

*The*  
**HANOVER THEATRE**  
*for the Performing Arts*

### **Nutcracker Frequently Asked Questions**

**What can my son/daughter expect at the time of auditions?** The audition will be a competitive audition. We will only select the topmost dancers for this production. We have a procedure in the audition process. After viewing your child in a technical ballet class, we will either pass the child on to the next round of call backs, which takes place later on the same day **or**, we will release them after the audition class and unfortunately end their participation. The call back process does not mean that your child has automatically made it into the production. We are specifically “calling the dancer back” to review them as a candidate to perform in the Nutcracker.

**Does he/she need to prepare anything for audition?** No a technical ballet class will be given for all age groups.

**What shall he/she wear for the audition?** Classical ballet attire is required. This includes any color leotard, pink tights, and ballet slippers for girls. No skirts or dance shorts are permitted. Hair must be fastened in a bun. Please make sure undergarments fit appropriately under leotard, no revealing sports bras. Boys may wear t-shirts, black tights/leggings or sweat pants and ballet slippers.

**What are you looking for in the audition? How do you choose a dancer for the roles?** When your child arrives to the audition, they will be participating in a technical ballet class. We are assessing their skill level and ability. This production is a quality ballet production and we are looking to showcase great ballet technique. In the audition, they will be working on barre exercises as well as center practice and combinations en diagonale.

Your child may be chosen for Callbacks after the completion of the audition or they may be dismissed at the end. If they are chosen for call backs, we will re-evaluate them for their skills, ability and now, talent level. We will show them repertoire/choreography from the production and have them dance it before us. Callback does not automatically mean you have been chosen for the production.

If you are dismissed from the audition without having a callback, this means you will not be participating in the production.

**What is the commitment regarding Nutcracker?** If your child is chosen for the production, please be prepared to commit to 11 Saturdays of rehearsal. Depending on your child's role, rehearsal can be a little as 30 minutes to as much as 2-1/2 hours. All general rehearsal and dress rehearsal schedules are posted weeks prior to the auditions for your viewing. The Saturday schedule is consistent in time for every Saturday, we block off the hours of 12:15 to 6:00. If your child is 13+ in age, they may be rehearsing on an additional Wednesday night 5:30 to 9:00 or Thursday night 7:00 to 9:00. A separate schedule is posted on our website (thehanovertheatre.org), on email blast and posted at the school for notification on the information bulletin board. We block off 5:30 to 9:00 on these nights, again for corps de ballet, soloist and principal roles, your child will not be there for the entire rehearsal. Tech week and dress rehearsals are mandatory.

**How much is the participation fee once my child is selected for the production?** There is a production fee for the Nutcracker of \$50.00. This amount covers participation, costume usage and dry cleaning.

**Where and when are the auditions held?** The Hanover Theatre, 2 Southbridge Street, Worcester, MA. Sunday, September 8, 2019.

**Is there a fee for the audition?** There is a \$45.00 cash only fee for all non-Conservatory Students.

**Who do I contact if I have a question regarding the production?** All questions and inquiries should be directed to Miss Stacy, company manager [stacy@stillmoon.net](mailto:stacy@stillmoon.net) or Miss Jen, Director of dance, [jennifer@thehanovertheatre.org](mailto:jennifer@thehanovertheatre.org). Her direct line is 508-471-1794. Someone will get back to you within 48 hours.

**When are the performances for The Nutcracker?** The public performance dates are:  
Friday, November 29 at 7:00 pm  
Saturday, November 30 at 2:00 and 7:00  
Sunday, December 1 at 1:00 and 5:00

All dancers must arrive at the theater 1-1/2 hours before the curtain. Each dressing room will have a sign-in/sign-out sheet.

**How do I show proof of my child's age for the audition?**

All dancers auditioning for the Nutcracker must be born before September 8, 2012. The following documents are acceptable: birth certificate, health form (from your pediatrician), passport, baptismal certificate, etc. You do not need to present the form on the day of the audition; show it to the THTC representative when you submit your paper work before the audition. We will NOT keep these forms.

