



2023 HANDBOOK

It is expected that all parents and participants have read this handbook in its entirety before registering to audition. Should your dancer be successful in their audition you will be asked to accept and abide by all details listed within this handbook.

Nutcracker Commitment

Waldorf Ballet's Nutcracker is scheduled to be performed **December 8th – 10th, 2023** at the Raven's Cry Theatre for a total of 6 shows. Some older dancers will perform in all shows while younger dancers are typically divided into alternating Casts A and B. We will have a rehearsal schedule emailed to each family and posted on our private Facebook page. All rehearsals, including studio dress rehearsals, are considered "closed rehearsals," meaning only participants (no parents) are allowed to be inside of the studio building.

You must be committed to making all rehearsals as we have only a short amount of time to prepare a lot of dancing! More than 2 unexcused or inappropriate absences may result in your role being replaced. Acceptable excuses must still include an email notification to us, preferably before the rehearsal date/time. Acceptable reasons include only serious matters such as family emergencies and sickness. It is not acceptable to miss rehearsals for shopping trips to the city, birthday parties, lost schedules, or not arranging for a ride. This production involves family and dancer commitment, and we want to ensure you understand this properly prior to registering for auditions.

TENTATIVE Rehearsal Schedules

Dancers must be available for weekend rehearsals September - December 2023

We try to schedule most dancers for either Saturdays OR Sundays but there may certain roles or rehearsals where both days will be required

Some older dancers or soloist roles may be asked for availability end of August 2023

Dress rehearsal at the studio - Saturday & Sunday November 25th & 26th

Blocking on stage at the theatre - Saturday and/or Sunday December 2nd and 3rd

Stage rehearsals as needed Thursday December 7th daytime - TBD

BOOKED Performance dates

Friday December 8th (2pm & 7pm)

Saturday December 9th (2pm & 7pm)

Sunday December 10th (2pm & 7pm)

Audition Pre-Registration - OPEN UNTIL APRIL 21ST, 2023

Please be aware that the age groups for auditions are based on the age of the dancer as well as their previous dance experience. We will devise the audition schedule based on registration volume and studio capacity limits. You will be informed of your exact audition day and time after registration closes on Friday April 21st, 2023.

Eligibility:

- Aged ~6yrs+ (going into Grade 1 Sept 2023, or about 44 inches tall)
- Have at least 1 year of dance experience, preferably in ballet
- Advanced roles require more ballet experience and strong classical technique
- Dancers must continue to be enrolled in at least 1 ballet class per week at any coastal dance studio for the duration of the 2023-24 dance season
- Be available and committed to making all rehearsals and performances

You must pre-register by April 21st, 2023 by completing the form on our website here: www.waldorfballet.com/nutcracker

Drop-in students will not be permitted.

On Audition Day

Auditions will take place at Waldorf Ballet, 5590 Wharf Ave, Sechelt over **Saturday April 29th & Sunday April 30th, 2023**. Please be aware that you should be at the studio approximately 10 minutes prior to the time period slotted for your child's age group. We will need to check your child in, assign an audition number and measure your child's height. *Should you not be available on these dates a private assessment may be arranged.*

Parents/guardians will drop and pick up students at the front door and remain outside, our staff will be there to greet and show the dancers to their studio.

Each group's audition will include a short ballet class and a selection of choreography from the Nutcracker. Viewing is not permitted. Once an audition has begun, late arrivals will not be admitted.

What to wear to audition:

- Ballet attire - ballet slippers, leotard & tights for girls, pants & t-shirt for boys
- Hair pulled back in a bun for girls or neatly groomed for boys
- Please leave all unnecessary items at home, water bottles are permitted

Posting of Audition Results

Audition results will be emailed to you within one month of the audition dates but often earlier. **Please ensure your email is correct on the registration forms as it is our primary form of communication throughout the entire production.**

Should your dancer be selected they will be informed of their roles and whether they will participate in Cast A or B or both. Roles are non-negotiable and decided solely by the artistic director. Dancers must accept ALL of their assigned roles. Every role is equally important to the success of the production and must be taken seriously and with pride!

You may note certain roles listed as "understudy". This means the dancer has the important opportunity to learn an extra role but may not be guaranteed to perform it. In the case of injury or sickness of the originally cast dancer it is the understudy's responsibility to fulfill the role. Understudies are expected to attend all rehearsals for this additional role as well as their own roles.

Rehearsal Attire and Performance Costumes

What to wear to Nutcracker rehearsals:

- Ballet attire - ballet slippers, leotard & tights for girls, pants & t-shirt for boys
- Hair pulled back in a bun for girls or neatly groomed for boys
- Please leave all unnecessary items at home, water bottles are permitted

All costumes supplied are property of the Nutcracker and will not be taken home.

You will be expected to pay for your own:

- flesh-coloured leotard (for girl's under costumes and quick changes)
- flesh-coloured stretch briefs or shorts (for boys under costumes and quick changes)
- ballet pink tights (girls) and extras!!!
- ballet shoes (pink girls and black boys)
- make-up, and hair products

Dancewear available locally at Peggy Sue's in lower Gibsons or online here:
<https://mystudiostuff.com/wbl>

Please plan ahead and ensure your dancer has these items well in advance of the dress rehearsals and performances - especially undergarments and extra tights!

Behavior Policy

Self-discipline and respect are required by all performers, of all ages, at all times. Negative attitude, lack of concentration, bullying, or repeated misbehaving may result in your dancer being removed from the production.

- Arrive on time and ready to focus each rehearsal
- Remain attentive and do not climb or swing on barres
- Refrain from loud talking and keep hands to yourselves
- Respect the privilege of participating in a professional production together
- Be inclusive - We are all on the same team and all equally important in every role of the production

Letter of Agreement

A signed letter of agreement and waiver will be required for all cast members and must be returned within one week of their audition acceptance email. If the agreement is not signed and returned you will be forfeiting your dancer's placement and roles. A parent or guardian must sign for each cast member younger than 19 years of age.