



Hyde Park School of Dance
Presents
The Nutcracker and Pre-Ballet Holiday Show
December 9, 10, and 11, 2011

HYDE PARK
SCHOOL OF
DANCE

The Nutcracker 2011 Packet

In order to have the most successful experience possible, we ask that you carefully read this entire packet.

‘Nutcracker’ dancers and their families will be expected to know all information contained in this packet.

Pre-Ballet dancers and families should read the *Pre-ballet Holiday Show* packet for information pertaining to their show.

In this packet you will find important ‘Nutcracker’ information, including answers to questions about:

- Auditions
- Casting
- Dancer and Parent Expectations
- Costumes
- Rehearsal Calendar
- Dress Rehearsals
- Performances
- Ordering Tickets
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Student Matinee Excused Absence Request



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GENERAL NUTCRACKER INFORMATION

Placement Auditions:
Friday, September 23rd
Studio B (First Unitarian Church, 5650 South Woodlawn)

Ballet I - Ballet II: 4:30 – 6:00 PM
Mandatory *Nutcracker* Meeting for all parents: 6:00 – 6:45 PM
At this meeting, parents will meet the Artistic Director, learn more about rehearsals and performances, and have the opportunity to ask questions.
Ballet III through Ballet VI: 7:00 – 8:45 PM

Dancers arriving late for any reason will not be considered.

Dancers who are on pointe and in Ballet IV and up may also audition for Nutcracker Variations. Variations are the dances on pointe that are performed in the second act of the show.

Variation Auditions
Saturday, September 24th
5:30 – 7:30 PM
Studio 1
Late arrivals will not be considered.

Hyde Park School of Dance's 'Nutcracker' auditions are placement auditions. This means that everyone auditioning will receive a part if they are able to commit to the rehearsal and performance schedule and abide by all dancer expectations. Please bring the Nutcracker Audition Registration form to your audition. This form must be signed by both dancer and parent and can be found on our website or in the studio lobbies.

The Nutcracker Workshop Fee is \$200.00. This is a separate fee from class tuition and is due in full no later than October 7 (the first rehearsal). **There is no refund of the workshop fee if a dancer is taken out of the performance due to absences, tardiness, or unacceptable behavior.**

A preliminary rehearsal schedule can be found on our website and in the studio lobbies. *The Nutcracker* rehearsals will begin on October 7. A cast list will be posted on the Studio bulletin boards and on the 'Nutcracker' page of the website by October 1.



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CASTING AND EXPECTATIONS

*“No one can play whatever position he chooses. If that happened in baseball, there’d be nine pitchers.”
~Billy Martin*

It is a true pleasure to work with the talented dancers of HPSD each year to bring *The Nutcracker* to life for the Hyde Park community. We are so pleased you would like to be a part of this experience, and are confident that you and your dancer will enjoy the process as well.

The audition process can be a wonderful life lesson when approached with the proper expectations and parental support. If your dancer is auditioning to get a certain part rather than to be part of the team and overall experience, he or she should reconsider attending the auditions.

Casting decisions are final and cannot be disputed. Dancers or families who dispute casting decisions will not be allowed to participate in this performance.

Cast lists will be posted online and on the school’s bulletin board by October 1.

Students may be cast in more than one role. By accepting a role or roles, dancers are committing to come to all rehearsals, costume fittings, and performances. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the show.

Students may also be asked to understudy a role. An understudy attends all rehearsals for their understudy role, and learns the choreography. In the event an emergency arises and the dancer originally cast in the role is unable to perform, an understudy may step in to perform.

Dancers are expected to:

- Attend all scheduled rehearsals (including understudy roles) according to the rehearsal schedule.
- Attend all scheduled costume fittings for their role(s).
- Attend and perform in all performances (Friday, 12/9 at 10 AM; Saturday, 12/10 at 2 PM and 7 PM; and Sunday, 12/11 at 2 PM).
- Arrive at rehearsal with enough extra time to get dressed, warmed up and ready to start dancing at the scheduled start of rehearsal.
- Treat fellow dancers, faculty and staff with courtesy and respect.
- Provide their own shoes, tights, and make-up for the show.
- Abide by all Performance Program guidelines, General Rehearsal Rules, and Day of Performance Procedures outlined in the 2011-2012 Hyde Park School of Dance Student Handbook on pages 14 – 16.

