

Peninsula Dance Theatre Production

Nutcracker 101

Responsibilities and Guidelines for Parents and Cast Members

Welcome to Peninsula Dance Theatre (PDT.) We are a non-profit 501(C)(3) ballet company. PDT resides in Bremerton Dance Center (BDC) studio space, we share the rehearsal space and some of the artistic staff, but we maintain a completely separate financial portfolio and are governed by a board of directors who are drawn from parents and the community at large. PDT is staffed by volunteers who wish to support the art of dance.

PDT endeavors to maintain high standards of conduct in order to represent our company on a professional level. The responsibilities listed are for the safety of the dancer, the outcome of the final production and the care of the company costumes. Each dancer is responsible for maintaining the company image on and off stage by demonstrating a proper attitude toward fellow dancers and other people helping with the production. With everyone's cooperation, this will be an enjoyable, successful production!

Mission Statement of Peninsula Dance Theatre (PDT):

The mission of PDT is to create and nurture a supportive dance environment by educating and developing dance artists and providing quality dance performance to the Kitsap Peninsula. We promote teamwork, self-discipline, confidence and health; all of which lead to personal success and enrich the entire community.

Parents/guardians:

1. Because your child will be involved in an activity that is run by volunteers, you will be asked to participate in some way to help support the production. We have many volunteer opportunities that will need to be filled by you and sign up forms will be posted. Please see a production staff member about volunteering if you have questions.
2. Be prepared to purchase tickets to the performance if you desire to see the show. We do not give complimentary tickets to Nutcracker. This is PDT's primary source of revenue for the year and the production provides the necessary money to maintain the rest of PDT's season. Without Nutcracker, PDT would not be able to present *Choreography Showcase* or our spring ballet productions.
3. Dancers will not be able to participate in PDT performances if they have a balance due to BDC that is more than 60 days in arrears. In this case, the dancer will be allowed to audition. If the account is not current by the time parts are posted, the dancer will not be assigned a part in Nutcracker.
4. Dancer must be enrolled in at least one ballet class with Bremerton Dance Center in order to be included in a PDT production.

Auditions:

1. Auditions for Nutcracker are announced in the welcome letter that you received when you got your packet at the beginning of the year. They are also announced on the white board, in the hall between studios 1 and 2.

2. Please refer to that letter to see which of the two auditions you should attend. Intermediate and advanced dancers attend the first audition and children under the age of 11 attend the second.
3. You must be at least **7 years old by the performance date, enrolled in Ballet II level or higher, or had at least one year of ballet class** in order to participate in Nutcracker
4. The teaching staff at BDC will have information about Nutcracker auditions.
5. On the day of auditions:
 - a. Arrive at least ½ hour early to fill out necessary paperwork.
 - b. If you are under 18, you will need to have a parent signature on your form.
 - c. Nutcracker audition fee is \$25.00 (Principal dancers will only pay \$5.00) which is due on the day of audition. This covers the cost of costume cleaning and replacement, snacks during performance, and rehearsal costs.
6. Dancers must audition in proper attire.

Girls Hair in a bun, Pink tights, class color or black leotard *for company level*, no holes or runs, no excessive jewelry, clean and tidy ballet slippers (technique shoes), no leg warmers, shirts, skirts, etc.

Boys White shirt, black tights, black or white shoes
7. Parts are posted on the glass windows of the BDC office within a few days of the audition.
8. Rehearsals start the following weekend.

Rehearsals:

1. Attendance to all rehearsals is extremely important not just to the dancer, but fellow dancers as well.
2. Dancers must arrive **10 min ahead** of their scheduled rehearsal time and be in the proper attire. (Same as attire for the audition.)
3. Rehearsal schedules are posted on the white board, in the hall between studios 1 and 2. The schedule is posted for the week on Monday night before classes begin. You are responsible to check the board each week to see when you are scheduled for your next rehearsal.
4. *Generally* the younger dancers will have rehearsals once a week, on Saturdays or Sundays, until the week prior to performance.
5. During the week prior to the performance, technical rehearsals can be everyday for some performers depending upon your part, from Sunday through Wednesday, **be prepared for that commitment.**
6. Make-up seminars for parents and dancers to learn how to apply the Nutcracker make-up will be given about two weeks before performance dates, watch the board for times.

Costumes:

Costumes for Nutcracker are the property of PDT and are “rented” by the dancers. They are issued to the dancers during rehearsals and are to be returned in good condition on the last performance day.

