



The Nutcracker 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians and Performers,

The following packet has been put together to help answer any questions you may have regarding the production of ***The Nutcracker***. Additional information will be distributed throughout the semester with regards to rehearsal schedules, parent volunteer opportunities, costume and stage makeup requirements, and other important dates or information.

We will primarily be using email for communicating with parents and performers, so it is extremely important that you provide a reliable email address on the audition and consent form. We encourage any and all questions regarding the production to be sent via email. **We would also recommend that you add our email addresses to your contact list in order to avoid any emails going to your spam or junk mail.** Contact information is listed below for your reference:

Email for Andrew Parker, Artistic Director: aparker@springfieldballet.org

Phone: (417) 862-1343

Website: www.springfieldballet.org

TICKET OPTIONS

There are several ticket options for the 2019-2020 Season. Our Season Patron and Season Tickets are already on sale and may be purchased on Springfield Ballet's website, www.springfieldballet.org. Single tickets go on sale on October 1st and may be purchased through the Landers Theatre box office by calling (417) 869-1334 or at www.landerstheatre.org. Single ticket prices* are \$29-\$31 for adults, \$25-\$27 for students/senior/military, \$21-\$23 for children 12 and under, and \$21-\$23 for groups of 20 or more. *Additional processing fees may apply to single ticket purchases.

WEBSITE PERFORMER PORTAL

On our website, you can access the **Performer Portal** through the School tab or the Performances tab. We will post all of the rehearsal schedules and other necessary information in the **Performer Portal**. **Login password to the Performer Portal** (case sensitive): **Nutcracker2019**

CAST LIST

The Cast List will be emailed and posted on Springfield Ballet's website no later than **Thursday, September 12 at 9:00 pm**. You will find the Cast List in the **Performer Portal**, on ***The Nutcracker*** web page (click on 2019-2020 Season, then on ***The Nutcracker***) and on the School page (click on School, then Current Forms).

Thank you for auditioning for a role in Springfield Ballet's production of ***The Nutcracker***. Being a part of a production can be a very rewarding experience for dancers of any age and offers numerous learning opportunities. ***The Nutcracker*** brings magic and memories to so many both onstage and in our audiences.

Wishing you a happy *Nutcracker* season,
Andrew Parker
Artistic Director



The Nutcracker 2019 Audition and Consent Form

Please fill out **one form per child**. If you have more than one child participating, each child needs their own form.
This form must be turned in before the audition begins.

Dancer's Name _____ Birth Date _____ Grade _____
(As to appear in program)

Academic School (for program, carpooling & 2nd grade performances purposes) _____

Years dancer has studied dance/age dancer began dance training _____

Parent(s) Name (if applicable) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Alt. phone _____

E-mail Address* _____

* Email will be used to provide Springfield Ballet updates including rehearsal schedules, costume fittings, etc. We will NOT give or sell email addresses to outside organizations.

Rehearsal or Production Conflicts: Please refer to the rehearsal times as listed on the Detailed Schedule and on the Rehearsal Expectation sheet. If there are any weekday evenings or weekends you know you absolutely could not attend rehearsals, please note them here. **Be as clear and specific as possible by indicating the date, time (if applicable), and the reason for the conflict.** You may use another page or the back of this page if needed. Please include all anticipated events that are school-related, religious, family events, vacations, etc. Social events (birthday parties, school dances, etc.) may not count as excused absences. (September 19 - December 23):

Previous Roles Performed in Springfield Ballet's production of **The Nutcracker**:

For all **non-Springfield Ballet students**, please list any and all previous and concurrent dance training (attach sheet if necessary).

Dates	Dance School Name	Type of Dance and Level	Hours per week

DVD/Digital Orders and Agreement/Signature on next page



Dancer's Name _____

DVD/Digital ORDERS

This year, we are pleased to offer options to purchase DVDs as well as USB drives which will include a hi-definition digital version of the production!

