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Physical Location:
TruDance Project Studio
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AUDITION AND INFORMATION PACKET 2016

16th Annual Austin Children's Nutcracker

Auditions: August 27, 2016

Introduction

For 15 years, the Austin City Ballet, a non-profit 501(C)(3) tax exempt dance company, has delighted the community with performances 'by children, for children,' including our annual presentation of *The Austin Children's Nutcracker*. Our full scale professional production of the Nutcracker serves more than 1,500 patrons each year and is partially funded by The Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department. We are grateful for this award as it allows us to benefit from the generosity of the community and helps defrays production costs. This is not a recital, but rather a total professional performing opportunity.

The Austin Children's Nutcracker will run December 9-11 and December 16-18, 2016 at the Dougherty Arts Center Theater, 1110 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX 78704. Auditions will be held August 27, 2016 at the TruDance Project studio, 10401 Anderson Mill Road, Suite 113, Austin, 78750.

Performing in the *Austin Children's Nutcracker* is an exciting and rewarding experience and requires a considerable commitment from parents as well as cast members. The experience of performing in a professional production is well worth the commitment and is a unique opportunity that your child will never forget. Please review the information presented here to determine if the *Austin Children's Nutcracker* is right for your family.

The topics listed below will be covered on the following pages:

- How to **Register**
- **Eligibility** for participation in the 16th annual *Austin Children's Nutcracker*
- **Audition Information** including place and time
- **Audition Process** – so you know what to expect at the audition
- Details about **Cast List Notification and Role Acceptance**
- Explanation of time and financial **Commitments**
- **Rehearsal Schedule** – details to follow
- **Technical and Performance Week** information

Registration

After you have reviewed this information, you may register online at www.austincityballet.org. Once you have submitted the registration form, you will be re-directed to PayPal for payment of the audition fee. If you wish to use a printed form, please email the office at austincityballet@gmail.com.

Eligibility

In order to be considered for any role in any production affiliated with The Austin City Ballet, all individuals must attend auditions at the designated times. The only exception to this is a death in the immediate family. Former members of ACB who are unable to attend the audition due to an illness or injury will be considered by the Director and Choreographers on an individual basis and must provide a medical excuse from a doctor. Professionals that are hired for roles are exempt from auditioning.

While theatrical experience is a plus, there are many non-dancing roles available. Adults, men and boys are encouraged to audition even with little movement experience.

Dancers do not have to be affiliated with the Austin City Ballet to audition, but they must be taking lessons at a studio of their choice, with the exception of some adult performers. Dancers ages 7-11 years must be attending at least one hour of dance class per week; older dancers must be attending two or more hours per week.

Audition Information

Auditions for the 16th annual *Austin Children's Nutcracker* will take place on August 27, 2016 at the TruDance Project studio. Auditions are open to the public with roles available to males and females ages 7 and up.

Audition times are as follows:

Ages 7-11	11:00-12:15 pm
Ages 12 and up*	12:30-2:00 pm

**Some dancers in the 7-11 year audition may be asked to stay for the 12 and up audition.*

A mandatory information session for parents will be held during each audition session on August 27, 2016. Important information will be discussed at this time including contractual requirements, financial obligations, fundraising responsibilities, and rehearsal and performance attendance requirements.

Please arrive at least 45 minutes early to allow time to complete paperwork, obtain an audition number and warm up. We will not see dancers who arrive late.

There is a \$20 audition fee due at the time of registration for auditions.

Call Back Auditions may be held as needed. Date and time: TBA

**Not all dancers will be required to attend Call Back Auditions*

What to bring: All dancers auditioning for the *Austin Children's Nutcracker* should bring a completed audition registration form and \$20 registration fee (if not already submitted.) If you have a resume' and/or headshots, please bring these as well.

What to wear: Classical ballet attire is required. Female dancers should wear a black leotard, pink tights and ballet slippers (no skirts or dance shorts permitted). Hair must be securely fastened in a bun with no bangs. Dancers who are currently taking pointe class and have been on pointe for a minimum of 6 months should bring pointe shoes to the audition.

Male dancers should wear a white t-shirt, black tights, leggings or shorts, white socks and black ballet slippers.

Audition Process

On the day of auditions, dancers should check in and will receive an audition number, which should be attached to the front of their leotard or shirt. When it is time to enter the audition room, dancers will line up in numerical order. The Director and the Choreographers will conduct the audition. Dancers will take a regular ballet class and then be asked to demonstrate some improvisational work which will enable us to see their theatrical skills.

Cast List Notification and Role Acceptance

The Cast List will be available on Thursday, September 1, 2016 by 6:00 pm. Role information will only be given in person – roles will not be given by phone or email. If you are not able to come to the studio at the time of cast list notification, please contact us at austincityballet@gmail.com.

We recommend that you accept your role(s) by signing and returning your Role Acceptance Form and paying the first installment of the Nutcracker fee before you leave the studio on September 1, 2016. However, we understand that you may need time to think about the commitment involved, so the absolute deadline for accepting roles and paying the first installment of your fee is 6:00 pm on Sunday, September 4, 2016.

If you elect to turn in your Role Acceptance Form and make your payment after the studio closes on Thursday, September 1, 2016, you must scan and email the signed form and make your \$195 payment online through PayPal.

If you do not accept your role(s) by 6:00 pm on September 4, 2016 you will not be cast in the production. If you are under 18 years of age, your parent or guardian must dually accept the roles.

