

Asheville Ballet 2025-2026 NUTCRACKER Contract

Dear Asheville Ballet Families and/or Nutcracker Families,

1) **Performance Fees** for the Asheville Ballet Season:

FALL SHOW (September 12-13):	\$150
NUTCRACKER (Dec 11-14):	\$250
(Winter Creatures/Little Angels: \$150)	
SPRING SHOW (May 15 & 16):	\$200
FULL SEASON (all three shows):	\$500
NUTCRACKER AND SPRING SHOW:	\$375

Please sign this contract and return it along with your payment no later than September 26 for Nutcracker. Make checks payable to *The Asheville Ballet*. Performance fees are paid per dancer, and help cover the cost of Asheville Ballet rehearsal space rental and utilities, Rehearsal Assistants, Wortham Center space rental, technical staff (sound, lights, stage manager, house manager, technical director), costume and set refurbishing, new costumes as choreography changes, as well as many other things critical to the success of these wonderful productions. Therefore, we appreciate your prompt payment.

2) **Attendance:**

You must be on time and ready to dance at the scheduled time of your rehearsal. This means be warmed up! **Rehearsals will be held Friday and Saturday afternoons (Fridays between 4pm and 9pm, and/or Saturdays between 2:45pm and 8:45pm, depending on roles)**, with special parts sometimes scheduled on Sunday afternoons (eg. Waltz of the Flowers).

IMPORTANT: Block out your calendars now for tech week (Mon-Wed, Dec 8 – 10), studio dress rehearsal weekend (Dec 5 – 7), and for the three Sundays preceding Nutcracker.

Important for parents: *Please be ready to pick up your dancers promptly at the time their rehearsals are scheduled to end, especially if theirs is the last rehearsal of the day.*

Nutcracker: Mandatory rehearsals include tech week Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, Dec 8th, 9th, and 10th, from 4:00-8:00pm, plus studio dress rehearsal weekend (Friday, Dec 5th, Saturday, Dec 6th), as well as some Sundays, including November 23, November 30, and December 7. Regular rehearsals will be held Friday and Saturday afternoons beginning as early as September 26 (Fridays between 4pm and 9pm, and/or Saturdays between 2:45pm and 8:45pm, depending on roles), with special parts sometimes scheduled on Sunday afternoons (eg. Waltz of the Flowers). **For Nutcracker, there may also be a mandatory costuming fitting for each role**, on a weekday afternoon to be determined.

Nutcracker rehearsals for children may be scheduled in brief 15 or 30-minute blocks of time, so it is crucial that you plan to arrive early so you do not miss your rehearsals.

Important: No child under age 9 may be dropped off for rehearsal without express permission from a choreographer or staff member. Arrangements for your child's care may of course be made with other families.

*****If you miss more than 2 regularly scheduled rehearsals you may be removed from the performance *****

All absences and schedule conflicts must be submit in advance via email to dance@ashevilleballet.com, if you did not already include them in your audition form.

If you are injured, you can still come to rehearsal and watch. The artistic team will have the responsibility and right to determine at which point rehearsals are being slowed by your non-participation. If they determine that the show is in jeopardy, they may need to remove you from the production. With all that said, please know that **we really want everyone to dance!**

Please do not attend rehearsal if you have cold symptoms or are positive for COVID. If someone in your household is positive for COVID, please wear a mask in rehearsal. If you are recovering from illness, please wear a mask in rehearsal until your symptoms are gone. You will not be penalized for missing rehearsals due to illness. More info on our COVID/illness guidelines below.

3) **Rehearsal communication:**

It is your responsibility to check your email for information on rehearsals (time changes, extra rehearsals, cancellations for weather or other reasons), performance opportunities, costume fittings, etc. Rehearsal schedules will be emailed weekly. *Please make a filter to send emails from dance@ashevilleballet.com to your inbox every time – some email providers like to grab our emails and send them to spam. You will also need to check your email regularly for rehearsal videos and other urgent updates coming from your choreographers directly.*

4) **Scheduled Performances:**

Nutcracker public showings: Friday, December 12 at 7:30pm; Saturday, December 13 at 2:30pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, December 14 at 2:30pm at the Diana Wortham Theatre at Wortham Center.