Combine your DVD/Digital order with your production fee. BOTH Red and Green casts will be recorded. Please check the box below and indicate how many copies you wish to order. We will invoice you for the order total amount with your production fee. (If your dancer performs in both casts, we will contact you to determine which cast you wish to order. Orders will take approx. 12 weeks to process after productions. We will notify you when they are available for pickup.)

Orders will be accepted until Monday, October 14, 2019. NO LATE ORDERS ACCEPTED.

Yes, I want _____ DVD copies x \$20 = \$ _____

Yes, I want _____ Digital copies (on a USB drive) x \$22 = \$ _____

Yes, I want _____ Packages (includes 1 DVD & 1 Digital copy of the same cast) x \$27 = \$ _____

(Production t-shirt and performance flowers are offered by the Guild. Orders for these items will be at a later date.)

AGREEMENT & SIGNATURE

Permission: I, the undersigned parent or guardian, give permission for the above-named dancer to fully participate in all rehearsals and performances of Springfield Ballet's **The Nutcracker** production. I can meet all commitments as listed on the Detailed Schedule. I understand and will comply with the Criteria and Rules for Participation and Rehearsal Expectations and will have my child at all rehearsals and performances, warmed up, in makeup (when necessary) and ready to dance at the dancer's designated call time. I have read, understand and agree to the policies of Springfield Ballet, Inc (SBI). I understand that if my child is cast, I owe the entire production fee, which is non-refundable. I agree to pay any fees for late payments and the service charge for bad checks. I give permission for SBI to take and publish photos and/or videos of my child/myself and to use such photos/videos with no fee to my child or me. I understand and agree that there is a possibility of injury in participating in dance classes, rehearsals, performances or related activities, and that I will not hold SBI, or any SBI faculty member, employee, board member or guest artist liable for any injury sustained or illness contracted while I/my child am/is a dancer at SBI. I exempt, release and indemnify SBI and its agents from any and all liability claims, demands, or causes of action whatsoever from any damage, loss or injury to the student, parent/guardian, family member, or personal property which may arise out of or in connection with participation in any SBI activity.

Dancer's agreement: I, the above-named dancer, understand and will comply with the Criteria and Rules for Participation and Rehearsal Expectations. I will be at all rehearsals and performances, warmed up, in makeup (when necessary) and ready to dance at my designated call time.

Student signature

Date

Parent signature (if student is under 18)

Date



The Nutcracker 2019 Detailed Schedule

All rehearsals will be held at Springfield Ballet, The Creamery Arts Center, 411 N Sherman Pkwy., Springfield, unless otherwise noted.

