

# *Nutcracker*

*2017*

# *Handbook*

**Information for Performers and Parents**

**STUDIO FOR THE LIVING ARTS  
DANCE COMPLEX**

**Gray Plaza, 21 Portland Rd.,**

**Gray, ME 04039**

**[www.studioforthelivingarts.com](http://www.studioforthelivingarts.com)**

STUDIO FOR THE LIVING ARTS DANCE COMPLEX

*Presents*

THE NUTCRACKER 2017

Dear Parents and Performers,

In this booklet, you will find information about all aspects of the production: auditions, casting, rehearsals, performances, volunteering, and more. Please read over this booklet carefully, as it contains the answers to many questions that you might have. We thank you for making this production happen and hope that you have a fantastic time as part of our Nutcracker family tradition.

If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are looking forward to another wonderful holiday performing season together!

Sincerely,

Susan Cloutier, Owner/ Director

Studio for the Living Arts Dance Complex

(207) 657-3006

**Dancers from any studio are welcome to participate in The Nutcracker  
with faculty Elizabeth Avantaggio and Kate Smedal**

**DETAILS:** Each year Studio for the Living Arts performs a full production of the Christmas classic, The Nutcracker Ballet. Our Ballet students will bring the magical tale of the Nutcracker to life on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at the Westbrook Performing Arts Center. Studio for the Living Arts (SLA) Ballet students in all levels 1-5 will be performing. (Our youngest Tap/Ballet Combo classes do not participate) and dancers from any studio in the community may audition as well. If you are an SLA student and do not wish to perform please let us know by October 1 by email [studiofortheivingarts@yahoo.com](mailto:studiofortheivingarts@yahoo.com).

Two Performances will be held on the same day at 1pm and 6pm. Each performance is approximately 1.5 hrs. in length with one intermission. Nutcracker Holiday Performance Ticket costs are \$22 reserved seating. Families who wish to attend both performances will be offered a discounted combo ticket rate.

All dancers will appear in both performances and some dancers will be double cast. Roles and Cast are assigned by the Artistic Directors: Elizabeth Avantaggio, Katrina Smedal, and Rehearsal Directors.

**NUTCRACKER REHEARSALS** For our ballet students in Levels 1, 2, and 3 their Nutcracker roles are taught at the end of each weekly ballet class during the first semester in a short choreography segment. There are no rehearsals held outside of regular class time with the exception of one or two rehearsals at our studio with the full cast when we get closer to the show. The Nutcracker rehearsal schedule and other Nutcracker details may be found on our website in the Fall.

If you are not available to participate in our Holiday Nutcracker production, Ballet program dancers in levels 1,2,&3 will still learn Nutcracker Ballet choreography in classes as part of their dance education.

**NUTCRACKER COSTUMES POLICIES:** There are no costume purchase fees as all costumes are owned by Studio for the Living Arts and they are loaned to the cast members. Tights and leotard or leggings (if applicable) to be worn under costumes, are the responsibility of the student to purchase. Please note that all tights are purchased at SLA to ensure they are the same brand/color. Un-seamed Tights cost: \$12 children/adult levels 1+2 and Back Seamed Tights cost: \$19adults sizes \$16 child sizes: theatrical pink levels 3-5.

**NUTCRACKER AUDITIONS:** Open Nutcracker Auditions are held at our SLA Dance Complex: Saturday September 23, 2017 at 10am. Dancers from any studio are welcome to audition and participate in our Nutcracker performance.

\*Level 1 and Level 2 do not need to attend Nutcracker auditions.

\*Level 3 students who wish to be considered for casting in extra specialty roles in addition to the role they will be learning in their weekly ballet class must audition.

\*Levels 4+5 ballet students attend auditions if they wish to participate in the performance.

- 5-7 year-olds: We have some roles open for the Nutcracker Party Scene. Please contact us via email ([studiofortheivingarts@yahoo.com](mailto:studiofortheivingarts@yahoo.com)) if your child is interested in being a part of the production.

### \* **ADULT ROLES: PARTY SCENE**

Adults do not need to attend auditions but should complete a registration form to prior the audition date with your intent to participate. We may need adults who would be available for some of the Saturday rehearsals to be in the party scene.

- Each dancer attending auditions will need to fill out an Audition Form (included in this handout). Forms will also be available at the studio. It will save time if the audition form is completed before arriving at the audition.

**NUTCRACKER REHEARSAL FEES** There is a \$45 Production Rehearsal fee that offsets costs for the cast members who will be attending the full calendar of Saturday rehearsals to learn the choreography for their role(s). There is no Production Rehearsal fee for the Level 1, 2, and 3 dancers who learn their roles in weekly classes. The production fee will be billed to the applicable dancers following casting.

