The Nutcracker, A Kansas Ballet 2026
-Performer Packet-

Welcome to *The Nutcracker, A Kansas Ballet 2026*

We have assembled a genuinely spectacular cast! This performer packet contains helpful information about our production and your role in it. It includes production staff info, tips for a smooth enrollment, useful vocab for those new to the show, and performer expectations. We hope you find this information helpful, whether you're a seasoned Party Scener or a first-time performer. We hope you have a magical Lawrence Nutcracker experience!

Production Description

The production is based on E.T.A Hoffman's original story and is set in Lawrence, Kansas, during the Civil War era. This newly envisioned ballet production tells the story of how Drosselmeyer and Clara liberate the Nutcracker from the clutches of the Mouse King. This family production is for audiences of all ages.

Important Dates

***All Rehearsals are MANDATORY**

- Oct 4 | 6pm – Cast List announced online and performer information made available
- Oct 16 | Production Enrollment due date
- Oct 24 | Rehearsals start for most roles (please check rehearsal schedule carefully)
- Oct 24–Nov 21 | Regular rehearsals
- Nov 25–29 | No Rehearsals – Thanksgiving Break
- Dec 5–10 | Full cast Tech/Dress Rehearsals – (Time TBA)

Performance Dates:

- Dec 11 | Performance #1 @ 7pm
- Dec 12 | Performance #2 & #3 @ 2 & 7pm
- Dec 13 | Performance #4 & #5 @ 2 & 7pm

Tickets, T-shirts, and Video

- T-shirt pre-orders, Video Downloads, and Tickets will be available for purchase online and at the front desk. Link is posted to the performer hub.

Dress Rehearsal

Each performer will be allowed to invite one guest to the final dress rehearsal. We will likely open up additional seats for $15 to the public. More details about this will be announced in early November.

How to Enroll (Deadline: Oct 16)

- **All applicants cast in *The Nutcracker, A Kansas* Ballet, are required to enroll in the production by Friday, Oct 16** or risk forfeiting their role. For those who decline their role, we kindly ask that you inform **The School of Dance** at **dance@lawrenceartscenter.org.** Enrollment can be completed at the Front Desk, conveniently online, or by calling 785-843-2787. For LBT members, scholarship students, adults, or those applying for Financial Aid, their enrollment can only be processed at the front desk.
- **The enrollment Fee is non-refundable,** including circumstances where a cast member cannot perform (injury, illness, etc.)

Performer and Caregiver Expectations

Communications

This year, we will be streamlining communication by implementing the Remind phone app. This will be in addition to email communication but will allow us to communicate more quickly and succinctly for important updates. Throughout the rehearsal process, Tech Week and performances, performers and parents should anticipate weekly email updates/texts from the Production Coordinator. Important announcements and documents will also be posted to the Performer Hub.

Download the Remind app here: https://www.remind.com/apps

Join the Nutcracker 2026 Remind group here: https://www.remind.com/join/fdnut26

Who to Contact

For urgent matters, please call 785-843-2787. For concerns and general questions, email the School of Dance at dance@lawrenceartscenter.org.

Scheduled Rehearsals

Attending all assigned rehearsals and events is mandatory. Rehearsals occur at different times and locations for different groups. Please refer to the Cast Rehearsal and Performance Schedule for complete schedule details. If we need to change the schedule, a revised version will be made available. The rehearsal schedule is available online, via email, and posted on the board outside the School of Dance studios. Understudies are to attend all scheduled rehearsals for their understudy role.

For any rehearsals at 10th and Mass the Access Code is: 7851# . Save this!

Child Pick-Up Policy

Dancers 5th grade and below: Parents must pick up their child(ren) at the studio's door or other designated area at the end of each scheduled rehearsal/event.

Late Pick-Up: If you will be late, please call the front desk at 785-843-2787. A late fee will be assessed if any students remain in the building more than 10 minutes after pick up.

Required Attire

Cast members are required to wear proper dance attire, with hair pulled securely back, during all rehearsals. We highly advise the performer's name written in their shoes and attire. Rehearsal attire is as follows:

- Female Identifying: any style leotard, pink tights, and ballet shoes.
- Male Identifying: black dance tights/leggings/athletic pants, a plain white shirt, black ballet or jazz shoes, and a dance belt (only if wearing tights).
- Gender non-conforming: matched listed attire to create a uniform that feels comfortable and productive.
- Adults: athletic or non-restrictive clothing & shoes that are appropriate for dance.

Performers who need assistance in procuring dance attire/shoes should contact the School of Dance as soon as possible. Loaner shoes are available in the dressing room outside of the dance studios of the main building.

****Required performance shoes and attire will be announced to the cast by Nov. 1.**

Beginning Tech Week, all performers must bring select hair/makeup supplies and undergarments (specific tights, trunks for ballerinas) to rehearsal. The Lawrence Arts Center is not responsible for providing the following products: shoes, undergarments, makeup, bobby pins, hair ties, combs or hair brushes, or hair spray. All performers are responsible for providing their own supplies. A detailed list will be compiled by the Costume Designer and released via email in November.

How to Volunteer

Parents/Caregivers are expected to volunteer throughout the run of the show. Please fill out this form by October 18. Parent Volunteers (PVs) are an essential part of any production; a solid and robust PV Community helps ensure that all the details of the production can come together as smoothly, safely, and professionally as possible. Please carefully read through the different categories! We appreciate your willingness to help! As we figure out when and where we will need volunteers, we will keep you in the loop. **Please note that starting Fall 2023, all Parent Volunteers will be required to submit for a background check before volunteering.**

COSTUME TEAM

- Costume attendants work closely with the Costume Designer to construct, tailor, mend, or organize costumes for the production.

HAIR & MAKEUP TEAM

- Hair/Makeup attendants work closely with the Hair and Makeup Consultant to style hair and apply makeup to our performers.

SECURITY & ROOM MONITOR TEAM

- Safety and Communication is Key to the production! Room Monitors and Security provide a safe environment for our cast.
- During Tech Week/all team members work closely with the Production Coordinator to ensure that performers and their costumes are checked in and checked out. Room monitors will ensure performers are ready for their call in complete costume.
- Security helps deescalate security issues and notifies the Production Coordinator of any emergency.

Helpful Vocab!

Call-Time - the actual time you are required to be at the theatre or rehearsal studio, ready to start work. Remember, "If you're early, you're on time!"

Rehearsal - a practice of a dance or a play

Dress Rehearsal - the final rehearsal of a live show, in which everything is done as it would be in an actual performance.

Tech Week - the week before the opening night of the production, in which all the technical elements (such as costumes, lights, sound, set and makeup) are present during rehearsal for the first time

Artistic Director - The person responsible for selecting and interpreting the works performed by a theatre, ballet, or opera company.

Choreographer - a person who composes the sequence of steps and moves for a performance of dance

Stage Manager – a performer's Boss! Also, the person responsible for the lighting and other technical arrangements for a stage play.

Parent Volunteer – a person who freely offers to participate in an enterprise or undertake a task; also the Volunteer Coordinator's best friend!

Tchaikovsky – Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was a Russian composer of the romantic period, some of whose works are among the most famous music in the classical repertoire. He is the composer of the famous Nutcracker score.

Contact Us!

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