Thur, Sept 5	7:10-8:00pm (ages 12+, <i>en pointe</i>)	MANDATORY PARENT/PERFORMER MEETING (A parent and the performer must attend either meeting on Sept 6 or Sept 8, but is not needed for both.)
Thur, Sept 5	7:45-9:30pm	Auditions (ages 12 and up, <i>en pointe</i>)
Sat, Sept 7	12:30-1:45pm 12:50-1:45pm	MANDATORY PARENT/PERFORMER MEETING (for participants new to participating in a Springfield Ballet production) MANDATORY PARENT/PERFORMER MEETING (for returning participants) (A parent and the performer must attend either meeting on Sept 5 or Sept 7, but is not needed for both.)
Sat, Sept 7	1:30-2:15pm 2:15-3:30pm 3:30-5:15pm	Auditions (age 5-6) Auditions (age 7-9) Auditions (age 10 and up, not <i>en pointe</i>)
Sat, Sept 7	Various (new this year)	All audition and consent forms are due at the start of the specific audition
Sat, Sept 7		20% off Cookies and Cocoa tickets available for purchase
*Makeup auditions scheduled on a per case basis. Prior to September 4, contact Artistic Director, Andrew Parker at (417) 862-1343 or aparker@springfieldballet.org .		
Sat, Sept 21	Time TBA	Cider Days on Walnut Street Tour Performance—Casting TBA
Starting as early as Sept 19	Various	Rehearsals/Fittings begin as called by director during following timeslots: Thursdays 7:00-9:30 pm, Fridays 7:00-8:30 pm, and Saturdays 12:30-5:30pm
Fri, Sept. 27	7:30-9:00pm	The Nutcracker Photo Shoot with Miles Boyer Photography for marketing materials—invitation only
Mon, Oct 1	Single Tickets on sale! Contact Landers Theatre box office at (417) 869-1334 or www.landerstheatre.org	
Sun, Oct 13	3:00-5:00pm	SWAN LAKE - Children's Workshop (ages 3-8) springfieldballet.org
Mon, Oct 14	ALL PRODUCTION FEES ARE DUE; DVD ORDERS ARE DUE – return to Business Office	
Sat, Nov 2	12:15-2:15pm Specific schedule TBD	Stage Makeup Application —Learn standard stage makeup application and specific character/role applications. MANDATORY for ALL NEW performers and for certain roles (TBD) to ensure uniformity on stage
Nov 2 and/or 3	TBA	Springfield Dance Alliance Fall Concert Tour performance—Casting TBD
Sun, Nov 24	2:00-4:00pm	The Nutcracker Cookies & Cocoa Fundraising Event at Hickory Hills—Casting TBD
Tues, Nov 26- Sun, Dec. 1	Various	Thanksgiving Break (no technique classes) Rehearsal schedule TBD
Sun, Dec. 1	3:00-5:00pm	THE NUTCRACKER – Children's Workshop (ages 3 -8) springfieldballet.org
Dec 6 & 7	Various	Stage Make-up and Performance Case Supply Inventory Check MANDATORY
Sat, Dec. 14	12:30-5:30pm Approx. 1:30-6:30pm	MANDATORY Full studio run-through of <i>The Nutcracker</i> in entirety Cast Party presented by the Springfield Ballet Guild
Sun, Dec 15	TBA	Keep date open for afternoon rehearsals if needed (Schedule TBD by Dec 2)
Mon, Dec 16- Mon, Dec 23	Various	Tech and Performance Week—More Detailed Schedule TBD Schedule below is tentative and subject to change
Mon, Dec 16	5:00pm 5:30 pm-9:30pm	Mandatory Parent and Performer Meeting at Landers Theatre Blocking/Technical Rehearsal at Landers Theatre
Tues, Dec 17	4:30pm-5:30pm 5:30pm-9:30pm	Warm-up at Landers Theatre Blocking/Technical Rehearsal at Landers Theatre
Wed, Dec 18 am	8:00am-2:30pm	SPS 2nd Grade Performances of <i>The Nutcracker</i>, Act II only— <i>Schedule and cast TBD</i>
Wed, Dec 18 pm	5:00pm-6:00pm 7:00pm-9:30pm	Warm-up at Landers Theatre Act I & excerpts of Act II Dress Rehearsal for RED Cast at Landers Theatre
Thur, Dec 19	5:00pm-6:00pm 7:00pm-10:00pm	Warm-up at Landers Theatre CLOSED Dress Rehearsal for GREEN Cast at Landers Theatre
Fri, Dec 20	5:30pm-10:00pm	Performance at 7:30pm at Landers Theatre (RED Cast)
Sat, Dec 21	12:00pm-10:00pm	Performances at 2:00pm & 7:30pm at Landers Theatre (GREEN Cast)
Sun, Dec 22	12:00pm-8:00pm	Performances at 2:00pm & 6:00pm at Landers Theatre (RED Cast)
Mon, Dec 23	12:00pm-4:00pm Approx. 4:00-5:00pm	Performance at 2:00pm at Landers Theatre (GREEN Cast) **Strike to follow for ALL performers age 10+

- All rehearsal schedules and other important information will be emailed, posted on Springfield Ballet's website in the Performer Portal, and posted on the ballet bulletin board at The Creamery Arts Center. Please check for the schedules and information on a regular basis.
- Other tour performance opportunities may arise. Any updated information will be announced via email.
- Dancers also need to be available for **costume fittings** when called. Please check emails, the board and the website on a regular basis to obtain the costume fitting schedule. Most costume fittings will take place during rehearsal time blocks, but sometimes we need dancers outside of those times.



