

I. Description of the production

A. Date, Time, Place

Friday, Dec. 18 at 8:00pm

Saturday, Dec 19 at 7:30pm

Sunday, Dec 20 at 2:00pm

All shows are at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall

B. Professional Production

This is a professional production with professional dancers from Ballet Hawaii and out of state. Because we will be performing at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall with union backstage crews and the Honolulu Symphony's union musicians, accommodations as well as the amount of time we have in the theater are limited.

Given these limitations as well as the number of shows that will be produced, there will be limited number of parts as we may have only one cast. We will endeavor to choose parts amenable to each child's skill level and temperament; however, that is not always possible. Thus, some children may dance a role they have had before. If time allows, we will select a number of children to understudy for other parts in addition to that which is assigned to them. The success of a performance lies in the commitment and dedication of its participants. Therefore, it goes without saying that all parts are very important to the overall production, no matter what they are.

II. Objectives of the production

As one of Ballet Hawaii's biggest annual events, a major objective is to bring the magic of Christmas to our community through the production of this annual traditional event. More importantly however, the exposure to the professional art of ballet for our young performers is invaluable as this is an enriching experience for them to work with professionals in a professional setting.

III. Expectations of the participants

A. Rehearsals

Rehearsal schedules will be issued with a notification that your child has been selected for the Nutcracker; however the schedules are subject to change. Beginning in October (dates to be announced) until the completion of the performances, rehearsals will generally occur at least once to twice a week for one to two hours and may demand unscheduled time allowances as the performances draw closer. These rehearsals are in addition to usual ballet classes.

Attendance of all relevant rehearsals is mandatory. Only excused absences will be accepted. In order to obtain an excused absence, you must call Ballet Hawaii's office at 521-8600 before rehearsal and explain the reason for the absence. Pam has the discretion to accept or not accept the reason for the absence. Factors such as whether or not the absence could have been prevented will be taken into consideration in the determination as to whether the absence is excusable. Failure to attend rehearsals in an unexcused manner may result in expulsion from the production.

B. Expectations of the Children

The following is non-exhaustive list of expectations:

- ~ Attend all rehearsals and performances in appropriate attire and hair
- ~ Pay attention and behave properly during rehearsals and performances
- ~ Be disciplined, focus, and committed to performing at one's best at all times.

C. Expectations of the Parents

The following is a non-exhaustive list of expectations:

- ~ Make sure your child attends all rehearsals and performances properly prepared
- ~ Volunteer as manpower as specified in Section V for at least one performance or one critical rehearsal, and attend the relevant workshops for your manpower category
- ~ Read all handouts and attend all meetings with respect to the Nutcracker production
- ~ Evaluate and ensure your child's readiness to take responsibilities and commitment to Nutcracker which includes speaking to the child about the rules and expectations associated with the production.
- ~ Accept the Artistic Director's casting decision for your child.
- ~ Ensure the full execution of the production's contract and pay all applicable fees in a prompt manner
- ~ Provide or make arrangements for your child's transportation and chaperoning during Nutcracker related rehearsals, performances, and events.

IV. Auditions and Notifications

Auditions will determine who is offered what roles. Technical ability and behavioral considerations may be factors taken into consideration for selection. There may be only one cast so parts are very limited. Notification will be made by mail within two weeks following auditions informing the selectees which role they have been chosen for.

Responses on whether a selectee accepts the role and responsibilities will need to be returned to Ballet Hawaii within seven days of the notification. The response should be accompanied with all relevant paperwork and payments.

Attending the initial costume fitting is mandatory and all rehearsals including Thanksgiving weekend is mandatory. Failure to attend may result in removal from the production.

V. Volunteer Opportunities

Each manpower category requires approximately 4 hours of time per performance.

A. Make up

Apply theatrical make up to children performers prior to performances.

B. Hair

Perform touch ups on children performers' hair prior to performance.

C. Novelties

Assist in the promotion and sales of Nutcracker/Ballet Hawaii products to the public.

D. Security

Volunteer Opportunities cont.

E. Chaperones

Responsible for selected groups of children backstage.

F. Runners

Assist in communications and details of the backstage production.

G. Costume Sewing/Alterations

Make minor adjustments to costumes for the performers.

H. General Manpower

This generic area fills in where manpower is lacking in the other specified areas.



Ballet Hawaii's Honolulu Nutcracker

Parent Orientation Brochure

**December 18, 19 & 20,
2009**



Nutcracker