1. Cleaning of the costumes is handled by the costume mistress and her staff, **do not wash Nutcracker costumes**

2. Small repairs to the costumes should be taken care of by the dancers (parents) ex: replace hooks and eyes, small seam rips, small tears in fabric, etc.
3. If the costume repair is major, contact the costume mistress for instruction
4. Do not iron Nutcracker costumes unless specifically told to do so by your costume mistress
5. Dancers may be asked to make alteration to some costumes, be prepared to do small sewing jobs like hemming
6. Dancers will be required to supply their own tights, technique shoes, spankies (waltz and snow corps), and pointe shoes (females)

Hair Care Supplies:

Females: Hairpins or bobby pins, large and small, hairspray, gel, spray bottle of water, brush, fine tooth comb, covered rubber bands, hair nets

Males: Comb and/or brush, hairspray, gel, male members must maintain short groomed hair

Make-up Kits: Foundation, liquid black eyeliner, brown eye shadow, white eye shadow for highlights, cover up stick for shadows, rose colored blush (female), mauve colored blush (male), red lipstick (female), mauve lipstick (male), false eye lashes and glue (female), powder, makeup application brushes, make-up remover, Q-tips, tissues, false eyelashes, (females, Angel Corps and above.)

Performances:

Please check your welcome letter in the packet that you received for performance times. Note that we perform a Nutcracker School Matinee during regular school hours and **you will miss one day of school** in order to participate in Nutcracker. (Angels are the exception.) The young dancers are excited about being in a big production, but please for their safety and for the interest of the company production; they will need to be on their best behavior. Unruliness and disobeying the responsibilities will not be tolerated.

During Performances and Technical (tech) Rehearsals at theatre:

1. Dancers **are not** to arrive to the performance/tech rehearsal or leave from the performance/tech rehearsals in costume or makeup.
2. No food/drink allowed in any dressing room. A dressing room is any space where the costumes are staged (i.e. locker room, dressing rooms and classrooms).
3. There will be designated areas to eat. If you need to eat or drink while in costume, please wear a large shirt or garment to cover the entire costume.
4. Snacks are provided for the dancer, but if you bring your own for yourself or to share, please consider the possible mess this snack can create by young dancers and the damage this mess can cause to the costumes.
5. For the dancer's safety, running is prohibited under all circumstances.
6. PDT **does not** provide a backstage mom/dad during tech rehearsals. A parent/guardian must be available during tech rehearsals to monitor their own child if under the age of 12. If a parent/guardian can not be there during these

- rehearsals, please make prior arrangements with another parent to help monitor your child.
7. During performances, it will be up to the **room mom/dad** to enforce the dancer's responsibilities and keep the discipline needed. If you feel this is not appropriate, please make arrangements for your dancer's supervision.
 8. There is no admittance into the auditorium or the lobby by the dancer, at any time during the day of the performances (before, during, and intermission).
 9. The dancers are to stay in their designated area when they are not on stage, until the end of the performance, at which time they will be allowed to greet guest in the lobby as long as they are in full costume including make-up.
 - a. It is much easier to assemble the dancers for performance and curtain call when they are in their designated area.
 - b. Use the restrooms on the same level as your designated area.
 - c. When back stage, your very, very best behavior is most important. No talking, no running, and do not touch anything.
 10. There is a great deal of down time during the performances, so you as a parent or room mom/dad will need to find things to entertain the dancers to keep them from acting naughty and wanting to play rough and tumble games (i.e. tag, gymnastics, chase, etc). The school has rough walls; slippery/hard floors and serious injuries could result.
 - a. Videos, coloring, and quiet board games are just a few examples to keep the children busy. Please avoid any paints, glue, markers, or glitter; these could be hazardous to the costumes.
 11. Parent/guardian will be responsible to help with your child's make-up. If for some reason you cannot be available to do your dancers make-up for the performance, please make prior arrangements with another parent.
 12. Do not forget your make-up remover wipes, stage make-up shall always be removed before dancers leave the theatre.
 13. Dancers do not wear jewelry, fingernail polish, or anything shiny or flashy in the hair unless it is part of the costume. No eyeglasses may be worn during PDT performances.
 14. Gift giving is optional. Many dancers like to pass out gifts to their fellow dancers that they performed with as a token of "Job well done".
 15. **At no time is there flash photography in the auditorium.** This is dangerous for the dancers.
 16. Parents will not be able to save seats in the auditorium before the show. The auditorium will be cleared of all personal items before the doors open to the audience ½ hour before performance time. If you want to guarantee your seats, please purchase Reserved Seating tickets. You will not be seated in Nutcracker audience without a ticket.

Happy Dancing!