Criteria and Rules for Participation in *The Nutcracker* 2019

Please read over these rules carefully with your child. Signing the consent form to participate implies understanding and acceptance of these rules.

Criteria

1. **Auditions** are open to students 5 years through adult. (Five year olds must be five by August 1, 2019.) Auditioning dancers should be prepared to perform combinations in ballet as directed by the artistic staff for roles in *The Nutcracker*. Proper dancewear and shoes are required.
2. Springfield Ballet **requires** that a parent attend one of the informational meetings with their child(ren) if the dancer is under 18 years of age.
3. Springfield Ballet will provide most of the **costumes** needed; however, each dancer will be required to provide basic dancewear items, including appropriate footwear, tights, and leotards. A damage or replacement fee will be charged for damaged or lost costumes.
4. It is understood that **each participant will maintain a training schedule** appropriate for age and skill-level. This is to ensure a high performance level throughout the production process. Each participant must be currently enrolled in dance classes, not necessarily at Springfield Ballet.
5. All cast members must pay a non-refundable production fee: \$100.00 for Springfield Ballet students enrolled in the Fall 2018 semester or \$150.00 for non-Springfield-Ballet-students. **All production fees are due on October 14th.** Failure to do so may result in a late fee assessment of \$15.00 and/or dismissal from the production.

Rules

1. **Casting decisions** are at the sole discretion of the Artistic Director. Students and their parents must be prepared to accept the role(s) and cast to which they are assigned without question; otherwise, dismissal from the production may result. It is very important that a positive atmosphere be cultivated from the beginning of the production process. Failure to accept a particular role or cast after your child has turned in the consent form will result in not being eligible to audition for Springfield Ballet's 2020 spring production of *The Sleeping Beauty* and *The Nutcracker* 2020.
2. **All rehearsals are mandatory.** Please consult the *Detailed Schedule* and *Rehearsal Expectations* documents for specific dates and times (subject to change as needed). In order to provide a professional experience for students and accomplish as much as possible in a short period of time, all rehearsals are closed to parents. Dancers should wear freshly laundered leotards and tights, have appropriate footwear for each rehearsal and be on time and adhere to all schedules. Dancers should arrive in enough time to give themselves a thorough warm-up and transition into practice. Latecomers run the risk of dismissal from the performance. Professional behavior is expected of every performer at all times. Children must conduct themselves in a quiet, orderly fashion during all rehearsals, costume fittings and performances. No running, pushing, shoving, or abusive language is permitted. No eating, drinking, or sitting in costume. No sitting or standing on counters, pianos, or tables. No touching props or scenery. No disrespect to Springfield Ballet or Landers Theatre staff or supervisors. Children are expected to clean up after themselves in the restrooms, keep track of their personal belongings and place all belongings in designated areas. Theft, vandalism, and graffiti are strictly prohibited and will be grounds for immediate dismissal. Writing in or otherwise defacing the costumes or other Springfield Ballet or Landers Theatre property is also grounds for dismissal.
3. **NO absences are allowed whatsoever from dress rehearsals and performances and NO absences are allowed from rehearsals except for extraordinary situations** (one's own religious ceremony, school required event, short-term injury or illness). Social events will not be considered valid reasons to miss rehearsal. Every anticipated conflict must be brought to the director's attention well before the event (please list requested absences on the Audition and Consent Form). Long-term illness or injury subjects the dancer to dismissal. It is the responsibility of the dancer to remain healthy. If a dancer misses a rehearsal due to short-term illness (1-3 days), the absence may be excused as long as Springfield Ballet is informed before the rehearsal begins. One unexcused absence constitutes grounds for dismissal from the production. Performers who have absences (excused or unexcused) may be asked to schedule a make-up rehearsal with the director or rehearsal assistant. These make-up rehearsals cannot fully replace missing a rehearsal as they are done privately with the director or rehearsal assistant as opposed to with the full group, but may be deemed necessary to ensure the dancer is prepared for the performances. The director will contact the dancer's family should it be determined that a make-up rehearsal is necessary. Cost for the make-up rehearsal is the private lesson rate (\$60 per hour, \$30 per half-hour, \$15 per quarter-hour) and is due at the time of the make-up rehearsal.



