



Pittsburgh Youth Ballet Company

The Nutcracker 2011

“The Nutcracker” Auditions Sunday September 25th

St. Petersburg Center · 210 Valley Brook Road
McMurray 15317 www.pybco.com · 724-969-6000

Performances at Upper St. Clair Theater Dec. 2, 3, 4

PYBC invites all students of ballet (age 3 & up) to audition for the 2011 production of the *Nutcracker*. Auditions are at PYBC Studios on Sunday September 25th starting at 12:30 p.m. **Please arrive at the studio for registration 30 minutes before your scheduled audition time and have all forms completed prior to registration.** A parent or guardian must sign up and attend a 30-minute meeting while their dancer is being cast.

Time	Age & Class Level
12:30 to 1:15	All Preschool Dancers (ages 3-5)
1:30 to 2:15	All Beginning Ballet (ages 6-10)
2:30 to 3:15	All Primary Level 1-3 dancers (class 2x week)
3:30 to 4:15	All Intermediate Division dancers (class 3x week)
4:30 to 5:15	All Adv. Division class 3-4x week (Pre High School)
5:30 to 6:00	All High School dancers
6:00 to	All Adults and little boys interested in performing

Audition Dress Code

Female dancers should wear their hair in a neat bun, pink tights, ballet slippers and/or pointe shoes as appropriate. Female dancers from PYBC should wear class colors; female dancers from other schools should wear any solid color leotard without a skirt

(Preschool girls are encouraged to wear leotards with attached skirts).

Male dancers should wear a white t-shirt, black leggings or shorts, and black or white ballet shoes

Performances

This year, PYBC will present four public performances at the Upper St. Clair Theater. Public performances are Friday Dec. 2nd and Saturday Dec. 3rd at 7:30 PM and matinee performances Saturday Dec. 3rd and Sunday Dec. 4th at 2:30 PM. School Shows are TBA.

Casting

The audition assesses the dancer’s ability so that he/she may be appropriately cast in a role; no dancer is turned away. The casting process begins at auditions, and your dancer may come out of the audition with a casting slip. For more advanced roles, casting will be posted as soon as possible. Please support your dancers’ role with a positive attitude and do not talk or compare parts verbally on the Company premises. Certain roles may be designated based on the sizes of costumes, difficulty of the steps and the dates the dancer can perform the role.

Casting decisions

All casting are made carefully according to the dancer’s age, size, ability and strength with the participation of the Artistic Director, teachers, and the Choreographers. Dancers will be assigned to one or more parts and casts, depending if the cast member is a Company Member and on the dancer’s availability and the needs of the production.

Cast 1 Evening shows Friday Dec. 2nd and Saturday Dec. 3rd 7:00pm
Cast 2 Matinees shows Saturday Dec. 3rd and Sunday Dec. 4th 2:00pm

Additional shows will be cast separately. Please indicate your preferences and availability on the audition forms.

We want your child to have wonderful memories of “The Nutcracker” and PYBC. Please do not discuss casting. Every part is important. Please remind students...Is this a kind way to act? Will your words hurt other people’s feelings?

Parent Meetings

Parents should remain at PYBC while the dancers are auditioning to attend required informational sessions. Also each dancer’s parent is required to attend one Guild meeting before the end of November.

Costumes

PYBC creates and owns the costumes used for *The Nutcracker* (except the Bonbons). Costume fittings will be scheduled around rehearsal and class times; they will be posted on the PYBC bulletin board. Good attendance is required to ensure each dancer receives the best-fitting costume. The youngest dancers performing in their first *Nutcracker* usually are cast as Bonbons and their costumes fee is \$35.00 and is due the day of auditions. Bonbons get to keep their tutus. If your dancer is cast as a Bonbon, please stay after the audition for costume measuring to ensure prompt shipping. Bonbon rehearsals will occur every other Sunday until closer to the performance, at which time a weekly rehearsals may be required.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will start *immediately* on October 9th for most dancers. Schedules will be available on audition day and will be posted and distributed by e-mail. Schedule and casting changes occur; please check your emails or refer to the Google Calendar on our website www.pybco.org for the most up-to-date schedule.

Regular attendance at rehearsals is crucial to the success of your dancer as an individual and to the production as a whole. Please make attendance at *all* rehearsals a priority. Missing more than 3 rehearsals for a role without a valid excuse is cause for recasting or dismissal from *The Nutcracker*. Please submit a Missed Rehearsal Form if your dancer cannot attend a rehearsal. Please be aware that rehearsals usually occur every other weekend and may include Sundays for Party Scene, Bonbons, Mice and Soldiers.

