

Dear Dancers and Parents,

Welcome to the Westchester Ballet Company's dancing member and *Nutcracker* audition! We are delighted that you are 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 the year. Please consider the attendance commitments very seriously – we must adhere to them to make a production of this quality possible.

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, the commitment required for participation in *The Nutcracker*, or rehearsal issues, please contact WBC at rehearsals@westchesterballet.org.

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

All Photos by Bill Prouty

DANCING MEMBER LEVELS*

STUDENT DANCERS must be at least 6 years old by the audition dates, and must be in Ballet I or above. Student dancers must take at least one ballet class per week at Logrea Dance Academy. 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/CORYPHEE COMPANY MEMBERS are chosen by the Artistic Directors, based on physical attributes including strength, technique and performing ability. Senior/Coryphee Membership requires dedication to the high standards of WBC during performance seasons and throughout the year.

- Auditioning company members must be in an intensive course and take at least one class per week at Logrea Dance Academy.
- A dancer's membership level is determined each year based on meeting the necessary skill level determined by the Artistic Directors. More specific information is available by request at info@westchesterballet.org.



CASTING DECISIONS

Audition participants are considered both for dancing membership in the Westchester Ballet Company and for roles in *The Nutcracker*.

All dancers must be able to remove their eyeglasses for rehearsals and performances. Please do not audition if this is not possible.

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, but 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. Fees will not be refunded.

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 from the Westchester Ballet Company via email within 4 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 7:00PM at the Ossining Library in Ossining. Please contact the Westchester Ballet Company if you anticipate difficulties with payment.



FEES (subject to change)

SENIOR COMPANY MEMBERS	\$575
CORYPHEE COMPANY MEMBERS	\$550
SENIOR APPRENTICE COMPANY MEMBERS	\$525
JUNIOR INTERMEDIATE COMPANY MEMBERS	\$500
JUNIOR COMPANY MEMBERS	\$475
STUDENT DANCERS	\$350

- Fees include Westchester Ballet Company dues of \$75 for Student Dancers and \$100 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/guardian at the WBC Annual Meeting on Friday September 21 at 7:00PM at the Ossining Library in Ossining, NY.
- One parent/guardian from each Nutcracker family is required to attend the Westchester Ballet Company's Annual Meeting.



TECHNICAL AND DRESS REHEARSALS

- Thursday, December 13 – Full Day
[Times to be announced; date may change]

PERFORMANCES

- School and Senior Citizen Performance
Friday, December 14, 10:00 AM
- General Audience Performances
Saturday, December 15 – 12:30 and 4:30 PM
Sunday, December 16 – 2:00 PM

2018 NUTCRACKER: MANDATORY REHEARSALS

➤ *All Dates Subject to Change & Times TBA*

➤ *Check the Studio Bulletin Board, westchesterballet.org, and WBC Eblasts for changes*

➤ *All Rehearsals from Nov. 26 through All of December are Mandatory*

MICE & SOLDIERS	Sun. 9/23, Sat. 9/29, Sun. 9/30
<i>Soldier Costume Fitting</i>	Sun. 9/30
<i>Mice Costume Fitting</i>	Sat. 10/20
CLOWNS AND JESTERS	Sat. 9/22, Sun. 9/23, Sun. 9/30
<i>Costume Fitting</i>	Sat. 10/20
ANGELS	Sat. 9/22, Sun. 9/23, Sun. 9/30
<i>Costume Fitting</i>	Sun. 9/30
<i>County Center Rehearsal</i>	Mon. 11/5
PAGES	Sat. 9/22, Sun. 9/23, Sun. 9/30
<i>Costume Fitting</i>	Sun. 9/30
PARTY CHILDREN	Fri. 9/21, Sun. 9/23, Fri. 9/28
<i>Costume Fitting</i>	Sun. 9/30
<i>Stage Makeup Class</i>	Sat. 11/10
<i>County Center Rehearsal</i>	Mon. 11/5
FLOWER CORPS	Sat. 9/22, Sun. 9/23, Sat. 9/29
<i>Costume Fitting</i>	Sun. 9/30
<i>Stage Makeup Class</i>	Sat. 11/10
<i>County Center Rehearsals</i>	Mon. 10/15, Mon. 11/5
SNOW CORPS, VARIATIONS & SOLOISTS	Sat. 9/22, Sun. 9/23, Sat. 9/29
<i>Costume Fitting</i>	Sun. 9/30
<i>Opening Act II Rehearsal</i>	Sat. 9/22 Sun. 9/23, Sat. 9/29
<i>Finale Rehearsal</i>	Sun. 9/23 Sat. 9/29, Sun. 9/30
<i>County Center Rehearsals</i>	Mon. 10/15, Mon. 11/5
VARIATIONS INCLUDE:	CHINESE CORPS, FLUTE, GIGUE & RUSSIAN CORPS
PARTY PARENTS, MAID/BUTLER, AUNTIE/WARD	Fri. 10/12, 2 more TBA
<i>Costume Fitting</i>	Sun. 9/30

ALL ROLES!