The Nutcracker 2019 Rehearsal Expectations

Below is an explanation of what is expected of the dancers with regards to rehearsal time commitments and how many conflicts are permitted. Most roles rehearse 1-2 times per week for 30-90 minutes. Rehearsals and/or Costume Fittings will begin as early as Sept. 19; however, many roles may not begin rehearsing until or sometime in October or early November. As a reminder, dancers are expected to arrive early and be ready to dance at the scheduled time of each rehearsal.

Clara—All rehearsal times

Clara appears in almost the entire ballet, so only dancers who dance at a Ballet 5-7 level and who have very few conflicts will be considered for this role. Expectation for rehearsal commitments is listing a maximum of 1-2 Thursday, 1-2 Friday and/or 1-2 Saturday conflicts. Please indicate on your conflict sheet any individual dates you are not able to rehearse.

Roles to rehearse during Thursday 7:00-9:30 pm, Friday 7:00-8:30 and Saturday 12:30-5:30:

Most of the roles below are typically for dancers in Ballet 3, 3/4, 4, 4/5, 5, 5/6, 6, 6/7, or 7. Many of the roles below are en pointe. **Expectation for rehearsal commitments is listing a maximum of 2 Thursday conflicts, 2 Friday conflicts and/or 2 Saturday conflicts, with no more than 4 total conflicts listed.** All dancers are expected to be available for Thursday and Saturday rehearsals. If you are absolutely not available to rehearse during the Friday time, please indicate that in your listed conflicts with any other individual dates that you are not available to rehearse.

Fritz	Nutcracker Prince	Lead Angels	Russian Trepak
Party Scene Girls and Boys	Mouse King/Queen	Angels	Marzipan
Drosselmeyer's Messenger	Big Mice	Spanish Chocolate	Bakers
	Snow Queen	Arabian Coffee	Gingerbreads
Columbine Doll	Lead Snowflakes	Chinese Tea (Leads)	Dew Drop Fairy
Soldier Doll	Snowflakes	Chinese Acrobat	Flowers
		Chinese Ribbons	Sugar Plum Fairy (2 nd grade perf.)

Roles to rehearse during Friday 7:00-8:30 and Saturday 12:30-5:30:

Most of the roles below are typically for dancers in Pre-ballet, Ballet 1, 2, 2/3, 3, 3/4, 4, 4/5, 5 & Teens/Adults for character roles.

Expectation for rehearsal commitments is listing a maximum of 2 Friday conflicts and/or 2 Saturday conflicts, with no more than 4 total conflicts listed. All dancers are expected to be available for Saturday rehearsals. If you are absolutely not available to rehearse during the Thursday or Friday time, please indicate that in your listed conflicts with any other individual dates that you are not available to rehearse.

Party Scene Parents	Baby Dolls	Little Angels
Butlers/Maids	Big Toy Soldiers	Angel Attendants
Baby Mice	Little Toy Soldiers	

Acting and Character Roles

The director will discuss rehearsal expectations for these roles with the individuals who are cast.

Uncle Drosselmeyer, Dr. Stahlbaum, Mrs. Stahlbaum, Party Scene Parents, Grandmother, Grandfather, Butlers/Maids

