



## 2024 *The Nutcracker* Guide

*What would the holidays be without Ballet Idaho's magical production of *The Nutcracker*? The glittering anticipation begins as soon as the Boise Philharmonic plays the first overture notes of Tchaikovsky's beloved score. The audience is swept into a magnificent party at the Stahlbaums' home, where Clara and her family are celebrating the joy of the season as they await their guests. The mysterious Drosselmeyer brings a life-sized Nutcracker doll, and young Clara is immediately enchanted. When she falls asleep that evening, she is taken on a whimsical adventure through an epic battle with the Mouse King and his army, then to a sparkling snowy forest, and on to the deliciously color-saturated Land of the Sweets. This is a holiday experience to be cherished, year after year.*

Please read and review with your children who are planning to audition and participate in *The Nutcracker*.

Nutcracker Rehearsal Directors: Garrett Anderson, Anne Mueller, and Peter Anastos

Academy Rehearsal Coordinators: Jessica Sulikowski and Denise Najman

Nutcracker BIA Rehearsal Assistants: Sada Ogburn, Madeline Bay, and Alisa Walmsley

Nutcracker BIA Production Assistant: Christina Netane

Academy Wardrobe Supervisor: Keri Fitch

Production Manager: Dan Feith

**Nutcracker Audition (select parts): Saturday, September 7, 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm**

**\$25 Audition Fee and form due by Thursday, September 5**

Please see the separate flier for audition times.

### **2024 Mandatory Company Rehearsals**

November 6 - 9

November 11 - 16

November 27, 29, 30

December 3 - 15

### **2024 Mandatory Performance Dates**

\*Friday, Dec. 6 12:00 pm Student Matinee (Act 1 only)

Friday, Dec. 6 7:00 pm performance

Saturday, Dec. 7 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm performances

Sunday, Dec. 8 12:00 pm & 5:00 pm performances

Thursday, Dec. 12 7:00 pm performance

Friday, Dec. 13 7:00 pm performance

Saturday, Dec. 14 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm performances

Sunday, Dec. 15 12:00 pm & 5:00 pm performances

**A production fee of \$120 for all cast members is due November 1, 2024.** This covers academy costume maintenance, rehearsal assistance, and other BIA production expenses.

**Ballet Idaho studio rehearsals will begin Friday, September 13.** Generally, rehearsals will be on Friday evenings and/or Saturdays (depending on part) throughout the production.

\* Please note that parents are asked to not wait on premises during rehearsals to avoid overcrowding in the halls and lobby areas. Parents who wish to stay may request permission with Christina Netane at the front desk.

**Rehearsal Schedule Posting** - Each Tuesday, a schedule for the following weekend will be emailed and posted. We will make every effort to stick with the general layout, however, there are times when rehearsals need to change due to conflicts and parts needing more time or less time. Cast members must remain flexible. *The Nutcracker* is a professional production and a huge undertaking with many moving parts, requiring the full commitment of each cast member. If a student is going to miss a rehearsal or part of a rehearsal due to outside commitments, please contact Jessica Sulikowski at [jsulikowski@balletidaho.org](mailto:jsulikowski@balletidaho.org). **Missing more than one rehearsal will jeopardize student participation, and the student may be cast as an understudy.** Absences for extenuating circumstances will be approved by Jessica Sulikowski.

-If a student is ill, email Denise Najman: [dnajman@balletidaho.org](mailto:dnajman@balletidaho.org), & call: 208-343-0556.

-Students must be on time for all rehearsals and stay for the entire duration.

-Students must adhere to all policies and regulations in the BIA Handbook.

**Nutcracker Rehearsals with the Company** will occur in the few weeks prior to *The Nutcracker* performances. Mandatory dates are listed above. These are very important and will be long days.

**Tech Week - Theater Rehearsals are expected to begin on Tuesday, December 3.** A detailed production schedule will be posted in late November when the production department confirms its schedule. Students should expect to be in the theater afternoons and evenings from Tuesday afternoon onward. Some parts will be called for daytime rehearsals.

**\* COVID-19 and BI Company / AGMA (American Guild of Musical Artists): Ballet Idaho will align with health guidelines put forth by AGMA. The academy will follow suit as it relates to *The Nutcracker* rehearsals and performances. Students will be required to wear a mask during rehearsals leading up to performances and backstage.**

**Casting and Ticket swaps** Casting will be finalized in November. Please, be aware that there will be multiple casts for certain roles and students might not be in every show. As soon as casting is released, you may swap your *The Nutcracker* tickets with our Patron Services Manager. Please, do not purchase tickets through a third party. We will not be able to swap them.

### **Morrison Center Guidelines and Policies**

**Drop-off** Students should arrive at their designated call time, enter through the backstage entrance and check in (down the hall and to the left). **Young children** must be escorted to the check-in table by a parent or guardian. Volunteers will escort children to their assigned dressing rooms. Morrison Center policy DOES NOT allow parents past the check-in point. Parents/guardians are responsible for signing their child in and out and will be requested to leave a contact number, where they can be reached throughout the duration of the rehearsal.

**\*\* IMPORTANT!** Please do not drop your student off any earlier than their designated call time, as there will not be any chaperone available. Morrison Center Policy does not allow unattended students backstage.

