

# THE SCHOOL OF ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

## *The Nutcracker* information sheet

Dates: Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2:00pm and 7:30pm, Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm and 5:00pm

Every year the professional company of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet invites students from the School of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet to participate in this joyous holiday tradition. This is an incredible experience for our young students to work side by side with world class professional dancers. *The Nutcracker* can be a fun, challenging and amazing performing experience for all involved. Please note that unlike our annual recital, which is open to all students and is a showcase of what students have learned throughout the year, *The Nutcracker* is only open to students ages 5 and over, and is an opportunity to work with professional dancers in a professional production, and parts for students are limited.

**How to Sign Up:** Signing up for the Nutcracker only indicates your interest in participating. Please note that there are only 180 roles for students in the Nutcracker. Roles are based on ability, age, size, and stage presence. Often the roles fill up long before the sign up deadline. While the deadline to sign up is September 22<sup>nd</sup>, we cannot guarantee that if you wait til September 22<sup>nd</sup> to sign up there will be roles available. If the roles are filled, interested dancers will be placed on a wait list. To sign up for *The Nutcracker* please login to our parent portal and enroll in the Nutcracker Colorado "class" appropriate to your child's level of ballet, prior to the September 22nd deadline.

Once we have all 180 spots filled, the directors will work to assign everyone a part. When casting is complete you will then be asked to commit to the part assigned, the rehearsal schedule and the performance(s). Once everyone has signed up, casting notices will go out. When you have received your casting notice and have decided to participate, understanding all of the requirements, please fill out the Google Form permission form on our website. Signing the permission form denotes your acceptance of your child's part, performance and rehearsal schedule and Nutcracker fees will be charged at that point.

### **Participation requirements:**

**AGE:** Students must be 5 years of age by November 1. Students who turn 5 in November will be added to a wait list and students who turn 5 after November 30<sup>th</sup> are asked to please wait until next year.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE:** The Nutcracker is a wonderful benefit for actively participating students. Students must be enrolled in and regularly participating in weekly classes by the sign up deadline. **Students in Levels 2, 3, 4, Intermediate and Advanced are expected to make up all missed classes within the month they missed.** Students who have excessive absences from classes will be released from the Nutcracker.

**CASTING:** These are the general parts that correspond to levels. Keep in mind there are occasional exceptions to this general list:

Students in Pre Ballet and Beginning Ballet will be Bee's

Students in Level 1 and some Beginning Ballet students will be Blocks

Students in Level 2 and 3 and occasionally level 4 will be Candy Canes, with some students party girls or boys.

Students in Level 4 will be Mice, Toy Soldiers, and Toys and occasionally party girls/boys

Students in Intermediate and Advanced will be Party Kids, Soldiers, Dolls, Toys and possible

Act II Garland Girls

### **REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE:**

Due to the limited number of rehearsals all rehearsals are mandatory for all parts and age groups

To be fair to everyone we are not able to make special exceptions to this rule. Please do not put us in the uncomfortable position of having to tell you "no" and having to enforce the policy. With 180 children participating in the Nutcracker, we have to ask everyone to abide by the same policy and making special exceptions for some families is unfair. Once casting has been announced, please check the schedule carefully before deciding whether or not to participate.

**When: The Nutcracker performances are December 8-9** with dress rehearsals that week, and a matinee and evening show on the weekends.

**Tickets:** Tickets will go on sale some time in October. Students who are cast in Act 1 may watch Act 2 from the audience (and vice versa) **ONLY** if they have a ticket. The shows often sell out and students without a ticket will not be seated. Email notifications will go out when tickets go on sale.

**Where:** All performances will be at the Aspen District Theater (in the Aspen Elementary School)

**Cost:** There is a \$45 fee to help defray the administrative work as well as to maintain costumes. All costumes remain property of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. The \$45 fee is fully refundable up until the casting is announced and consent forms have been signed. Once you sign the consent form, there are no refunds on the Nutcracker fee.

**More Casting Information:** Casting will be posted on the School of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet website prior to tickets going on sale.

*The Nutcracker* casting is done on a first come/first served basis. Please remember this is a professional production and there are limited parts in *The Nutcracker* for students and students can expect to repeat parts several years in a row.

**There are no auditions.** The Artistic and Executive Directors of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet will choose parts for dancers based on what they are looking for to best suit the show as a whole. Some students may do the same part for many years before the Directors feel they are ready for a different part. **Being in a certain level of ballet does not guarantee a specific part in *The Nutcracker*.** Once the casting has been announced, families will be asked to sign a permission form and make a commitment to being in the Nutcracker. Once the permission form has been received, the \$45 costume fee is no longer refundable.

**Clara:** Clara is the main female character for students in the Nutcracker. Almost every female student hopes to be cast as Clara. There is only one Clara, and occasionally 2 dancers are cast to share the part. Sometimes the students are advanced, sometimes intermediate and occasionally level 4. The dancer needs to fit the character, the costume, and have a high level of technique and acting ability. This means there may be 25 students who are capable of doing the part and only 1 or 2 will get selected. Please help your daughters understand that the chances of them NOT getting to do Clara are higher than the chances of them getting to do it. We encourage students to set goals and to aspire to dance the part of Clara. But some students will get their feelings hurt when they don't get cast in the part. **THIS IS OK.** Learning to cope with NOT getting what you want is as important of a lesson as setting goals and having aspirations and achieving them. Parents, please don't try to FIX it. Please help your daughters understand that it is ok to feel sad or hurt, but it does not mean they are bad dancers or actresses. It is simply that there are more dancers capable of doing the part than there are parts available. Clara selection is completely at the discretion of the Artistic and Executive Directors.

**Performances:** In order to accommodate all the students who would like to participate in *The Nutcracker*, most students will be cast in one (1) performance. A few will be invited to perform in more than one show.