Please reserve the dates on your calendar.
3. **Service Hours** Every cast member family has a minimum service hour requirement of 12 hours leading up to and/or during the production. There are a variety of volunteer roles available and general information about those responsibilities will be shared at the mandatory Family Meeting.
4. **Costume Fittings** Attendance at scheduled fittings is mandatory. Every effort will be made to schedule fittings before or after scheduled rehearsals.