

Sierra Madre

DANCE CENTER

2024 Nutcracker Auditions and Performance Expectations

This year, Sierra Madre Dance Center's upcoming cast of *The Nutcracker* will perform on December 6th (morning showtime) through 8th. As the years have progressed, the bar for this classic, Christmastime performance has risen exponentially for our studio. We are grateful to have reached a point where we are able to put on a pre-professional show, with elevated choreography, elaborate costumes and props, and even have some industry professionals join the cast.

Because of the studio's progress, we have reached a position that allows us to follow the traditional route of basing casting upon students' technical skill level, available costume sizes, prop quantity, and students' height levels, since this show is primarily composed of group ensembles. Each of these elements works to create a cohesive, seamless performance brought to life by the dancers. We are excited to host auditions this August and shape a cast that will create a memorable Christmas experience.

This being said, we want to also remind families that while we encourage all who are interested to audition, **not everyone who auditions will receive a role this year**. This is not an unusual aspect of the audition process, nor does it imply that a student shouldn't audition the next year. **Casting is heavily based upon availability of roles, amount of costumes, and dancer height**. We are also looking for dancers who portray a high level of choreography retention, technical ballet ability for their level, a positive attitude and have demonstrated consistent attendance in classes. Additionally, we want to inform families that once roles are cast, commitment to rehearsals is **imperative** and will begin immediately.

For those interested in auditioning for this year's show they will be working at the barre, in the center floor, as well as learning an age appropriate ballet combination to determine their ability to retain choreography and acting skills. Please arrive at least 20 minutes early for the audition, dressed appropriately in a leotard, tights, ballet shoes, hair in a neat bun, and with an 8x10 headshot of your dancer.

Thank you, families, for your understanding and eagerness to join us for this upcoming performance season! We look forward to seeing your dancers shine on the stage.

SMDC 2024 Nutcracker Audition Details



Audition: Saturday, August 24th 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm (by age) \$30

1:00 - 2:00 pm: 6-7 years old

2:00 - 3:30 pm: 8-10 years old

3:30 - 4:30 pm: 11 and Up

**No video auditions; students auditioning must be physically present.*

**All students must be actively enrolled in at least one ballet class for those 6-8 and two classes for those 9 and up.*

Audition Details:

- ❖ Please sign up your child for their age appropriate audition time. **Students must be 6 by audition day.*
- ❖ Please arrive 20-30 minutes prior to audition time to check in and warm up.
- ❖ Check-in will take place at the front of the studio.
- ❖ Must sign Nutcracker Contract (listed below)
- ❖ Must attend an in-person audition; individual auditions will NOT be held.
- ❖ Bring a color, 8x10, headshot of your dancer to help shorten the check in time.

Rehearsal Commitment:

Weekly rehearsals will be required of all cast members. Performers must have a high level of choreography retention and are responsible for knowing the choreography that has been assigned to them. Watching, and re-watching, the previous year's production is very helpful in learning the choreography.

Performers must be present for:

- ❖ **"All-Cast Rehearsals"**: Saturday, November 23rd - Tuesday, November 26th.
- ❖ **"Show Week Rehearsals"**: Monday, November 27th - Thursday, December 3rd
- ❖ We currently do not have **rehearsals scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend**, November 27th - December 1st, but reserve the discretion to schedule them if needed for specific groups.
- ❖ Optional, but strongly encouraged, classes by level will be offered on November 30th (times TBD). Having your dancer not dance for 5 days before show week can be detrimental to their muscle memory they have worked so hard for.

Rehearsal Absences - If your dancer is absent from their assigned rehearsal, they will need to learn their missed choreography from a classmate or video. Private lessons for missed choreography will not be available. Dancers may have one excused absence during our 12 weeks of rehearsals. If a dancer misses two or more rehearsals, their role will be re-cast and your dancer may not be allowed to participate in the production.

Please notify us on the Nutcracker contract below of previously scheduled potential conflicts.

Friday and/or Saturday Rehearsals will begin September 6th and 7th.

There will be 12 mandatory Friday & Saturday Rehearsals 9/6 - 11/23.

Rehearsals will tentatively be:

Marzipan: Friday 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm

Tea Leaves: Saturday 10:45 am-11:30 am

Party Scene: Friday 4:45 pm - 6:00 pm

Snow: Saturday 11:30-12:30

Battle Scene: Friday 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm

Angels: Saturday 11:30 am-12:00 pm

Polichinelles: Saturday 10:00 am-10:45 am

Arabian: Saturday 12:30 pm-1:15 pm

Waltz: Saturday 10:30 am-11:30 am

Spanish: Saturday 1:15-1:45

****Subject to change and some roles may require additional rehearsals.***

Additional Single Cast and All Cast Rehearsals: (in studio)

- ❖ November 23, 25th & 26th
- ❖ December 2nd, 3rd, & 4th
- ❖ Tech Rehearsal: December 5th (at San Gabriel Mission Playhouse)

Cast Pictures, October 20th: LK Studios will be taking pictures of our cast again this year.

