

Nutcracker 101

Act 1	Party, Magic Mice, Battle Scene, and Land of Snow
Act 2	Land of Sweets, Angels, Variations, Polichinelles, Waltz of the Flowers
Act 1 Run-Through	Clara, Prince, Rat King, Snow Queen, Drosselmeyer, Battle, Snow, Party
Act 2 Run-Through	Clara, Prince, Prologue, Polichinelles, Angels, Spanish, Arabian, Chinese, Russian, Marzipan, Walts, Dew Drop, Chinese Dragons, Attendants and Corps dancers
Angel Scene	Pointe Angels, Angels, Cherubs
Battle Scene	Clara, Prince, Drosselmeyer, Rat King, Soldiers, Battle Mice
Chinese Scene	Lead Chinese, Demi Chinese, Dragons
Dream Scene	Clara, Prince, Drosselmeyer, Magic Mice
Finale	Spanish Lead, Arabian, Marzipan Lead, Chinese Lead, Russian Leads, Dew Drop, Snow Queen, some Polichinelles (TBA)
Library Performance	An event held at the Bryan Library with two mini performances. Due to limited space, the roles used at this event are selected and invited to participate via email.
Marzipan Scene	Lead Marzipan, corps
Party Scene	Clara, Prince, Rat King, Drosselmeyer, Party Girls, Party Boys, Little Brothers/ Little Sisters, Party Teens, Dolls (will rehearse separately and join the scene in rehearsals at Act 1 Run-Through), Party Parents
Prologue	Spanish Lead, Arabian, Marzipan Lead, Chinese Lead, Russian Leads, Dew Drop, Snow Queen, some Polichinelles (TBA)
Russian Scene	Lead Russians, corps
Snow Scene	Clara, Prince, Snow Queen, corps
Variations	Spanish, Chinese, Arabian, Marzipan, Russian, Dew Drop, Snow
Waltz	Dew Drop Fairy, Flower Fairies, Rosebuds

Nutcracker FAQs

Q: Why does the rehearsal schedule change from week to week sometimes?

A: We have found that the choreography is easier to learn in parts, and then added together as it starts to complete a scene. This also allows for fewer kids standing around waiting to dance.

Q: Why are only some dancers invited for special events like the Library and other performances?

A: We are blessed with a large cast, and almost always space is the limiting factor. We hope dancers will continue to grow. We have seen many examples of dancers not being invited to perform one year, but asked the following year.

Q: Why can't we take pictures in our costumes at the performances?

A: We hear this so much, and to help support our families, we started offering Individual Pictures for parents to purchase photos of their dancer(s) in their costumes. We have this rule for several reasons; **1.** Safety of the dancers, we cannot allow dancers to check out and check back in and feel confident we are doing our best to maintain safety. **2.** We own our costumes and want to keep them from getting makeup on them, stepped on and torn, or otherwise damaged.

Q: Does a dancer need to have been in The Nutcracker before to earn a Lead role?

A: Absolutely not! We have open casting so that every dancer can showcase their talents as of Audition Day.

Q: Why is the classical ballet bun so important?

A: Not only does the technique of wearing a hairnet, pinning the bun, and keeping it flat keep hair out of the dancer's face, and look nicely, it is part of the long-standing tradition of classical ballet.

Q: My dancer earned one role last year, and is really wanting to be in a different role this year. How do I help him/ her?

A: This truly needs a two part answer! **1.** The Nutcracker is a ballet. If your dancer wants to improve, we often recommend adding more ballet classes if possible. Even one more ballet class per week can make a significant improvement on technique. **2.** Please talk to your dancer about the joy of being part of such a special production, with less emphasis on the role(s). Most professional dancers are cast as the **same** role for several, sometimes many, years in a row!

Q: Why do you require all families to volunteer 8 hours during the season? A: We have a volunteer Board of Directors, artistic directors, teachers, and an administrative assistant. That means that much of the work that goes into this scale of a production needs the help of volunteers.

Q: Why do we have to pay to park at the parking garage for the performance? A: Great question! We are not able to secure the entire campus garage because other events are happening at the same time. Our patrons pay to park because the university does not allow us to operate any other way.