**Pick-up** Students are picked up at the check-in table by a parent or guardian. When possible, specific pick-up times will be listed on the schedule. We must be able to contact parents/guardians at all times when their child is at the Morrison Center. **Parents or guardians should be available for early pick-up.**

**Parking** For all rehearsals, the Brady Parking Garage will be available to parents, cast members, and volunteers. You will be issued a parking code prior to production week that will enable free parking.

**All Academy students** must be in curriculum dress code with hair up for all tech/spacing rehearsals at the Morrison Center. Students must stay in their assigned dressing rooms and remain quiet in dressing rooms, hallways, and backstage. All students must be respectful and listen to volunteers and chaperones at all times.

**Food, Drink, Organization of...** Make sure that your child has had a nutritious meal and is well-hydrated before every rehearsal and performance. All food and drink brought to the theater should be labeled with the student's name and will be kept by the check-in table. Dancers will be able to eat at designated times and in designated areas. No food or drink, except water, is allowed in dressing rooms. **Absolutely** no eating or drinking in costume (except water). Please remind your student to collect any unused food and water bottles and take them home after rehearsal. Unused food items will be disposed of each evening.

**Eyeglasses on Stage** For safety and aesthetic reasons, students will not be permitted to wear eyeglasses on the Morrison Center stage during rehearsals and performances.

**Closed rehearsals** It is the policy of both Ballet Idaho and the Morrison Center that all rehearsals remain closed to the public. Backstage volunteers cannot watch from the wings unless authorized to do so.

**Young Dancers** are assigned to specific dressing rooms where they remain the majority of the time when not on stage. The **dressing room chaperones** escort young children to and from the bathrooms and snack breaks. At least one chaperone **MUST** remain in each dressing room at all times while children are present. **Runners** escort children to the stage entrance door when directed to do so by the Academy Director or another designated person. Runners will then escort them back to their dressing rooms after their stage time. Children must remain quiet and attentive to all directives.

**Up-to-date documents** will be posted to BIA's student and parent portal at <https://balletidaho.org/academy/bia-student-parent-portal/>

**Optional *The Nutcracker* Q&A for parents/guardians and students:**  
**Saturday, September 14th, 2:00 - 2:30 pm**

**Hair and makeup** We will schedule a hair and makeup lesson for *The Nutcracker* cast members. Hair requirements are listed in the chart below.

Female Makeup Requirements:

Ribbon Candy Fairies, Sailors, Bakers, Party, Pages: stage makeup and mauve lipstick

Mini Mice, Lambs, Battle, Unicorns: light stage makeup

**Costumes** Please refer to the guide below for each part. Costumes are not to be removed from backstage. Due to the limited number of dance retailers in the area, please think ahead regarding the need for tights, slippers, and any other undergarments. BIA will check that all cast members have required members prior to tech week.

All items highlighted in yellow must be purchased and provided by the dancer.

REQUIRED shoes, tights, & undergarments	Shoes	Tights	Leotard	Hair	Make up
Party Girls	**Matching skin tone	*Mariia matching skin tone	Skin tone thin strap	Mid bun or flat bun if in Battle, no part	Matte skin, stage makeup, mauve lipstick
Clara	**Matching skin tone	*Mariia matching skin tone	Skin tone thin strap	Mid bun, no part	Matte skin, stage makeup, mauve lipstick
Boy Party	Black canvas slippers	White	White T-shirt, dance trunks	Neatly styled	Light stage make-up
Girls as Boys	Black canvas slippers	White	Skin tone thin strap	Flat mid bun, no part	Light stage make-up
Mini Mice	Pink	Pink	Skin tone thin strap	Flat mid bun, no part	
Soldiers, Cavalry	Black canvas slippers	Black socks over	Skin tone thin strap	Flat high bun	Light stage make-up
Battle Mice	Pink canvas slippers	Pink	Skin tone thin strap	Flat mid bun	
Unicorns	White slippers	White	Skin tone thin strap	Flat bun	
Sleigh Pages	White slippers	White	Skin tone thin strap	Flat bun	Light stage make-up
Ribbon Candy Fairies	Bare foot	Shorts	Skin tone thin strap	Flat mid bun	Matte skin, stage makeup, mauve lipstick
Bakers	Pink	Pink	Skin tone thin strap	Flat high bun	Light stage make-up
Lambs	Pink	Pink	Skin tone thin strap	Flat high bun	Light stage make-up
Sailors	**Matching skin tone	Bare legs	Skin tone thin strap	Flat mid bun	Matte skin, stage makeup, mauve lipstick

**\*Required Tights** All dancers in specified roles will be required to purchase these specific tights this year.

Mariia: Girls True Bare Mesh Back Seam Convertible Tights

Children's sizes: T/S, M/L (Skew number MTB15C)

Adult sizes: S/M and L/XL (Skew number 815)

Mariia has 6 available colors to choose from. Dancers must choose the color closest to their skin tone. Please, visit the front desk for color matching. Tights are available for purchase at [www.DiscountDance.com](http://www.DiscountDance.com). Ballet slippers must match tight color.

\*\*BI's costume shop will dye shoes that need to be matched to skin tone. A separate form for necessary roles will follow. Pink canvas ballet slippers will be due **November 15, 2024**.

## Signature Page

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Ballet Idaho rehearsal procedures, and Morrison Center guidelines and policies in the 2023 Nutcracker Guide, and that I have reviewed them with my student prior to the rehearsals beginning.

**Student Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

THIS SIGNATURE PAGE MUST BE RETURNED TO THE FRONT DESK AT  
BALLET IDAHO BY **Saturday, September 21, 2024.**