Parents are expected to:

- Pay the workshop fee (\$200) no later than the first rehearsal on October 7th.
- Communicate with their dancer’s school regarding the December 9th 10 AM student matinee performance.
- Provide HPSD staff with a working email address, as communication and reminders are sent via email.
- Purchase tickets to the performance(s) they wish to see it.

Dancers and parents can expect faculty to:

- Communicate changes and important information via email and postings on the *Nutcracker* section of the studio bulletin boards.
- Provide a professional rehearsal and performance experience.



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REHEARSAL CALENDAR

Be sure to carefully review the rehearsal schedule, which can be found on our website or in the studio lobbies. Dancers must attend all rehearsals and costume fittings for their roles. They must also attend all rehearsals for any roles they are understudying.

Act I rehearsals include the following roles: Adult Party Scene Dancers, Clara, Fritz, The Stalbaums' Maid, Drosselmeyer, Party Children, Nutcracker Prince, Mouse King, Baby Dolls, Soldiers, Big Mice, Baby Mice, Cavalier Doll, Harlequin Doll, Snow

Act II rehearsals include the following roles: Mother Ginger, Polichinelles, Sugar Plum, Spanish, Mirlitons, Arabian, Chinese, Russian, Waltz of the Flowers, Grand Pas de Deux, Clara, Nutcracker Prince

Finale rehearsals include the following roles: Polichinelles, Sugar Plum, Spanish, Mirlitons, Arabian, Chinese, Russian, Waltz of the Flowers, Grand Pas de Deux, Clara, Nutcracker Prince

The Easter Seals Chicago Outreach performance on 12/7 applies to Act II Variations dancers only. Variations are the dances done on pointe in Act II. Variations dancers selected for this performance will be contacted after the cast list has been finalized.

COSTUMES

General Information:

- Attendance at costume fittings is required. **Missing a costume fitting may result in removal from the show.**
- Dancers are to provide their own tights and shoes in the appropriate color for their part. They may also be asked to provide a leotard in the correct color. **Specific information for each role is outlined in this section.**
- Tights and shoes should be clean and have no holes in them. Ribbons and elastics must be sewn for rehearsals and performances.
- All dancers in *The Nutcracker* should bring a make-up bag or clear plastic zip-lock bag with their name clearly printed on it. In the bag should be: a small hairbrush, earth-tone eye shadow, bright pink blush*, and red lipstick. Black eyeliner and mascara are optional.

**soldier cast, please see your specific notes for information on blush*

Party children:

- Girls: plain black short sleeve or tank leotard, pink tights, pink ballet shoes
- Girls' hair should be in a low ballet bun with no bows or other ornaments. The bun should be placed at the nape of the neck instead of on the crown of the head. This will allow the headpiece to be positioned on the back of the head above the bun.
- Boys: tight-fitting white t-shirt, black tights, and black ballet shoes



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COSTUMES (continued)

Baby Dolls:

- Dancer should arrive in pink tights and pink ballet shoes and the short sleeve leotard color corresponding to their part:
 - Baby Mirliton and Baby Russian Dolls: white or flesh-tone color short sleeve leotard
 - Baby Spanish and Baby Chinese Dolls: black color short sleeve leotard
 - Baby Arabian Doll: flesh-tone color leotard
- Girls' hair should be in a ballet bun with no bows or other ornaments. Please consult the Student Handbook for a diagram of how to create a ballet bun.

Baby Mice:

- Girls: plain black short sleeve or tank leotard, pink tights, pink ballet shoes
- Girls' hair should be in a low ballet bun with no bows or other ornaments. The bun should be placed at the nape of the neck instead of on the crown of the head. This will allow the headpiece to be positioned on the back of the head above the bun.
- Boys: tight-fitting white t-shirt, black tights, and black ballet shoes

Soldiers:

- Girls: plain black short sleeve or tank leotard, black tights, black ballet shoes
- Girls' hair should be in a ballet bun with no bows or other ornaments. Please consult the Student Handbook for a diagram of how to create a ballet bun.
- Boys: tight-fitting white t-shirt, black tights, and black ballet shoes
- Soldiers should have red blush in their make-up bag instead of bright pink blush.