Rehearsal Dress Code:

Female dancers: Class leotard, tights and clean leather ballet shoes and pointe shoes, if applicable; hair in a neat bun. Please use a permanent ink marker for your child’s shoes, tights, leotard etc.

Male dancers: Black leggings pants, white cotton T-shirt & black ballet shoes

Stage Rehearsals: Always bring warm ups, sweatshirts, pants or legwarmers (theaters tend to be drafty). Please wear tights, well-fitting ballet and pointe shoes. Party girls and several other parts should wear a white leotard, or bring one.

Many Hands Make Light Work!

It takes an incredible amount of time, dedication and patience on the part of our Artistic Director, choreographers, teachers, dancers and parents to produce *The Nutcracker*. Simply put, we need all the help we can get! As the saying goes, if it takes 1 person 24 hours to do a job, 24 people can do it in 1 hour.

Please read *The Nutcracker* Contract carefully before you sign it. It details the responsibilities that come along with the privilege of having your child perform in *The Nutcracker*. We would like to highlight certain tasks we need *all* parents to undertake for a successful production:

Committee Volunteer. For every dancer cast in *The Nutcracker*, a parent or other adult is expected to volunteer on at least one committee, and must be available for at least two shifts. We have opportunities for all family members and skill sets. Sign-up sheets will be available at auditions; Guild officers will be on hand to answer questions.

Minor Sewing Duties. While costume designers make most of the decisions, volunteers handle creation of most *Nutcracker* costumes, or alterations. Each dancer’s parents/guardian are to sew nametags into their dancer’s costume(s), make minor repairs and sew hooks and eyes. The Costume Department will leave sewing instructions for you. *Please* do not assume someone else will do the work if you ignore it long enough. All sewing work must be completed at PYBC studios during classes and/or rehearsals; costumes may not leave the premises. Costume Department volunteers are available to help and teach you.

Dressing Room Rules. Bonbons, Baby Mice and Little Sisters are the youngest dancers in the cast, and require more supervision and assistance. A *female* parent or guardian should plan on spending all theater rehearsal and performance time with their dancer, other than the performance you plan to watch. **For all other Nutcracker Roles:** Prior to theater rehearsals and performances, a female parent or representative must ensure her dancer is prepared for the performance, including dressing, make-up, hair, checking shoes etc.

Theater Quick-Changes. A quick-change is a costume change that must occur in an extremely short time in a special dressing area backstage. If your dancer has a quick-change, consult with the Quick Change Coordinator to see if she will need your help. You or your dancer should deliver any shoes, hair pins, etc. needed for the dancer's quick change to the Quick-Change station backstage and ensure that all parts of the costume are labeled and in place.

Nutcracker Costs

Tuition and fees must current and all forms must be completed before your dancer may audition.

Non Refundable Audition Fee: \$25.00/ \$40.00 family

The audition fee is due the day of auditions and will not be refunded after you have auditioned. This fee is to cover the teachers and staff on the day of auditions.

Rehearsal/ Performance/ Production/ Fee: \$100.00

Includes rehearsal fees, costume rental (with the exception on the Bonbon's). Bonbon's are required to pay a \$40.00 costume fee, however they can keep their specially ordered tutus. If you know you cannot attend auditions, submit the audition form by September 24th along with a completed *Nutcracker* contract and performance fee to be considered for casting. Please see a Guild officer for the information to be covered at the audition parent meetings.

Boys Performance Fee: \$75.00

Male students of PYBC receive priority in casting, but we will consider relatives/friends of our dancers who wish to perform. No fundraising or buyout fees apply.

Late Audition and Performance Fee: \$150.00

If you miss the audition, submit by Friday September 30th along with completed *Nutcracker* contract to be considered for casting. No additional audition fee is required.

Refund Policy

If for any reason, we cannot cast a dancer who has paid the Performance Fee a full refund will be provided within 14 days of the decision. However, after preliminary casting occurs, if a dancer chooses not to participate in *The Nutcracker* for any reason other than a documented medical inability to participate. No refunds will be given for any fees or fundraising.

Nutcracker Fundraising

Performance Fees and ticket sales cover only some of the expenses incurred to produce *The Nutcracker*. One hundred percent participation by all *Nutcracker* dancers – Company Members and non-Company dancers alike - is critical to ensure *The Nutcracker* is financially viable, and is required by *The Nutcracker* Contract. So each family may help us fundraise in the way that best suits their circumstances and talents, we offer

these options:

Individual Fundraiser Goals

There are goals and buyouts for each *Nutcracker* fundraiser.

