

Auditioning for and Participating in *The Nutcracker*

Dear Parents,

As you may know, The Georgia Ballet's Professional Company mounts an annual production of *The Nutcracker* which includes many parts for student dancers. Participation can be a very exciting, valuable and rewarding experience; however, it is a commitment that does require considerable time and effort on the part of the dancer and his/her family.

Please understand and consider seriously the professional nature of this project, and that by attending the audition you are expressly implying that you will accept any and all parts assigned to your dancer; that you will commit to the rehearsal schedules as outlined in this letter; and that you will accept the commitment to lend volunteer assistance as outlined in this letter.

Here is some important information to consider before making a decision about auditioning. As always, please feel free to speak with an office staff member should you have any questions about participation.

When is the audition? Who can audition? Is there an audition fee?

- The auditions take place Sunday, September 12th at The Georgia Ballet studios.
- Georgia Ballet students in grades PreBallet IV and up who have turned six (6) by September 1st are eligible to audition for roles in the production. *Members of The Georgia Ballet's Student Ensemble and its Apprentice groups (I and II) are exempt from the audition.*
- There is no fee to audition for *The Nutcracker*.
- The audition schedule is as follows:

2:45pm Registration for 6-9 year olds (Pre IV, Intro. Ballet, Ballet I, Ballet II)

3:15-4:15pm Audition Class for 6-9 year olds

4:00pm Registration for 10+ year olds (Prep. Div. I-III, Ballet III and IV)

4:30-5:30pm Audition Class for 10+ year olds

- Dancers should wear their regular class uniform to the audition.

When/where are the performances? Will my dancer have to miss school to perform?

- All performances are at the Anderson Theatre, Cobb County Civic Center. There are five public performances and ten "school performances" on weekday mornings.

Public performances: Fri. 12/3 7:00pm; Sat. 12/4 2:00pm and 7:00pm; and
Sun. 12/5 1:30pm and 5:30pm

School performances: Thur. 12/2; Fri. 12/3; Mon. 12/6; Tues. 12/7; Wed. 12/8
Tentative: Thur. 12/9

*There are 2 performances each day: 10:00am and 11:45am

- Party Scene Children and Angels do not appear in the School performances, and therefore children who are cast ONLY in these scenes do not have to miss school. Battle Scene (Soldiers/Mice), Mother Ginger, Marzipan Lambs, Tea, Sugarplum Attendant and Arabian Attendant dancers will be asked to miss no more than **two** days of school. Dancers will be finished on school performance days by 1:00pm.

When are the rehearsals?

- As this time, we anticipate the following rehearsal schedule. (All rehearsals, except for Dress Rehearsals, take place at The Georgia Ballet studios.)

Party Scene Children – Sun. afternoons beginning Sept. 26th (Little Party Children, a role for many 6- and 7-year-olds, will have a costume fitting on Sept. 26th and will not be needed again for rehearsal until Sunday, Oct. 31st.)

Battle Scene (Soldiers/Mice) – late Sat. afternoons beginning Sept. 25th

Mother Ginger – Sun. afternoons beginning Sept. 26th

Angels – Sat. mid-afternoons beginning Sept. 25th

***Marzipan Lambs* – Sat. afternoons beginning Sept. 25th** (please note the day change – in past years, lambs have rehearsed on Sundays)

Tea, Sugarplum Attendants, Arabian Attendants – Sat. afternoons beginning Sept. 25th

- **All rehearsals are mandatory.** Dancers who miss rehearsal may be subject to dismissal from the cast.
- There will be **no rehearsals** on October 23rd and 24th due to the professional company's production of *Pinocchio*.
- **The only rehearsal that will be held on Thanksgiving weekend will be for the party scene on Sunday. It will be scheduled no earlier than 4pm. This rehearsal is mandatory for all party scene participants. No exceptions can be made.**
- Dancers should wear their regular practice clothes to all rehearsals.
- Rehearsal times will vary from week to week. Dancers must check the bulletin board for the weekly schedule, which will be posted by Monday afternoon. Weekly schedules and important announcements will also be posted on the website, www.georgiaballet.org.
- **Dress Rehearsals** – take place at the theatre on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening, Nov. 29th – Dec. 2nd. Student dancers will not be required to be at the theatre everyday. More exact information to follow.

Is there a cost to participate in *The Nutcracker*?

All student dancers in *The Nutcracker* are asked to pay a \$75 fee by October 31st. This fee helps to cover the cost of costume repair, alteration and cleaning, as well as the expense of weekly rehearsals.

How are costumes handled?

All dancers will be provided a costume. All costume fittings will take place over the weekend of September 25th and 26th during regular rehearsal time.

Tights and Shoes – Student dancers in *The Nutcracker* are asked to purchase a **NEW** pair of leather ballet slippers and a pair of tights to be used for dress rehearsals and performances. After casting is posted, we will provide you with information as to the style and brand of shoes and tights to purchase. *Please do not purchase items before you receive this information.*

Volunteer Pledge

The family of each student dancer is asked to volunteer time. We could not mount this wonderful, but very large, production without your help. Volunteer Pledge forms will be distributed at the dancers' first rehearsal. Please return them to the office by October 31st, 2010. The minimum pledge asked is to help at one public performance or one day of school performances (there are two school performances taking place each day).

Casting

Casting will be posted on Monday, September 20th by 3:00pm.