



2026 *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.*

Rehearsal Directors: Garrett Anderson, Anne Mueller, and Peter Anastos
Academy Rehearsal Coordinator: Jessica Sulikowski
Academy Rehearsal Assistants: Sada Ogburn, Madeline Bay, Alisa Walmsley, Amanda Wiley
Academy Production Assistant: Christina Netane
Academy Wardrobe Supervisor: Keri Fitch
Production Manager: Dan Feith

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

Nutcracker Auditions & Orientation for Parents/Guardians and Students:

\$35 Audition Fee and online form due by Thursday, September 10

Primary 2 (ages 7+) - Intermediate

Saturday, September 12, 12:00-3:00 pm
Registration: 12:00-12:30 pm
Audition: 12:30-2:30 pm
Orientation: 2:30-3:00 pm

Ballet 4, Intermediate, & Advanced

Saturday, September 19, 1:00-4:00 pm
Registration: 1:00-1:15 pm
Audition: 1:15-3:30 pm
Orientation: 3:30-4:00 pm

2026 Mandatory Performance Dates:

Friday, Dec. 18	12:00 pm (student matinee performance) & 7:00 pm performance
Saturday, Dec. 19	2:00 pm & 7:00 pm performances
Sunday, Dec. 20	12:00 pm & 5:00 pm performances
Tuesday, Dec. 22	7:00 pm performance
Wednesday, Dec. 23	2:00 & 7:00 pm performances

2026 Mandatory Company Rehearsals:

Nov. 30- Dec. 4	4:15 pm and later
December 7-12	M-F 4:15 pm and later, Saturday 11:15-5:15 pm
December 15-18	Midday and evenings at the Morrison Center

Documents & Communication:

Find up-to-date schedules and documents on our [BAND app](#) and [live spreadsheet](#). Email will be the main form of communication.

Fees:

A production fee of \$120 for all cast members is due November 1, 2026. This covers academy costume maintenance, rehearsal assistance, and other BIA production expenses.

Commitment:

Every dancer who participates in *The Nutcracker* is expected to be fully committed to the production. Each and every role is important. Each dancer is expected to arrive promptly for rehearsals and performances and to be ready to dance. Commitment to the performances also means agreeing to abide by all the rules of conduct which are specified in this handbook.

Rehearsal Schedule:

After auditions, the schedule for the next few weeks will be released. Ballet Idaho studio rehearsals will begin Saturday, September 26 and will occur EVERY Saturday (except Thanksgiving week) through production. Most rehearsals will be held on Saturdays with some parts rehearsing midweek and the full cast rehearsing Monday-Saturday starting the end of November through the performances.

Attendance Policy:

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 Christina Netane at cnetane@balletidaho.org **NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10. Missing more than one rehearsal will jeopardize student participation and the student may be cast as an understudy. If you are unable to attend required rehearsals, we kindly ask that you do not participate.**

Absences for extenuating circumstances may be approved by Christina Netane.

Mandatory Nutcracker rehearsals with the company will occur in the few weeks prior to *The Nutcracker* performances.

Drop off and Pick up:

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. Students should not arrive more than 15 minutes prior to the start of their rehearsal and need to be picked up within 15 minutes of rehearsal ending. If dancers have a break in between rehearsals, they have to wait respectfully and quietly in the back lobby or they may leave and return on time.

Student Policies:

Students must be on time and prepared for all rehearsals and stay for the entire duration. Pay attention to all corrections and review your choreography before each rehearsal. Students must adhere to all policies and regulations in the BIA Handbook.

Dress Code:

All Academy students must be in the curriculum dress code, including hair in a bun for females, for all rehearsals. Skirts and shorts are not allowed. For safety and aesthetic reasons, students will not be permitted to wear eyeglasses on the Morrison Center stage during rehearsals and performances.

Tech Week:

Theater Rehearsals are expected to begin on Tuesday, December 15. A detailed production schedule will be posted in early December 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. We will distribute a school excuse letter.

Illness:

We kindly ask that if you have a respiratory illness or are feeling unwell, do not come to rehearsals. You may return if for 24 hours your symptoms have improved **and** you have not had a fever. For the 5 following days, BIA may ask you to wear a mask out of precaution. Cast members, staff, and visitors may be asked to wear a mask if the CDC metrics within Idaho indicate high risk for respiratory illnesses. **If a student is ill and will miss Nutcracker rehearsal, email Christina Netane: cnetane@balletidaho.org.**

Casting and Tickets:

Once casting is finalized and released in early December, there will be no changes unless extenuating circumstances. There will be multiple casts for almost all roles so students might not be in every show.