- Reserve for TBD Evening Rehearsals 12/10, 12/11 and/or 12/12 (depending on role)
- Miss two days of school:
 - Thurs. 12/13 - Technical & Dress Rehearsals and
 - Fri. 12/14 - School Performance

COMMITMENTS

- If you are unable to make these commitments, please audition another year when you will be able to fulfill them.

DANCERS MUST

- Attend the company meeting and photo session at Logrea Dance Academy on **Thursday, September 20, 7:30 PM** (Junior/Coryphee/Senior members only – no mice).
- Attend the first 3 mandatory rehearsals for each role.
- Attend mandatory Opening Act II and Finale Rehearsals depending on role.
- Attend all County Center Rehearsals for their role(s).
- Attend all rehearsals from Nov 26 through all of December for their role(s).
- Attend costume fittings for their role(s).
- Miss no more than 3 rehearsals and obtain written approval for all absences.
- Attend all required classes (at least 1 class/week at Logrea).
- Attend Technical and Dress Rehearsals on December 13.
- Miss two days of school for the Tech/Dress rehearsals on Dec. 13 and the School Performance on Dec. 14.
- Participate in all performances for which he or she is cast:
 - Friday, December 14, 10:00 AM**
(check-in at 8 or 9 AM)
 - Saturday, December 15, 12:30 PM**
(check-in at 10:30 or 11:30 PM)
 - Saturday, December 15, 4:30 PM**
(check-in at 2:30 or 3:30 PM)
 - Sunday, December 16, 2:00 PM**
(check-in at 12 or 1 PM)

PARENTS/GUARDIANS MUST

- Attend the Annual Company/Nutcracker Meeting on September 21 at 7:00 pm and turn in a signed contract and all required fees.**
- Make sure dancers arrive on time at all required rehearsals.
- Parents/guardians are required to perform 8 hours of volunteer work. Parents of dancers under 12 years old are additionally required to supervise their child's dressing room during one weekend performance (Sat. or Sun.). Additional dressing room supervision (including tech, dress, or school performance) can count as 4 hours of volunteer time for each shift.

Please consider joining the Westchester Ballet Company at the Supporter Level or above to ensure the continuation of the company's productions and programs, and/or joining a committee to assist with fund-raising!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

My child wants to be in The Nutcracker but may not be able to attend all of the mandatory rehearsals – or may arrive late to rehearsals. May my child still participate?

Every dancer must attend the first 3 mandatory rehearsals for each of his or her role(s), as well as the County Center rehearsals and all rehearsals from Nov 26 through all of Dec. Dancers must arrive on time and stay for the entire rehearsal. If a mandatory rehearsal is missed, the dancer will lose the role. Understudies must follow the same rehearsal attendance requirements. Please see the “**Dancers Must**” section of this brochure for all mandatory requirements.

If my child is cast in The Nutcracker but decides he does not want the role(s), may he decline and still audition for later WBC productions?

Yes, as long as the dancer declines the role(s) before rehearsals begin.

If my child is assigned a role she doesn't want, may I ask the Artistic Directors to change it?

No. Casting decisions are final. Dancers must either accept or decline all roles cast. If a dancer chooses to decline all roles, new ones will not be assigned to that dancer.

I have already paid my child's ballet tuition. Why must I pay fees for The Nutcracker?

The Westchester Ballet Company is a not-for-profit performing organization that is run independently of Logrea Dance Academy. Ballet tuition pays teachers and academy expenses; Nutcracker fees are required to operate the company and offset production costs.

What if my child doesn't feel well on the day of a mandatory rehearsal?

Rehearsals are mandatory when every single dancer is required for setting choreography or for making sure an entire scene works beautifully on the stage. Therefore, even dancers who are ill or have temporary injuries must attend. Every effort will be made to keep the dancer comfortable and not expose others to illness.

If we have a problem we did not anticipate, what should we do?

You must contact WBC by email at rehearsals@westchesterballet.org. The sooner a conflict is dealt with, the more likely it is to have a positive outcome.



YOUR GUIDE TO AUDITIONING FOR THE NUTCRACKER AND THE WBC'S 2018-2019 SEASON

AUDITION GUIDE

NEW AUDITION & REHEARSAL SCHEDULE & ROLE ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES!



WESTCHESTER BALLET COMPANY

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www.westchesterballet.org