Times will be determined later and an email will be sent out as we get closer. We would love all of our cast members to be able to participate so please block off that date now.

TENTATIVE AS OF JUNE 5TH

Additional Info:

- ❖ If your child will be participating in another activity that requires his/her regular attendance on Saturday and/or Friday evenings in the fall and for the all cast rehearsals, Nutcracker is not for you.
- ❖ Rehearsal times are generally given in advance, usually via email or through the app. Some rehearsals will be for your child's specific part and others will involve an entire act, and may require his/her presence for a couple of hours.
- ❖ Children may bring books, games, or electronic devices for their personal entertainment while waiting for their rehearsal time as long as it is not a distraction to the rehearsal. We are not responsible for loss or damage to personal items.
- ❖ You MUST pick up your child by the final scheduled end time.

Costumes:

- ❖ If any costume comes back damaged and cannot be used for future performances the family will be charged an additional fee to cover the replacement of each costume.

Finances:

- ❖ \$250, non-refundable Cast Fee, to be paid by September 1st. This fee includes 20 rehearsals and the costume rental fee which covers the use and maintenance of each costume.
- ❖ All shoes, tights, and make-up are furnished by the dancer's family.
- ❖ Tickets will be sold for the performances, with more information to come.

Health Clause:

- ❖ If your child is sick during our rehearsals or performance week, please notify us as soon as possible.
- ❖ During Nutcracker Season, please remember to take care of yourselves and your personal health! We want to maintain a healthy and happy environment for all of our cast members.
- ❖ **If a dancer voluntarily drops out once the role has been accepted, there will be no refunds to performance fees and a re-choreography fee of \$100 will be applied to your account.**

The Nutcracker show needs parents (or any family members), too!

- ❖ Adult family members interested in appearing in the production as Party Guests can email us at info@sierramadredancecenter.com.
- ❖ Family members interested in set building or who are skillful at costume alterations and fundraising can email us at info@sierramadredancecenter.com.

Below is the **contract** that each dancer auditioning must **sign** and **return** at the time of their audition.

Here are the expectations of the performers and family should they receive a role in this year's production:

As a Dancer, I am willing to:

- ❖ Work to understand choreography and music through scheduled rehearsals, which includes: being responsive and respectful to the choreographer and doing independent work on the development of my role.
- ❖ Value my expression of the choreography through movement and dance technique.
- ❖ Work in a cooperative and supportive manner with other dancers, choreographers, and parents.
- ❖ Accept the role that is given to me, knowing that the teachers know my abilities, strengths, and weaknesses.

Rehearsals and Performances:

- ❖ Expected to attend all weekly rehearsals, which will be assigned once parts are given out. Each dancer has one (1) excused absence for their rehearsal time.
- ❖ Dancers should arrive **10-15 minutes early** for rehearsals so they have time to warm up.
- ❖ Any unexcused absences are subject to cast changes.
- ❖ Must accept roles assigned to them since they are assigned with consideration for their level of development, their specific capabilities and the requirements of the overall production.
- ❖ Should your circumstances change during this contract, please schedule a meeting with Ms. Amie.
- ❖ ****Parent's agree to sign a check over to SMDC of \$100 per child, once rolls are cast. If 15 hours of volunteer service is met then the check will be returned to the family. If volunteer hours are not met then the check will be deposited at the end of Nutcracker season.**

SMDC 2024 NUTCRACKER CONTRACT

Please print and fill out one contract per performer and include an 8x10 headshot of your dancer.

Student's Name: _____

Age as of August 24th : _____ Audition # (you will receive at audition): _____

Parent's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Potential Schedule Conflicts 8/7 - 12/7: (Note that a lot of conflicts may result in not being cast)

Please understand that being part of The Nutcracker requires a great deal of commitment and sacrifice from lots of people; the students, the parents, and the teachers. We all must be committed to making this performance one to remember!

I, _____, **(student's name)** agree to attend all rehearsals dressed in proper ballet attire. If I miss a rehearsal, I will need to learn the choreography I missed before my next rehearsal. I understand that if I do not know my choreography, I may lose my role. I agree to practice all my choreography at home, so that I am prepared at each rehearsal.

I, _____, **(parent's name)** agree to have my child at all rehearsals, on time and dressed in proper ballet attire. I agree to pay a \$250 participation fee and give a **\$100 check as a deposit for volunteer hours by Sept. 1st.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____