No one will be allowed into the audience without a ticket.

If a dancer is new to a role or the production, they may be asked to understudy the role. Understudies should attend ALL rehearsals to assigned roles.

Parent Participation and Volunteerism:

In order for our show to be a successful experience for the children involved we rely on the parents of our children's cast to provide backstage support. Our parent volunteers will oversee an assigned group of children, helping them get into and out of costume, ensure they are where they need to be and instill good backstage behavior and stage etiquette. Parent volunteers will strictly be helping during their assigned show and will not be able to watch that specific performance. We ask that each family provide one parent (female please) as a "backstage mom" for one or more shows. By all families contributing we ensure the success of the show. A sign-up form will be emailed at a later date; show volunteer slots are filled first come, first serve.

Parent participation is also encouraged to make sure that the dancers arrive promptly, are ready for rehearsals, and are picked up on time. It is very helpful for the parent to take a positive attitude toward the role that their child is given. Parents can help their child realize that all parts are important in making a quality production, and that being cast in a role is an important accomplishment in itself.

Morrison Center Guidelines and Policies:

Drop off, parking, theater policies, and schedules will be released prior to theater week.

We will schedule a hair and makeup lesson for *The Nutcracker* cast members. Hair requirements are listed in the chart below. A makeup requirement list will be provided in December.

Costumes:

Please refer to the guide below for each part. 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. Dancers will need to attend their scheduled fitting.

****Required Skin-tone Matching Tights** for select roles: All dancers in specified roles will be required to purchase these specific tights from the BIA front desk. Revolution: New Color-Flow Convertible Tights, RD70002. Revolution Dance has many available colors to choose from. Dancers must choose the color closest to their skin tone. **Please, visit the front desk for color matching on the day of your audition.**

***Required Shoes:** All dancers in specified roles will be required to purchase these specific shoes from an online retailer.

Ballet slippers must match dancer's tight color.

Classic Pink, Porcelain: pink canvas shoes dyed with light beige powder foundation to match tights

Warm Sand: Capezio Hanami, Nude

Light Tan: Bloch Performer, Sand

Dark Tan, Suntan: Capezio Hanami, Light Suntan

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

Role	Shoes	Tights	Leotard	Hair	Makeup
Party Girls	*Matching skin tone slippers	**Revolution matching skin	Skin tone thin strap	Mid bun or flat if in Battle, no part	Matte skin, stage makeup, mauve lipstick

		tone			
Clara	*Matching skin tone slippers & pointe shoes dyed to match tights	**Revolution matching skin tone	Skin tone thin strap	Mid bun, no part	Matte skin, stage makeup, mauve lipstick
Party Boys	Black canvas slippers	White	White t-shirt, dance trunks/shorts	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 slippers	Pink	Female: Skin tone thin strap leotard. Male: white t-shirt, dance trunks/shorts	Flat mid bun, no part	
Soldiers, Cavalry	Black canvas slippers	Black socks over	Skin tone thin strap	Flat high bun, no part	Light stage make-up
Battle Mice	Pink canvas slippers	Pink	Female: Skin tone thin strap leotard. Male: white t-shirt, dance trunks/shorts	Flat mid bun	
Unicorns	White slippers	White	Skin tone thin strap	Flat bun	
Pages	White slippers	White	Skin tone thin strap	Flat bun	Light stage make-up
Fairies	Bare foot	Pink tights cut into shorts	Skin tone thin strap	Flat mid bun	Matte skin, stage makeup, mauve lipstick, false eyelashes
Bakers	Pink slippers	Pink	Female: Skin tone thin strap leotard. Male: white t-shirt, dance trunks/shorts	Flat high bun	Light stage make-up
Lambs	Pink slippers	Pink	Skin tone thin strap	Flat high bun	Light stage make-up
Sailors	Pointe shoes dyed to match tights	**Revolution matching skin tone	Skin tone thin strap	Flat mid bun	Matte skin, stage makeup, mauve lipstick, false eyelashes
Mini Variations: Chocolate, Marizpan, Flowers	*Matching skin tone slippers	**Revolution matching skin tone	Skin tone thin strap	Flat mid bun, no part	Mascara, blush, mauve lipstick
Mini Variations: Nougat	Black slippers	Pink or black	Female: Skin tone thin strap leotard. Male: white t-shirt, dance trunks/shorts	Flat mid bun, no part	Mascara, blush, mauve lipstick