IMPORTANT NOTES

- For all listed conflicts, please list the conflict date and the reason for the conflict.
- If you are available for part of a rehearsal time block (for example, on a Saturday you could rehearse anytime from 12:30-3:00, but you are not available to rehearse after 3:00), please indicate that on the form.
- Anyone wanting to list Dec 5- 7 and Dec 12-14 as a conflict needs to get the director's approval prior to October 12.
- Rehearsals may be held during Thanksgiving week on Wed, Nov 27 and/or Sat, Nov 30 (determined by Nov 4).
- No conflicts are allowed for December 14 (studio run-through) or December 16-23 (production week), except for extraordinary circumstances. These will be approved on a case-by-case basis and need to be brought to the director's attention at or before the auditions.
- If you have more conflicts than what is permitted (as listed above), each additional conflict date needs the director's approval. If excessive rehearsal conflicts arise during the rehearsal process, well beyond those permitted, the dancer may be dismissed from the cast, at the discretion of the Artistic Director.
- It is expected that all conflicts are listed on the audition and consent form. Any additional conflicts – school-required event conflicts or one's own religious ceremony conflicts – added after rehearsals begin needs the director's approval. Trips and vacations cannot be added as conflicts after rehearsals begin.
- No conflicts (except sickness) may be added after October 12. HOWEVER, if you already listed the maximum allotment of conflicts, adding additional conflicts later could result in dismissal from the production.



Frequently Asked Questions for *The Nutcracker* 2019

What is the *The Nutcracker* Production?

One of two main-stage productions performed annually by Springfield Ballet

When and where are performances held?

Landers Theater performances are **scheduled for Friday, December 20; Saturday, December 21; Sunday, December 22 and Monday, December 23**. It is a possibility that not all performers will perform in all shows; however, they must be ready to fill in for their alternate in another cast in case of injury or illness. There will be a total of six performances. Additionally, we will perform Act II for all Springfield Public School 2nd graders on Wednesday, December 18, between 8:00am-2:30pm. These will be daytime performances and only dancers in Act II (except for Little Angels) will be needed. Additionally, we will hold closed dress rehearsals on the evenings of Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00 pm (Act I and excerpts of Act II only) and Thursday, December 19 at 7:00 pm.

Who is eligible to audition and participate?

Any dancer 5 years through adult is eligible to audition for *The Nutcracker*. Five-year-olds must be five by August 1, 2019. Students are expected to maintain an appropriate training schedule for their level and to continue attending their regular dance classes as scheduled during *The Nutcracker* rehearsal period.

What is the cost to participate in the production?

The audition is free of charge. If cast, all cast members must pay a non-refundable production fee: \$100.00 for Springfield Ballet students enrolled in the Fall 2019 semester or \$150.00 for non-Springfield-Ballet-students. **All production fees are due on October 14**. Failure to do so may result in a late fee assessment of \$15.00 or dismissal from the production. Springfield Ballet is a not-for-profit organization. The production fee helps to cover the cost of use of the costumes, rehearsal time, and a production poster. Other costs associated with the production are tickets to the performances and personal costume items (see below).

How do I know if my child is ready for this experience?

Ask your child's dance instructor if you are unsure. Dance instructors see sides of a child in the studio that may not be apparent in their home or academic settings. You should plan on not being able to be with your child at all times (during rehearsals and backstage during performance). If you or your child is not ready for this, then please consider waiting to participate at a later time. Please make sure you can meet all of the rehearsal commitments before committing to participate.

How does the audition process work?

1. The dancer will get measured, fill out and turn in the Audition and Consent Form. It is **mandatory** that a parent attend one of the information meetings with their dancer(s) if the dancer is below 18 years of age.
2. Then, students will be put into small groups and asked to perform various steps and combinations as directed by the artistic staff. Consideration will be given to technical and artistic skills, as well as height and size. Feedback will not be given at the audition itself.
3. A casting sheet will be posted by Thursday, September 12 by 9:00pm. We will post the cast list on Springfield Ballet's website, on the bulletin board at The Creamery as well as email it. Please do not call the office for casting information.
4. Rehearsals begin. A dancer's attitude and participation in rehearsals will be taken into account for casting in a specific role.

What is appropriate attire for the audition and what is the attire for rehearsals?

Ladies—Black leotard (pale pink leotard accepted for ages 5-6), pink tights, pink ballet slippers, hair slicked back to a bun, pointe shoes (if applicable)

Gentlemen—White t-shirt, black tights or pants, black ballet shoes with white socks

Once rehearsals begin, all performers should follow the Springfield Ballet ballet dress code for rehearsals.