For those families looking to keep down their over all cost we like to offer a fundraising option. However for those who choose not to fundraise we offer a buyout option of \$75 per dancer, \$125 family buyout.

Our fundraiser for the 2011 *Nutcracker* will be *Otis Spunkmeyer*. Please see the Fundraiser handout for more details.

Donations

PYBC welcomes and appreciates donations of any level.

We really hope every Company member can sell one ad.

Donations can be made for all or any of the following:

Basket Auction, Program Ads, Cookie Concessions

Optional: Photography and DVDs

No flash photographs or video may be taken during the performances or dress rehearsals. A professional photographer J.Verno will be available to photograph dancers in costume at the studio during the week of November 6th (*tentively*). Only CDs will be available for purchase. The cost is \$50 per CD. Only one pose per CD. Several poses are taken and you may select your pose(s) at the time of the sitting. CDs will be delivered to PYB office and ready for pick up before Christmas.

PYBC will produce a professional DVD of each *Nutcracker* performance, which you will be able to order at a later date. The cost is approximately \$30.

Become a Patron of the Youth Ballet

Pittsburgh Youth Ballet Company is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to giving young dancers the opportunity to work with world-renowned teachers and choreographers, to secure the licenses to perform great choreographic works, and to provide dancers with professional performing experience.

Becoming a "Patron of the Youth Ballet" is the best way to get preferred seating for *The Nutcracker* while providing critical financial support for PYBC. Cost and benefits vary by Patron Program Level chosen. First come, first serve, to pick their level of support Platinum, Diamond, Gold or Silver Patron. Patron tickets are pulled according to the number you receive when turning in your Patron forms.

Patron Benefits

- Choice Preferential "Prime Reserved" or Reserved seating for *The Nutcracker* and Spring Performance.
- Recognition in *The Nutcracker* and Spring Performance programs in your level of Contribution.
- Various *Nutcracker* gifts, depending on level.
- A tax deduction for the amount above the ticket cost minus the value of various gifts depending on level.

Patron Program sign up - Saturday October 22nd

9:00-11:00AM. Company Members Only
11:00 AM. Open enrollment begins

Thanksgiving Weekend

The Nutcracker performances start just *one week* after Thanksgiving. Principal dancers will probably rehearse Sat. Nov. 26th in the afternoon for at least some roles; all casts will rehearse on stage Sun. Nov. 27th. We are aware this schedule affects travel plans for the holiday weekend; however, attendance at these rehearsals is absolutely critical, so please plan accordingly.

"Nutcracker" Dates to Remember

Sept. 24th - Last day to submit Company Application

Sept. 25th - "The Nutcracker" Auditions

Sept. 25th - Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Sale Begins

Sept. 30th - Last day to submit Late Audition Request

Oct. 3rd - Rehearsals begin

Oct. 10th - Last day to submit Company Fee

Oct. 14th - Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Sale Ends

Oct. 22nd - Patron Program sign-up begins

Patron ticket selection forms are due Nov. 1st

Nov. 4th - Patron ticket selection

Nov. 6th - Ticket Sales Open to the Public

Nov. 7th - Otis Spunkmeyer Delivery this week (TBA)

Nov. 7- 10 Optional Photos this week at Studio?

Nov. 11th - Program Ad deadline

Nov. 16th - *Optional Mini Nut. (Small Cast)* Performances at Peters Township Boyce & McMurray Schools.

Nov. 26th - Possible stage rehearsal soloists

Nov. 27th Mandatory Party Scene and other Rehearsals on stage at Upper St. Clair Theater this week.

Dec. 2, 3, 4 "The Nutcracker" Performances at Upper St. Clair Theater Dec 2nd & 3rd 7:00; Dec 3rd & 4th 2:00

Guild Officers

Jill Rosser, President / Treasurer

Amy Gilliland, Vice President

Kelly Donkers, Secretary

Rehearsal Schedules: Please remember to pick up rehearsal information on and underneath the bulletin board when you come in or pick up from rehearsals.

A new rehearsal schedule color or NEW ICON means a major change. Please check your emails or visit our website at: www.pybco.com Please look on the **TOP OF THE HOME PAGE BAR** and click the **Calendars** button then click on the **Rehearsal Schedule** link and/or see the **Google Calendar** for **Company Rehearsals** or **School Classes**.

We hope to see you at the Auditions this Sunday!

Thank you for your continued support!

Jean Gedeon, Artistic Director