*****AND Nutcracker School Show:** Thursday, December 11th at 9:30am at the Diana Wortham Theatre at Wortham Center. Students must be excused from school (excuse forms available). **All performers must be present for the school show, as for all other shows. *****

5) **ALL performers (who are not “Party Parents”) must take at least 2 technique classes per week, at any studio, at least one of which should be Ballet. Pointe dancers must take additional Pointe technique classes.** (Dancers ages 4 – 9 may take a single weekly class;

for dancers ages 7 – 9, it should be Ballet.) If you fail to attend your Technique classes, you may be removed from the production.

- 6) All performers may be photographed and filmed for use in Asheville Ballet promotion.
- 7) **Performers will be responsible for providing some of their own costume pieces** (eg. nude camisole leotard for every female dancer, tights, shoes; and for the Nutcracker, things like curly hairpieces, bike shorts, and additional ballet shoes). Other costume info available in the costume needs chart by role, which will follow.
- 8) **Please review our current COVID guidelines for Nutcracker rehearsals and performances as of 8/12/25** (and please be aware that our protocols may need to evolve, and that updates will be made as needed):
 - a) Please do not attend rehearsal if you have cold symptoms such as fever, sore throat, cough, loss of taste or smell, or shortness of breath, or if you are positive for COVID.
 - b) If you are recovering from illness, please wear a mask until your symptoms are gone.
 - c) If someone in your household is currently positive for COVID, please wear a mask in rehearsal.
 - d) If a dancer is coughing (or exhibiting cold symptoms) in rehearsal, the rehearsal director will ask them to wear a mask, for everyone's well-being and peace of mind.
 - e) Wash your hands and use hand sanitizer when you arrive for rehearsal, and before you leave the space.
 - f) Bring your own water from home. The drinking fountain will not be in use. There are gallons of water for refills. If you forget your water bottle, there are small cups available in the lobby.
 - g) Please be aware, there may also be situations in which we have to remove dancers due to illness, so please go into this production with the awareness that there could be factors outside your or our control that prevent you from performing on a given date.
- 9) **Please review our Nutcracker Community Guidelines.** We are proud to work and dance with you all and want to share with you some of our values, so we all have a wonderful, happy, season.
 - a) Please show kindness and respect to everyone involved in the production, including costumers, rehearsal directors, Wortham technical crew, raffle volunteers, stage door monitor volunteers, parents who supervise in dressing rooms or help backstage, choreographers, your fellow dancers, and yourselves.

b) Please be present at all scheduled rehearsals and arrive early to warm-up. (And please remember that traffic can be unpredictable, especially on Fridays, and plan accordingly.) Remember that you do not attend rehearsal solely, or even primarily, for your own memory and repetition, but rather, your presence helps everyone retain and review material and spatial patterns, and allows the choreographer to see the whole picture.

c) Please remember that we are a diverse community and have varied backgrounds, cultural contexts, and lives. Respect differences and remember that each person has value, even if their beliefs, practices, or lifestyle choices are different from what you might be used to.

d) If you sign up for a professional production, you sign up for the rules. It's a serious privilege to dance in a production and a community like this. Thank you for considering these things as you think about being involved this year. And we hope you will be!

I have read and I accept these conditions for membership in The Asheville Ballet.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name	Signature	Date
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Dancer Printed Name	Signature	Date
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YES! I am interested in volunteering

I can: (please check) ☐ transport props/costumes
 ☐ make phone calls
 ☐ assist with sales in the lobby during intermissions
 ☐ sell ads
 ☐ ushering
 ☐ monitor stage door or green room door
 ☐ **Or** add your special skill _____

If you need to let us know about any absences or schedule conflicts, or if you have other questions, please email us at dance@ashevilleballet.com. Thank you!