What if my child doesn't get a part or doesn't get the part she or he wanted?

Please talk with your child about this possibility in advance and emphasize that as long as something is learned from the experience, it is worthwhile. Parents and children must be prepared to accept the role and cast as assigned by the director/choreographer without question.

What can dancers expect to get out of *The Nutcracker* experience?

Children will:

- Learn how to work among several levels of dancers
- Handle their emotions constructively
- Increase their self-sufficiency
- Watch the development of choreography
- Learn and practice dance etiquette in rehearsals, backstage and on-stage
- Observe many aspects of staging a theater production

Do I have to buy, rent, or clean costumes?

No, but a damage or replacement fee will be charged for any costumes returned in poor condition or not returned at all. Costumes are property of Springfield Ballet. Dancers will need to provide their own tights, footwear, leotards, hair accessories, jewelry and makeup. A detailed list of all costume requirements will be distributed in October, and a detailed list of the hair and makeup supplies will be distributed at the Hair and Stage Makeup Application workshop.

What are the rehearsal commitments?

Performing artists **must** be at every rehearsal, on time, for the complete duration of the rehearsal.

- Weekly rehearsals will begin as early as Thursday, September 19. Please see Detailed Schedule. Not all roles will begin rehearsing during this week.
- Rehearsals will be held Thursdays 7:00-9:30 pm, Fridays 7:00-8:30 pm, and Saturdays 12:30-5:30pm. Dancers must be available to rehearse during these times but will not be needed for all times listed.
- All rehearsals will be posted on the bulletin board and emailed no later than the Saturday of the week prior to the next rehearsal week. Please be patient and open to rehearsal times.
- Other times all cast members will need to be at the studio or theater include: costume fittings, makeup workshop, stage makeup and performance case supply inventory check, studio run-through, technical and blocking rehearsals, dress rehearsals and all cast performances. Performers ages 10 and up must participate in strike after the last performance. Please check the detailed schedule.

What are blocking, technical and dress rehearsals?

Blocking rehearsals (usually combined with technical rehearsals) involve placing dancers on stage so they understand where to go and what to do during the performances. Technical rehearsals are done on the performance stage so that the technical crew can set up and design lighting, scenery, props and sound for the actual performances. Even though the dancers have been rehearsing for weeks, it looks and feels different on the real stage. Blocking and technical rehearsals are generally long and tedious because the dancers don't do a lot of "dancing" during them, but they are absolutely essential to successful performances. Dress rehearsals include costumes and makeup, and usually run through the entire performance. All blocking, technical and dress rehearsals are **mandatory** for all performers.

Can parents sit in on rehearsals, especially for their young children?

No. Parents are not allowed in any rehearsals at any time. If a child isn't ready for the rehearsal process, she or he is not ready for the challenges of performance.

If my child misses a rehearsal due to illness, will she or he be dismissed from the production?

No, as long as Springfield Ballet is informed before the rehearsal begins. If Springfield Ballet is not informed before rehearsal begins, dismissal may result. Short-term illness (1-3 days) may be excused. It is the responsibility of the dancer to remain healthy. Long-term illness or injury may result in dismissal.

What if our family has an important, pre-planned obligation that would necessitate missing rehearsal(s)?

Make the artistic staff aware of the conflict at the Informational Meeting and on the Audition and Consent Form, but as a rule, the only excused absences that will be granted will be for a school-required/grade-affected event, one's own religious ceremony, short-term injury or illness, or extraordinary circumstances determined on a case-by-case basis. If you cannot make the entire time commitment (and this includes every part of every rehearsal), please do not plan on participating. The staff makes the same commitment to offer your child this opportunity.

What volunteer opportunities are available for the production?

The Springfield Ballet Guild organizes all production and backstage volunteers. Volunteer positions available include but are not limited to the following: volunteer coordinator, costume assistant, backstage helper, dancer check-in/out, help with cast party, flower shop and boutique helper. If a parent has a skill or talent that could be put to good use for the production, please let us know.