**My child has auditioned for the Nutcracker, has been accepted, but would like to decline her participation/role. Is there a penalty?** Yes. Unfortunately your child will not be able to

audition for The Nutcracker the following season. There are so many dancers hoping for a chance to participate in The Nutcracker and when we pick your child over another to fill a role, your child loses the chance at being involved as well as the other child not chosen. It just is not fair and the artistic director now has to find someone to fill that role that she does not have.

**When do I submit the \$50 production fee?** Production fees are paid on the first day of rehearsals at THTC. Note: Some roles have their first rehearsal in September and others in October. That is the day the fee is collected.

**My child is in The Nutcracker, can I get complimentary or discounted tickets to the performance?** No, there are no comp or discounted tickets for the performance.

**How can I purchase tickets?** All ticket sales and transactions for the Nutcracker production must be handled through The Hanover Theatre Box office or their online services. There are no special arrangements for families involved with THTC's Nutcracker production. In addition to your sales transactions there is also a discount for members of AAA.

**Do parents purchase tickets for every performance? Or are there discounts for parents.**

Usually, parents choose one or two shows to attend but truly it is up to you how many shows you would like to attend. There are no discounts for parents; however, at The Hanover Box Office, you can receive discounts through AAA.

**What is a headshot?** A headshot is a photograph in which the focus is a person's face. We require a 5 x 7 headshot (color or black and white) from each dancer auditioning for the Nutcracker; **headshots will not be returned to the dancer.** The headshot may be a professional photo, but we also accept school portraits and home photos. It would be helpful to have female dancer's hair in a bun, but not necessary.

**Why does my child have to sign up for ballet clinic?** It is important that THTC presents The Nutcracker like a true ballet company, and in order to achieve that style in 10 weeks' time, we provide the ballet clinic to unify us.

**What is the ballet clinic?** The ballet clinic is a 30 min session of a single focus in ballet technique or artistry. We want to make sure the dancers are receiving the right information and training to achieve the style we are expecting for this ballet.

**When are the ballet clinics scheduled and how do I sign up for them?** The ballet clinics are scheduled on Saturday only. These are the following options:

11:45 to 12:15...if you are cast as a Polichinelle please register for this one.

12:15 to 12:45... Ages 7-11

12:15 to 12:45... Ages 12+

Please register for this required class online at <https://thehanovertheatre.org/Dance.php> . You can also call our Box Office at 877.571.SHOW

**What is the cost for the Ballet Clinic?** The Clinic is \$150, and it will run for 10 weeks.

**Do you need parent volunteers for the production?** Yes! Our entire production relies on our wonderful parent volunteers. We need many parent volunteers to work back stage, in the dressing rooms, with the wardrobe mistress and selling merchandise. Please fill out this portion on your google document that you will fill out for the audition. You will be contact from a lead parent in charge of each department.

**When do parents find out their Parent Volunteer assignments?** It depends on the volunteer duty you assign yourself for. Backstage crew, about one month before the performance, merchandise, about two months before, child supervision, two weeks before.

**Where are rehearsals for The Nutcracker held?** All Rehearsals are held every Saturday at The Hanover Theatre Conservatory, 2 Southbridge Street, Worcester, MA 01608.

**Is there rehearsal Columbus Day weekend?** YES

**Is there rehearsal on Thanksgiving Day?** NO

**Will there be a dress rehearsal the morning of opening night?** For this year, it may be a great possibility. We will be redesigning the show with new set design and props. Some unforeseen errors may happen or we just need more time to practice entrances and exits and/or transitions from one scene to the other.

**Where can I find all the rehearsal schedules?** The rehearsal schedule can be found on The Hanover Theatre web site under The Conservatory tab. A pull down menu will appear and you can select Nutcracker tab option. You will also find these helpful and important documents: [General Rehearsal Schedule for Saturdays](#), [Production and Performance Schedule](#), [Soloists](#), [Principal and Corps de ballet rehearsal schedule](#) and [Costume Requirements](#). The schedule will also be posted at the studio on the bulletin board.