Snow and Flowers:

- Girls: flesh-tone pointe shoes, flesh-tone leotard, and flesh-tone tights. The color should be as closely matched to your dancer's own skin tone as possible. Questions regarding flesh-tone dancewear should be directed to our Wardrobe Mistress.
- Girls' hair should be in a ballet bun with no bows or other ornaments. Please consult the Student Handbook for a diagram of how to create a ballet bun.

Chinese:

- Girls: plain black short sleeve or tank leotard, pink tights, pink ballet shoes
- Girls' hair should be in a ballet bun with no bows or other ornaments. Please consult the Student Handbook for a diagram of how to create a ballet bun.
- Boys: tight-fitting white t-shirt, black tights, and black ballet shoes

Russian:

- Girls: plain black short sleeve or tank leotard, pink tights, pink ballet shoes
- Girls' hair should be in a ballet bun with no bows or other ornaments. Please consult the Student Handbook for a diagram of how to create a ballet bun.
- Boys: tight-fitting white t-shirt, black tights, and black ballet shoes

Polichinelles:

- Girls: plain black short sleeve or tank leotard, pink tights, pink ballet shoes
- Girls' hair should be in a ballet bun with no bows or other ornaments. Please consult the Student Handbook for a diagram of how to create a ballet bun.
- Boys: white t-shirt, black tights, and black ballet shoes



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DRESS/TECH AND NOTES/PARTIAL DRESS REHEARSALS

Dress/Tech Rehearsal:

Thursday, 12/8

Mandel Hall

Act 1: 4:00 – 7:30 PM

Act II and Snow: 6:00* – 9:00 PM

**All Act II and Snow dancers should warm-up on their own and arrive at Mandel Hall ready to dance by 6pm.*

Drop-off and pick-up at this rehearsal will be exactly like the performances on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. During this rehearsal, we will add the lights and other technical elements of the show, and then run through the performance. Please plan to be early so we can start right on time. **This rehearsal is a closed rehearsal, meaning no one is allowed to watch from the auditorium other than faculty and artistic staff.**

Dancers and parents should follow the procedures outlined in the Performance section of this packet for Costumes, Hair and Make-up and Dropping off and picking up. This will be a long rehearsal, and while we will provide dancers with a light dinner of pizza, carrots, and water, we also recommend packing your own water bottle and snack in your dancer's bag. Good snacks for rehearsal include apple slices, carrot and celery sticks, granola bars, and bite-size pretzels. Please do not send your dancer with peanut butter or other nut products, and make sure your dancer's name is on their dance bag and all items in it.

Notes/Partial Dress Rehearsal:

Friday, 12/9

Mandel Hall

All Nutcracker dancers except for Baby Mice are called to this rehearsal. Call times are as follows:

- Act 1: 4:30 – 7:00 PM
- Act 2: 6:00 – 9:00 PM**

***Chinese, Russian, and Mother Ginger/Polichinelles are released at 8:00 PM.*

This is a 'Notes' rehearsal, which means the artistic staff will give the dancers notes and direction based on Thursday's dress rehearsal and Friday morning's student matinee performance. This is also a closed rehearsal, meaning no one is allowed to watch from the auditorium other than faculty and artistic staff.

- Dancers should come in their class/rehearsal clothes and be ready to dance, but do not need to be in performance make-up.
- Dancers should bring their own snacks for this rehearsal, as HPSD will not provide dinner.



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PERFORMANCES

Performances take place on Friday 12/9 at 10:00 AM, Saturday 12/10 at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM, and Sunday 12/11 at 2 PM at Mandel Hall on the University of Chicago campus at 1131 East 57th Street.