- Headpieces and any other small accessories are placed in a zip lock bag . Please return the accessory in the bag which loops over the hanger.
- Communication: Look for our Nutcracker News e-mail which will be sent to the cast. Performers and their families are responsible for staying informed about all aspects of the production. Please be sure to read all communications and respond as needed. If your dancer has an email account please be sure to add that online so they can stay updated as well.
- Rehearsals: Performers and their families are responsible for attending scheduled Saturday rehearsals. They are responsible for staying informed about the rehearsal schedules and informing us immediately about any rehearsal conflicts. Any dancer who misses more than two rehearsals may need to be dropped from the performance. If you are going to miss rehearsal due to an illness or other emergency situation, we expect to be informed BEFORE the rehearsal begins. Call the studio at (207) 657-3006 .
- Volunteering: In order to keep costs down, we rely on parents to help with various aspects of the productions. There are lots of different opportunities, depending on your interests and availability. Sign up information will be sent in October.

On occasions SLA may be asked to perform excerpts from the show at area schools. In that event, SLA students/Nutcracker Guest Cast members are allowed to dance any role they possess for that current Nutcracker season. Understudies may perform an understudy role via approval by the artistic director(s) . Any excerpts from the Nutcracker performances outside of Studio for the Living Arts must be approved by SLA Director: Susan Cloutier. Please inquire.

## **Nutcracker FAQ's**

**What should I expect at Auditions?** Dancers should complete their audition form and turn the form in at the registration desk. After dancers check in on Audition Day they take a short/simple ballet class. Casting takes approximately one week and you will be notified via email once casting is complete. There is no audition fee.

**What should I wear to the Auditions?** Girls should wear black leotards and pink tights , ballet slippers, pointe shoes if applicable. No skirts or sweatshirts. Hair should be secured away from the face in a classical ballet bun. Boys should wear shorts or any pants that are easy to move in, t-shirt, socks and ballet shoes or jazz shoes.

**How long are the shows?**

Each performance will run approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes

**When can we purchase tickets to the performances?** Tickets will be on sale beginning October 14 online. All seating is reserved: \$22 per ticket which includes a \$2 per ticket fee imposed by the Westbrook Performing Arts Center. Students do not need to purchase a ticket as they remain backstage. A discounted ticket for families that wish to attend both performances will be offered.

### **NUTCRACKER 2017 Schedule**

**NUTCRACKER REHEARSALS HELD AT SLADC: REHEARSALS ARE HELD BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9AM–1 PM :** Most dancers are only scheduled to be at rehearsals for 1-2 hours.

We try to keep time commitments to a minimum, therefore it is important to attend all dates.

Performers are only required to be at rehearsal during the allotted time slot for their role. When we get closer to the performance date dancers will rehearse for longer periods when we conduct a full run of ACTS 1 +2

### **NUTCRACKER CALENDAR**

**AUDITIONS : Saturday , September 23, 2017 at 10am**

**IN STUDIO REHEARSALS: Saturday, September 30, 2017**

**NUTCRACKER TICKETS GO ON SALE ONLINE: October 14, 2017**

**IN STUDIO REHEARSALS: Saturday, October 14, 2017**

**COSTUME FITTINGS LEVELS: 1–3 October 16–21, 2017 in class**

**IN STUDIO REHEARSALS: Saturday, October 21, 2017**

**IN STUDIO REHEARSALS: Saturday, October 28, 2017**

**IN STUDIO REHEARSALS: Saturday, November 4, 2017**

**IN STUDIO REHEARSALS: Saturday, November 11, 2017**

**IN STUDIO REHEARSALS: Saturday, November 18, 2017 FULL CAST**

**IN STUDIO REHEARSALS: Sunday Afternoon, November 26, 2017**

**DRESS REHEARSAL @ WESTBROOK PAC 5–8PM , DECEMBER 1, 2017**

**NUTCRACKER PERFORMANCES @ WESTBROOK PAC 1PM+6PM DECEMBER 2, 2017**

- If a student is sick on a rehearsal day please send us an email and call the front desk at (207)657-3006.

# STUDIO FOR THE LIVING ARTS DANCE COMPLEX 2017 NUTCRACKER AUDITION FORM

**Parent Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CURRENT DANCE STUDIO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**YEARS OF BALLET:** \_\_\_\_\_ **YEARS ON POINTE:** \_\_\_\_\_

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▪ I understand that the \$45 production fee will be due prior to the first September rehearsal for applicable students. Production fees cover all rehearsals from September through December . **Studio for the Living Arts, Inc. is not responsible for any personal injuries or loss or damage to personal property, resulting from participation in dance classes and/or "off-site" performances. (Please inform your instructor of any physical limitations which may prevent full participation in class).** I give Studio for the Living Arts, Inc. permission to use photos/videos taken of the above registered student for any advertising and/or promotions.

**Parent Signature (required)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_