

Dear Dancers and Parents,

Welcome to the Westchester Ballet Company's dancing member and *Nutcracker* audition! We are delighted that you're interested in becoming a member of the company and participating in our annual production of this beloved classical ballet.

The benefits of performing in a professional-caliber production are innumerable – far more than the fun of putting on a costume and executing steps before an audience. The additional training, the musicality, the discipline and responsibility, the camaraderie, the backstage exposure to professional dancers and a union stage crew, not to mention the exhilaration of the lights and the applause, are just some of the rewards of this undertaking. However, participation also involves a substantial commitment of time and energy from dancers and parents – at a very busy time of year. Please consider the attendance commitments very seriously – we must adhere to them to make a production of this quality possible.

Please keep in mind that not everyone who auditions will receive a role in *The Nutcracker*. Nevertheless, the audition process itself is a valuable learning experience, and we do encourage dancers to attend future auditions if they are not cast at this time.

If parents and dancers have any questions or concerns about the audition process or the commitment required for participation in *The Nutcracker*, please leave written messages for the Artistic Directors at the Logrea Academy desk, call the company office at 914.941.4532, or email us at westchesterballet@gmail.com.

We hope this proves to be an especially exciting and rewarding season for you, and thank you again for considering the Westchester Ballet Company!

Sincerely,

Westchester Ballet Company Board of Directors



DANCING MEMBER LEVELS*

STUDENT DANCERS must be at least 7 years old by the audition dates, and must be in Ballet II or above. Student dancers perform with the Westchester Ballet Company dancers, but are not considered company members.

JUNIOR COMPANY MEMBERS are chosen on the basis of ability by the Artistic Directors, and must be at least 8 years old with a minimum of 2 years of ballet training.

SENIOR COMPANY MEMBERS are chosen on the basis of ability by the Artistic Directors, based on physical attributes including strength, and technical and performing ability. Senior Membership requires dedication to the high standards of WBC during performance seasons and throughout the year.

*A dancer's Membership Level is determined each year, based on meeting the necessary criteria at each audition. Specific information is outlined on "WBC Company Membership Requirements" and available at Logrea Dance Academy or by request at westchesterballet@gmail.org.



Photos: Julieta Cervantes

CASTING DECISIONS

Audition participants are considered both for dancing membership in the Westchester Ballet Company and for roles in *The Nutcracker*. Only dancing members of WBC are eligible to audition for roles in the Spring Repertoire ballets. If a participant will be unable to participate in *The Nutcracker* he or she must indicate this on the audition registration form.

Dancers are cast in roles suitable to their ages, levels, abilities and sizes, and all decisions made by the artistic directors are final. Dancers may be cast in the same role for several seasons if it is deemed that they are best suited to that role.

With the exception of recipients of Westchester Ballet Company scholarships, dancers may decline an invitation to be a member of the Westchester Ballet Company for a season, and are free to attend the next year's audition. However, they must notify the Artistic Directors of their decision before rehearsals commence.

A dancer who withdraws from the production after rehearsals have begun will be dismissed from the company, and will be charged a \$25 penalty fee.

All questions concerning casting should be made in writing to Jean Logrea. Please do not address the Artistic Directors directly about such issues while they are between classes or rehearsals.

Each participant in *The Nutcracker* will receive notification of his or her role via email from Westchester Ballet Company at westchesterballet@gmail.com within 3 days following the audition. A link will connect to the appropriate Dancing Member Contract on the WBC website, which must be read carefully by dancers and parents before they print out and sign the signature page. Contract signature pages as well as other required documents and appropriate fees must be turned in by dancers' parents at the WBC Annual Meeting on September 21 at 7 PM – location to be announced. Please call the Westchester Ballet Company at 914.941.4532 if you anticipate difficulties with payment.

FEES (subject to change)

SENIOR COMPANY MEMBERS **\$390**
(including Apprentices)

JUNIOR COMPANY MEMBERS **\$330**
(including Apprentices)

STUDENT DANCERS **\$255**

- Fees include Westchester Ballet Company dues of \$75 for Student Dancers and \$90 for Junior and Senior Company Members.
- Each Nutcracker family will receive one professionally produced DVD of the performance at no additional charge.
- Contracts and fees must be turned in by a parent at the WBC Annual Meeting on September 21 at 7 pm—location to be announced.
- One parent from each Nutcracker family is required to attend the Westchester Ballet Company's Annual Meeting. For more information call the WBC office at 914.941.4532.



TECHNICAL AND DRESS REHEARSALS

- Thursday, December 17 – Full Day
[Times to be announced; date may change]

PERFORMANCES

- School and Senior Citizen Performance
Friday, December 18, 10:00 AM
- General Audience Performances
Saturday, December 19 – 12:30 and 4:30 PM
Sunday, December 20 – 2:00 PM