**What is Production week?** Production week is when we move rehearsals from the downstairs studios in the conservatory, to the Hanover Theatre stage to prepare for performing. Production week includes the block and tech rehearsal and the dress rehearsals. The block and tech rehearsal will be on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Female dancers should wear a black leotard and pink tights and have their hair in a bun. Male dancers should wear black t-shirt or leotard with black tights. It is **mandatory** that both casts attend this rehearsal. There will also be two

dress rehearsals during production week; Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> is the dress rehearsal for Cast 1 and Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> is the dress rehearsal for Cast 2.

**Special Note:** The block and tech rehearsal on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> is divided into Act 1 (3:30-6:30 pm) and Act 2 (7:00-10:00 pm). We try our best to stay on schedule but rehearsals may run over the scheduled time frame. **Please be prepared for the possibility that your child will be late coming out of rehearsal, especially for Act 1 roles. Please do not schedule anything on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> in the evening. If your child does not leave rehearsal at 6:30 because we are running late we cannot release her or him to you until we are done. This is part of your commitment to the production. If this is an effort that you cannot commit your child to, we ask that you reconsider auditioning for the Nutcracker.**

**What do you mean when you say Cast 1 and Cast 2?** Cast 1 dancers will perform Friday evening, Saturday matinee and Sunday evening. Cast 2 dancers will perform Saturday evening and Sunday matinee. Both casts will rehearse at the same time during the Saturday rehearsals and both casts will take turns “running” the choreography during rehearsals. Both casts must be present during the block and tech rehearsal on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Cast 1 dress rehearsal is Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>; Cast 2 does not need to attend this rehearsal. Cast 2 dress rehearsal is Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>; Cast 1 does not need to attend this rehearsal.

**What happens if my child is cast 1 and falls ill on performance night, what happens to her role?** No worries here. In this case we would have the dancers who plays her opposite in cast 2 to dance for him/her. We also assign understudies to most roles, especially to the soloist and principal roles, which are double cast.

**What does it mean to understudy a role?** In the theater, a person who learns another's role in order to be able to dance as a replacement at short notice is an understudies. Understudies attend all rehearsals pertaining to their role. They will have a chance to run the choreography during rehearsals.

**Does the understudy automatically receive the role for the next season?** No. Each year brings something different and new. Last year’s understudies do not get special treatment.

**What do you mean when you say Act 1 and Act 2?** The Nutcracker is divided into two acts.

**Act 1 includes:** the Prologue, the party scene (**party children, party parents**, Clara, Fritz, Maid, Drosselmeyer), the battle scene (**mice, rats, soldiers**, Nutcracker Prince, Clara, Drosselmeyer) and the snow scene (**reindeer**, Snow Queen and King, Snowflake corps de ballet, Clara, Nutcracker Prince).

**Act 2 includes:** **Reindeer, Polichinelles, Black and White Sheep, Arabian Attendants**, Clara, Nutcracker Prince, Sugar plum Fairy and Cavalier, Spanish, Chinese, Arabian, Russian, Dew Drop Fairy, Flowers, Mother Ginger and Shepherdess.

**Note:** **Although the Reindeer are in both Act 1 and Act 2, they only need to attend the rehearsal for Act 1 on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>.**

**Does my child need full hair and make up for the dress rehearsals?** Yes, if you or your child needs help applying make-up or doing hair please ask a parent volunteer. Dress rehearsal prepares everyone for the performance and is treated as a performance.

**Is there a cast party?** Yes, the cast party is on **Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>** between the matinee and evening performances. Parent volunteers will be asking for monetary donations to purchase refreshments. Both casts are invited to the cast party. **Please notify us of any allergies your child may have so we may prepare accordingly.**

**Will my child have a costume fitting?** A schedule for costume fittings will be provided. If your child's role is not on the schedule for a Costume fitting she/he will not have a scheduled costume fitting but will be fitted at a later time. **If your child's part is not on this schedule you do not need to come to the costume fitting.**

**When do we need to bring/wear/buy costume requirements?** You may purchase your costume requirements at any time prior to dress rehearsal. Dancers must have all their costume requirements ready to wear for dress rehearsal. Regular dance clothes are all that are required for studio rehearsals.

