

How old do I need to be to audition?

Ages 7 and older for dance roles. Ages 11 and older for vocal roles (girls only for vocal roles). Determined by student's age on the day of the audition.

Do I need to prepare a dance for the dance audition?

No. Dance combinations are taught during the audition, similar to a ballet class. The best way to prepare is to make sure you understand the requirements in the Nutcracker Info Packet before auditioning.

Do I need to prepare a song for the vocal audition?

Yes. Please note, this is a separate audition for those trying out for a singing role. Student should prepare one song. Piano accompaniment will be provided. Please bring sheet music for the accompanist.

Can I audition for both a dance role and singing role?

Yes, girls that meet the age requirements can audition for both. These auditions are conducted separately.

What are you looking for during the audition?

Many factors are considered during the audition, including dance (or singing) technique, age, height, stage presence (SMILE!), and the ability to listen quietly and follow directions – as well as things like the number of roles available, sizes of costumes, etc. Sometimes more students audition than we are able to cast, so if you are not selected this time around don't be discouraged – TRY AGAIN next year!

What should I wear to the audition?

Girls: black leotard, pink tights, ballet slippers (also bring pointe shoes if applicable), hair in a bun (pinned flat to head, no "doorknob bun.")

Boys: white t-shirt, black tights (or non-baggy shorts), ballet slippers (or socks).

Vocal auditions: no special requirements, but it is always good practice to dress nicely for auditions.

When will the audition results come out?

Results will be posted online on the Monday following the auditions. The costume fitting schedule will also be posted. See the cast page at amballet.org/nutcrackercast.

What does double cast mean?

This refers to a role that is shared between two or more cast members.

(over)

If selected for a role, can I request which show I will perform in (Grandma is in town, etc.)?

No. Casting is very complex and we are unable to accept any such requests.

What is an understudy?

A dancer that trains alongside cast members to learn a specified role. Understudies may be called upon to step into a role if needed. Being cast as an understudy is a privilege that allows the dancer an opportunity to further develop their skills. Understudies attend all rehearsals and costume fittings for the role. If scheduled rehearsals overlap, dancers give first priority to roles in which they were cast, and second priority to understudy roles.

When are the costume fittings?

Tuesday-Saturday of the week following auditions. A detailed schedule will be posted with audition results.

Can I come at a different fitting time?

No. You must attend at the time scheduled for your role. Costume assignments are based on your size within the group, which is why we need the entire group at the same time.

Do I have to stay for the entire fitting time for my role?

Yes. The whole group is needed for the entire time.

Do understudies need to attend the costume fittings?

Yes. Understudies attend all costume fittings and studio rehearsals for their understudy role.

What should I wear to the fitting?

Shoes, tights, undergarments, and hair for your role as listed in the Nutcracker Info Packet – see Costume and Dressing Guide pages. No stage makeup. If you do not yet have a required item for your role at the time of the fittings, please wear a similar item and purchase the required items in time for the rehearsal period. Please don't wear leotards with sleeves. Boys should arrive for costume fittings in tight fitting clothing ("A" shirt with dance tights or non-baggy shorts) so that costumes may be tried on directly over these items. If you wear street clothes or baggy clothing such as sweatpants, we cannot fit you properly.

When is the costume fee due?

The non-refundable costume fee of \$50 per student must be paid online and is due before fittings begin, on the Monday of Costume Fitting Week. Please do not send cash or checks to the fitting.

Are there any other requirements?

Parents are required to help in a selected area during production weeks for a minimum for two (2) slots. You will be directed to sign up following audition results and prior to costume fittings.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE AUDITIONS!