



United Fine Arts Academy The Nutcracker

Audition Information - 2023

When are the performances? Friday, December 8th (6pm), Saturday, December 9th (1pm & 6pm), Sunday, December 10th (1pm)

When are the dress rehearsals? Saturday, December 2nd (2-5pm), and Sunday, December 3rd (2-5pm).

Is there double casting in this show and what does that entail?

Some main roles may be doubled casted (ie. Marie, Sugar Plum Fairy, etc.). This gives an opportunity to more dancers. If your dancer is double casted they will alternate parts with another dancer. Double casting will look like: A, B, A, B.

What does understudy mean? A understudy role is one of the most difficult positions in a ballet performance since understudies seldom get to dance during the rehearsals. Understudies are expected to watch and learn every spot of the dancer, or role(s), purely on the sidelines. The understudies must know the choreography, each spot, all the patterns, the musicality very well, in order to be able to replace somebody at the very last minute, or with little warning. Understudies need to have a strong self- motivation to mark all the steps at the side every single time when the dancers rehearse instead of just sitting there. An understudy is a difficult role, but given to those who can handle it by the judges and artistic staff!! Please note, only in the case of injury, illness, or absence will understudies be needed to perform (or rehearse full-out) the role. It is not the same as Cast A/B.

Will my dancer perform in every show? Yes, every dancer will perform at least one role in every show. Please understand this is a big commitment both in time, money, and dancer dedication!

Will every dancer who auditions receive a role in the ballet? Yes all dancers will receive a minimum of one role.

Are all four performances mandatory? Yes. There are only three exceptions for this: illness/ injury, family emergency, or graded school event (meaning a school event that will impact grades. Missing for an extracurricular school activity like a sporting event/game, school play, tournament, dance team competition is not an exception, and will not be granted from the artistic director).

My dancer performed in UFAA's Nutcracker last season, will they get the same role?

Possibly. Some group dances, Waltz of the Snowflakes, The Battle Scene for example, require a certain number of dancers a certain age/ height/technique level. So you might receive a role you have performed before in order to fulfill the required number for that scene.

Do the judges decide the dancer's roles? Yes. We will be hiring professional ballet judges to cast this ballet. Ms. Angelica will be in attendance at the auditions but not deciding on any casting. For the older dancer (ages 11+) the auditions will be taught by a guest teacher.

What if my dancer is not en pointe, can they audition in the Pointe Audition? No. Only dancers en pointe for a minimum of 6 months are allowed to audition for a pointe role in the ballet.

Dress code for the audition? Ladies: black leotard, pink tights, ballet slippers (pointe shoes for the pointe audition), ballet bun. Gentlemen: black athletic shirt, black tights/athletic pants, ballet slippers.

Is there an audition fee? No.

What is the Company Membership fee? The membership fee will cover the costs of: Artistic Director's time and choreography, Rehearsal Assistant's time (if applicable), audition fees, judges fees, music rights, choreography costs, facility costs, program and advertising, lighting costs, lighting design, and any other production needs surrounding these categories. It will mainly cover the time spent each week in rehearsals learning the performance!

How much is the Company Membership Fee?

Company Level

Senior (Ages 14-18) - \$120

Teen (Ages 11-13) - \$110

Junior (Ages 7-10) - \$85

Petite (Ages 4-6) - \$55 *Age on August 13th, 2023*

When is the Company Membership Fee due?

1st Payment: August 15th

2nd Payment: September 1st or 15th 3rd Payment: October 1st or 15th

4th Payment: November 1st or 15th

How do we pay? If you are currently enrolled in United Talent/United Fine Arts Academy the Company Membership Fee will run through your JackRabbit account, your credit card on file will be charged on your preferred date of the 1st or 15th. If you do not currently have an account with us, email gina@unitedtalentky.com to set up your Parent Portal.

Why are the fees different by ages? The Company Fee has been carefully calculated to account for the age of the dancer, their level of dancing, the roles that will be danced by that age level, and the range of hours a week they will be rehearsing for the performance.

Does the Company Membership Fee cover the spring ballet too?

No. This membership fee will cover only The Nutcracker from August through December, with payments running August-November.

Is the Company Membership fee refundable if my dancer drops out/get injured? This will be discussed on a case by case basis.

Why the Company Membership Fee? In order to keep continuing to grow and create beautiful professional-level productions, we need to be able to cover the costs of our productions, the artistic director's time, facility costs, etc.

What about the Parent Booster Club? The Parent Booster Club was launched in April of 2021, to inaugurate fundraising options that parents can participate in to help defray production costs. The Booster Club plans to help provide funds towards props, sets, guest dancer fees, commercials, and any other needs in these areas. This program is still new and getting off the ground this season! We hope to find

consistent fundraising each through the UFAA Parent Booster Club and lower Fees and they are established and grow. If you are interested in joining the Booster Club please email ufaaboosterclub@gmail.com

Are there any requirements to participate in The Nutcracker? Yes. Each student must be enrolled in a minimum of one ballet class per week, and one pointe class per week (if eligible). This may be at the studio of your choice. You do not have to be taking classes at United Talent/UFAA, we welcome students regardless of studio affiliation. We will check enrollment and attendance for each student for those required classes.

When will we be starting rehearsals? Friday, August 18th & Sunday, August 20th.

When will casting be sent out? The week after auditions prior to rehearsals starting the 18th.

When will the rehearsal schedule be sent out? The rehearsal schedule will be sent out with casting during the week of August 14th. This will be for August rehearsals only. Each following month of rehearsals will be sent at the beginning of the month or every two weeks.

When and where will rehearsals be held? Rehearsals will be Fridays for Angels, Pollichinelles, and The Battle Scene (Rats) and Sundays (for all other roles not on Fridays) 2-8:30pm. At United Fine Arts Academy's Stage located at United Talent.

How long will my dancer be there each week? Each week will vary based on dances completed, ones that need work, and of course your dancer's role(s).

For example:

Senior Company: approximately 4-5.5 hours each week

Teen Company: approximately 3.5-4.5 hours each week

Junior Company: approximately 1.5-3.5 hours each week

Petite Company: approximately .5-1.5 hours each week

*These hour estimates do not cover Tech and Show Week as those times may increase across all ages.

What are costume costs? UFAA has the majority of The Nutcracker costumes in house after purchasing in 2020/receiving donations. You will be charged a \$15 rental fee for each costume, \$10 for every costume after the first one (if a dancer has multiple roles). This covers the dry cleaning fee and any alternations needed on that costume. If we do not have that costume yet in our inventory, or your dancer needs a different size than the inventory costumes, a purchasing fee will be charged. This will not be the entire costume cost, it will be to cover shipping/handling/or materials to make the costume. The majority of the costume fee will be covered by UFAA since we will own the new costume. You will only be responsible for covering cleaning, alterations, and shipping or material fees.

Does my dancer have to learn choreography prior to attending the auditions? If your dancer is ages 4-8 years old, no. They will be taught the choreography at the auditions to perform for the judges. Ages 9+ will be sent a video via email to learn of the choreography prior to auditions. This will be sent to your registered email on August 1st.

I still have questions I need answered! Please email me at angelica@unitedtalentky.com and I will get back with you!