Call times

For all performances, dancers should be at Mandel Hall by the following times:

- * Pre-ballet Holiday Show: 45 minutes prior to start of show
- * Party Adults: 1 hour prior to start of show
- * Party Children (including Fritz and Clara): 1 hour prior to start of show
- * Nutcracker Prince: 1 hour prior to start of show
- * Harlequin and Cavalier: 1 hour prior to start of show
- * Baby Mice: 45 minutes prior to start of show
- * Soldiers: 1 hour prior to start of show
- * Baby Dolls: 1 hour prior to start of show
- * Snow: 1.5 hours prior to start of show
- * Big Mice/Mouse King: 1.5 hours prior to start of show
- * Flowers: 1.5 hours prior to start of show
- * Russian: 1 hour prior to start of show
- * Chinese: 1 hour prior to start of show
- * Mirlitons: 1.5 hours prior to start of show
- * Spanish: 1.5 hours prior to start of show
- * Sugar Plum: 1.5 hours prior to start of show
- * Mother Ginger/Polichinelles: 1 hour prior to start of show

All dancers must leave Mandel Hall between the 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm performances on Saturday.

Costumes, Hair and Make-up

Dancers should be dressed in their tights and leotards when they arrive, with hair and make-up ready.

Dropping off and picking up

Dancers must be dropped off at the ENTRANCE to the backstage area by the check-in station. Please take your dancer's coats and street shoes with you – we want to minimize the amount of items backstage in order to avoid lost things. Each dancer may bring a small bag that contains their make-up bag, snacks (no peanut products, please), a water bottle, and quiet activities such as books, cards, and crayons so they have something to do while not onstage. Please make sure your dancer's name is on their bag and all items in it.

Please be advised that no one is allowed backstage other than dancers and volunteers who have been assigned prior duties.

All 'Nutcracker' dancers will remain backstage until the end of each performance. Dancers will not be allowed to watch the performance from the auditorium.

After the performance, parents can pick up their dancers in the Mandel Hall lobby.

Strike

All dancers in Ballet IV and up are expected to help with strike after Sunday's performance. More information will be sent via email closer to the performance dates.



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ORDERING TICKETS

Performance tickets may be purchased online at www.hydeparkdance.org or in the HPSD office starting on November 1st. You must purchase tickets to any performance(s) you wish to watch. **We recommend purchasing tickets in advance, as performances often sell out.**

General Admission: \$20

Students and Seniors: \$8

Children under 5 years old: Free

Groups of 10 or more receive a 10% discount

Group tickets must be purchased in-person in the HPSD office to receive 10% discount.

**Please note: Public tickets are not available for the Friday, 12/10 10:00 AM school matinee performance.*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We need your help to make this performance a success! Please consider lending your talents to one of our wide range of jobs:

- Costume care
- Hauling and moving props, costumes, and scenery
- Selling merchandise
- Marketing
- Dress rehearsal dinner set-up and clean-up
- Financial contributions

To learn more about volunteer opportunities and sign-up, visit the 'Nutcracker' page on our website (www.hydeparkdance.org). If you have any additional questions, please contact us via email (admin@hydeparkdance.org) or phone (773-493-8498).



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STUDENT MATINEE EXCUSED ABSENCE REQUEST

Dear Educator,

On Friday, December 9, the Hyde Park School of Dance will present *The Nutcracker* at Mandel Hall on the University of Chicago campus for students in grades K – 8. Your student, _____, has been cast in this show. I, along with your student's parent/guardian, am writing to request an excused absence on Friday, December 9, so this dancer may participate in this special performance.

The mission of the Hyde Park School of Dance is based on the fundamental belief that dance enriches the community. We believe that a high quality instructional program results not only from excellent training in dance technique, but that it must include a celebration of diversity, an active participation in the surrounding community, and encouragement of aspiring dancers with limited resources. The School provides opportunities for students of all ages to study, perform, and create classical and contemporary dance at the highest levels of discipline and artistry. Our goal is to cultivate a love of dance and strength of body, mind and character that will benefit our students throughout their lives no matter what vocation they choose as adults, as well as being key aspects of success in the professional dance arena.

HPSD is thrilled to bring this ballet to Chicago students and their teachers. This 60 minute performance will reach over 700 area students from grades K – 8. If you are a teacher of grades K through 8, please consider supporting your student and joining us for the performance as well! Tickets are \$5 per person, and can be reserved by contacting Terra Schultz, Hyde Park School of Dance's Operations Coordinator, at 773-493-8498 or via email at admin@hydeparkdance.org. More information on this performance and our school can also be found on our website at www.hydeparkdance.org.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

August Tye
Artistic Director
Hyde Park School of Dance

Parent or Guardian Signature