

We are excited you have chosen to participate in the Minnesota Ballet's production of The Nutcracker for 2026. Within this packet you will find all information/policies for this year's cast. Please make sure that you read through this packet in its entirety and become aware of everything enclosed.

Rehearsals:

Following Auditions: REHEARSALS BEGIN THE AFTERNOON OF SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 and on SEPTEMBER 20, immediately following the casting announcement.

All rehearsals are considered mandatory. See below for our attendance policy. Unless specified all rehearsals will be held at National Dance Academy (411 Viking Road, Suite C, Cedar Falls). Ladies, please wear a leotard, tights, hair anchored back and appropriate shoes to all rehearsals. Boys, please wear black bottoms, white shirt, and appropriate shoes.

Sundays: October 4, 11, 18, 25, November 1, 8, 15

Rehearsal schedule is as follows: Please make sure you arrive on time and ready to go!

<i>Harlequin, Columbine, Fritz</i>	12:30-1:15 (possibly in other rehearsal sections as well)
<i>Newsboys</i>	1:15-2:30
<i>Travelers</i>	2:00-3:15
<i>Gingerbread/Berry Pickers</i>	3:15-4:00
<i>Carolers</i>	4:00-4:45

Attendance Policy:

Attendance at all rehearsals is the most vital part of making this year's production of the Nutcracker a success. Please don't let your cast mates down by missing rehearsals or being dismissed from the cast.

You will be allowed one excused absence without consequence. You must inform National Dance Academy if you will miss a rehearsal (266.6822 or cedarfalls@nationaldanceacademy.com). If a second rehearsal is missed the dancer must schedule a private lesson to get caught up at the dancer's expense. This must be scheduled within 1 week of missed rehearsal. If a private lesson is not scheduled, or the dancer misses a 3rd rehearsal, this will be grounds for dismissal from the cast.

Costuming:

Although costumes are provided by the Minnesota Ballet, all dancers will be assessed a \$25 costume fee payable to the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. Dancers will also be responsible to purchase their own nude leotard to be worn under costumes, tights, and shoes. All of these items will be available at the Dance Shop at National Dance Academy (All cast will receive a 25% discount in the shop). Dancers will have the chance to be fitted for these items at the October 4 and October 11th rehearsals. If you wish to order your supplies through NDA, families must do so before October 12th. Required attire will be announced ASAP.

Costume Fittings:

Held at the Gallagher Bluedorn, costume fittings are mandatory! Dancers need to come to costume fitting with correct shoes, tights, and undergarments. Dancers should also have hair done if required for fitting.

Fittings on November 16th:

4:45pm: Street

5:30pm: Newsboys

6:00pm: Travelers

6:20pm: Carolers

6:40pm: Berry Pickers

7:10pm: Gingerbread

Tech and Dress Rehearsals:

Company Rehearsal is *held at the Gallagher-Bluedorn* and will be:

November 16, 7:30-9:45 pm

November 17, 6:30- 9:30pm

November 18, 7:00-9:30 pm

November 19, 7:00-9:30 pm

**All call times are subject to change as Minnesota Ballet deems necessary*

Tech/Dress Rehearsals are mandatory! Arrive at ½ hour prior to rehearsal time and ready to go. This is the first and only time dancers will be rehearsing in costumes and with the staging. Dancers shall come to rehearsal as they would come for the performance (correct shoes, tights, undergarment, hair anchored to head, no nail polish, correct stage make-up etc.) We encourage dancers to have their own small emergency kit backstage (hairspray, make-up, sewing needle and thread, spare tights, band aid, etc.) Dancers are expected to stay for the entire duration of the dress rehearsal, as all youth dancers will take a final bow on stage.

Performances:

Dancers need to arrive 1 hour prior to performance time and report to their dressing area. Come with all costume accessories, hair and make-up done. Performance dates/times are as follows:

Friday, November 20, 7pm

Saturday, November 21, 2 pm

Sunday, November 22, 2 pm

Cast Party:

What better way to celebrate than with a cast party with your Nutcracker family. Please join us

Sunday, November 22nd 5:00pm – 6:30pm for cake and juice for your dancer at the newly renovated GBPAC. Families are welcome to attend.

Parent Volunteers:

Parent volunteers are essential to making the rehearsals and performances run smoothly. If you would be willing to help out please contact National Dance Academy at 319.266.6822 or candicevanhove@nationaldanceacademy.com.

Pictures:

A group cast picture will be taken on stage by a professional photographer. These will follow a rehearsal and times will be updated soon. There will be an option for an INDIVIDUAL photo as well.

T-shirts:

Official Nutcracker long sleeve t-shirts will be available for purchase for \$20. T-shirts will be available for order beginning Sept 18th.

Nutcracker Video:

Each dancer will receive an email with a video link of the performance. Please expect this 2-3 weeks post performance.

Ticketing:

You may order Nutcracker tickets by calling: 319/273-4TIX. Ticket prices are \$46 - \$19 and just "A Buck A Kid!" for youth 18 and under.

Contact Information:

National Dance Academy:
candicevanhove@nationaldanceacademy.com

Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center:
kelli.mccarthy@uni.edu