Once you have accepted your role(s), you will be given your Contract, a Medical Release and Waiver of Claim and a rehearsal schedule. A fully-executed Contract and Medical Release and Waiver of Claim must be received before you are allowed to participate in rehearsals. Rehearsals missed because these required documents haven't been turned in will count towards your two allowed absences.

Commitments

Dancers and / or their parents should consider the commitment required for rehearsals and performances before auditioning. There are both financial and time commitments required from all dancers and the parents of dancers younger than 18 years of age.

Attendance:

Faithful and punctual attendance at rehearsals and performances is required. All rehearsals are mandatory and take place on Saturdays beginning Saturday, September 10, 2016. The 1st weekend of rehearsal is referred to as 'Camp Nutcracker' and includes rehearsals on both Saturday, September 10th and Sunday, September 11th. Additional rehearsals may be called on Sundays or at other times as necessary. If you are involved in other activities that you cannot reschedule or are unwilling to reschedule, you should reconsider auditioning, as the potential for conflict already exists.

As we put this show together in 12 weeks, there will be only two allowed absences for the season. Absences should be noted on the audition form if you are aware of them in advance. You must submit an Absence Request Form and wait for approval from the Director in addition to listing it on the audition form. Dancers missing more than two rehearsals may be replaced or dismissed from the production at the Director's discretion.

Please note: There is a lot of material to be learned in a short time and your fullest support and cooperation is crucial to the success of the production. Please reserve absences for illnesses or family emergencies and not birthdays, parties, school dances, concerts, reunions, weddings, etc.

Dancers must be available for the entire rehearsal each Saturday. If you must arrive late or leave early, you must submit an Absence Request Form, as partial missed rehearsals will count towards total absences. When possible, we do try to release our youngest dancers earlier than the older dancers.

No absences will be permitted on November 19, 2016 or December 3, 2016. Because these are absolutely critical rehearsals, we must make the mandatory requirement firm. Accepting a role means agreeing to have your child rehearse on these days.

Please make sure your calendar is clear for the weeks of the shows. There will be dress rehearsals or performance downtown everyday December 6 – 18, 2016.

The *Austin Children's Nutcracker* performances always fall during the last weeks of the fall school semester. If you have required school activities, you must notify the Austin City Ballet staff as soon as possible by submitting an Absence Request Form.

We will not rehearse during Thanksgiving week or on Saturday, November 26, 2016. However, we sometimes have additional rehearsals during the week for soloists or those dancers who are working with guest artists.

Volunteer Time:

To help The *Austin Children's Nutcracker* run smoothly, volunteers are essential. Each dance family is responsible for a number of volunteer spots, which can be filled by parents, grandparents, neighbors, etc. The number of slots each family is responsible for will be determined based on the cast size. There will be a volunteer sign-up website available on October 1, 2016. There are many different types of volunteer opportunities available to sign up for. Make sure you sign up early if you prefer a certain volunteer spot. If you do not sign up by December 1, 2016, volunteer spots will be assigned to you by the Project Coordinator.

Financial:

Each dancer will pay a total of \$575 to participate in the *Austin Children's Nutcracker*. For families with more than one child participating, additional dancers will pay \$475. These fees may be paid directly by the dancer's parents or by obtaining sponsorships. Payment options will be discussed at the Mandatory Information Sessions during auditions on August 27, 2016.

Fees may be paid in 3 installments. The first installment of \$195 is due at the time of role acceptance, no later than 6:00 pm on September 4, 2016. The remaining installments of \$190 each are due on October 1, 2016 and November 1, 2016.

Dancers are responsible for purchasing their own shoes and tights for the performances. Specific styles and brands necessary will be communicated at the time of role acceptance.

Rehearsals Schedule

A detailed rehearsal schedule will be available to dancers once casting is complete.

Please note the Mandatory Rehearsal Dates - No Exceptions:

Saturday, November 19th and December 3rd

Rehearsals will begin Saturday, September 10th and Sunday, September 11th at 'Camp Nutcracker' and are mandatory for all cast members.

All rehearsals are mandatory. The only exceptions to this are a death in the immediate family or a medical excuse from a doctor. Rehearsals will occur on Saturdays through December 3rd. Soloists and lead roles will be required to rehearse on some weeknights and / or Sundays as determined by the Director. Rehearsal schedules will be distributed at role acceptance. Understudies must attend all scheduled rehearsals for that role.

No rehearsals will be held on Thanksgiving weekend (Saturday, November 26, 2016.) Additional rehearsals may be scheduled for dancers that are available during these times. Please do not schedule your Thanksgiving travel plans before November 20, 2016.

Technical and dress rehearsal will be held Tuesday through Thursday, December 6-8 and December 13-15. Detailed schedules will be provided at the time of role acceptance.

All technical and dress rehearsals will be held at The Dougherty Arts Center Theater, 1110 Barton Springs Road and are mandatory. Warm Ups are mandatory for all Company Class members.

Performances are December 9-11 and December 16-18, 2016.

Thank you for your interest in the *Austin Children's Nutcracker!*

If you have further questions, call (512) 537-7045 or e-mail austincityballet@gmail.com. You may also contact our Project Coordinator Tara Alexander at (512) 461-9192 or tara.d.alexander@gmail.com.

Carol Feille D'Avila, Artistic Director

The Austin City Ballet