**What if my child is sick and cannot attend rehearsal or performance?** We do not want sick dancers at rehearsals so please **do not** send your child to rehearsal if she/he is not feeling well. Dancers are allowed two absences from rehearsal. Please contact Miss Jen or Miss Stacy, company manager [stacy@stillmoon.net](mailto:stacy@stillmoon.net) if you child cannot attend rehearsal. It is rare that dancers miss a performance due to illness but if you feel your child is not going to make a performance contact Miss Jen or Miss Stacy manager [stacy@stillmoon.net](mailto:stacy@stillmoon.net) immediately!

**Where do I park at the Hanover Theatre?**

**Federal Plaza Municipal Garage**-570 Main Street-up to one hour \$2.00, each additional hour \$1.00, **Worcester Public Library Parking Lot**-located at Salem and Myrtle Streets-free on Sundays or on street parking can be found near The Hanover on Portland, Federal, Salem and Myrtle Streets. These are metered spots but most meters do not require money on Sundays. Please check all street signs and meters carefully in case of changes in policy; THTC Inc. is not responsible for parking issues that occur during rehearsals or performances.

**Which door do I use to enter the Hanover Theatre?** Always use the backstage door which is located at the back of the theater in the QCC parking lot. The door is not marked and does not have a sign but it is the only door in the back of the theater.

**Will a DVD be available to purchase?** Yes, more details will follow shortly.

**Will there be photos taken before or during the performance?** Yes, Mike Nyman will have portrait sessions during production week at the theater and will take photos during dress rehearsal. All photos will be available for purchase from his web site.

**What should my child bring to rehearsal at the Hanover?** Students should have dance clothes and costume clothes, make up, dance shoes and hair items. They should also bring healthy snacks and water and homework and/or games to occupy them when they are not on the stage. Many students like to bring a blanket or sleeping bag to use on the floor when the seating at the dressing tables gets crowded.

**What about make-up for my child?** We do not mandate a particular brand of make-up but require that students use specific colors of make-up. Stage make-up must be applied much heavier than street make-up. Faces can be appear colorless when in stage lights. The **only** color choices permitted on stage for your face:

**EYE:** white and brown shadow, black eyeliner, black mascara or false eye lashes (optional).

**CHEEKS:** Pinky/Red more on the pink side than red. **LIPS:** Crimson red or red with a hint of brown in it...**NO Bright Red!**

We encourage you to refer to this You Tube video

([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eE\\_o7766rKE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eE_o7766rKE)) for pointers regarding makeup application. The video especially shows precisely how eye makeup should be applied (false eye lashes are not required for the performance). The Hanover Theatre does not endorse or require you to use the products shown in the video.

No nail polish or jewelry!

No underwear underneath tights.

Soloists may wear diamond or rhinestone studs.

**What does my child need for the performance?** Dance clothes, an extra pair of tights, costume clothes, make-up, hair items and a great attitude! This is what we have worked towards for two months so enjoy it. Most students wear a flesh colored leotard under their costume.

**Where do I get curls for the party girl role?** Many students purchase curls online. You can also call other hair stores to see if they carry curls as well. Please remember, you can also take the time to curl you child's natural hair.

**If I am not volunteering can I wait with my child backstage?** No, there will be many volunteers acting as chaperones for the students in the cast of The Nutcracker. Please drop your child off at his/her assigned dressing room and let the chaperone know if there is anything she should know or be aware of. If your child is nervous about being there without you, rest assured there will many other dancers there to keep her company.

**How does it work regarding volunteering and watching student perform?** Usually a parent volunteers for one or two shows. At that time, they do not watch the show.

**If I am a parent volunteer what should I wear?** People working the back stage crew should wear all black. Parents working the boutique, should dress nicely.