

ASHEVILLE BALLET

2026 The Nutcracker

DANCER PERFORMANCE CONTRACT

Please sign or digitally sign the contract below and return to dance@ashevilleballet.com by **October 15, 2026**.

By signing below, the dancer and parent/guardian acknowledge and agree to the following terms and conditions for participation in **Asheville Ballet's The Nutcracker 2026**.

1. PERFORMANCE FEES

Performance fees are **per dancer** and help offset the cost of rehearsal space and utilities, rehearsal assistants, venue rental, technical staff, costume and set refurbishing, new costumes as choreography evolves, and other production expenses essential to the success of this performance.

Dancers

- FALL SHOW (September 18-19): \$175
- NUTCRACKER (Dec 10-13): \$275
- (Winter Creatures/Little Angels: \$175)
- (Party Adults: no charge)
- SPRING SHOW (May 14-15, 2027) \$225
- FULL SEASON (all three shows): \$600
- NUTCRACKER AND SPRING SHOW: \$450

Payment Due:

Please sign and return this contract (hard copy and digital signatures are accepted) **with full payment (cash or check) no later than October 15, 2026**. You may also email digital and/or clear photo of **all pages** of completed contract to dance@ashevilleballet.com.

Make checks payable to: *The Asheville Ballet*

Drop-off or mail payment to:

The Asheville Ballet
4 Weaverville Highway
Asheville, NC 28804

2. ATTENDANCE & REHEARSAL COMMITMENT

Mandatory Parent/Dancer Meeting

A mandatory meeting will be held on **Saturday, September 26, 2026, from 2:45–3:45 p.m.** at Asheville Academy of Ballet.

Attendance is required for:

- All dancers age 18 or older
- At least one parent or legal guardian of each dancer under age 18

Dancers regularly cast as Party Parents are exempt from this meeting if they have previously performed in Asheville Ballet's, *The Nutcracker*.

If you are unable to attend, you must notify Asheville Ballet in advance at dance@ashevilleballet.com to arrange another option.

Attendance Requirements

- Dancers must be **on time and fully warmed up** for all scheduled rehearsals.
- Rehearsals are typically held:
 - **Fridays** as scheduled by individual roles between 4pm-9pm
 - **Saturdays** as scheduled by individual roles between 2:45-8:30
 - **Sundays** - occasional, as needed per individual roles

Important: Please prepare 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.

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.

Mandatory Rehearsals – *Block Your Calendars Now!*

Please reserve the following dates now. Attendance is mandatory for all dancers called to rehearse:

- **Rehearsals begin:** As early as Friday, October 9, depending on the dancer's role
- **Halloween weekend rehearsals:** Friday, October 30–Sunday, November 1
Rehearsals **will be held throughout Halloween weekend**, and dancers must remain available for any rehearsals scheduled for their roles. Rehearsals will be distributed across the weekend to allow time for holiday activities and help ensure that rehearsals do not run too late on Saturday, October 31.
- **Thanksgiving weekend rehearsals:** Friday, November 27–Sunday, November 29.

Rehearsals on Friday and Saturday will be scheduled based on dancer availability and the needs of each role. **Sunday, November 29, will be our first full run-through and is mandatory for all participating dancers.**

- **Mandatory Sunday rehearsals:** November 22, November 29, and December 6
- **Mandatory studio dress rehearsal weekend:** Friday, December 4–Sunday, December 6
- **Mandatory tech week:** Monday, December 7–Wednesday, December 9

Conflicts with required rehearsals must be disclosed and approved in advance. Casting and continued participation may depend upon consistent attendance.

Note: There may be a need for costuming fitting for each role on a weekday afternoon, to be determined.

3. ABSENCES, ILLNESS, & INJURY

Attendance Policy

Consistent attendance is essential to the success of the production. Dancers are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals for the pieces in which they are cast and to communicate any unavoidable conflicts as early as possible.

Dancer and parent/guardian (if dancer is under 18 years old) must review and initial each guideline below.

_____ Dancers may miss **NO MORE THAN TWO REHEARSALS** during the *Nutcracker* rehearsal period. Families are strongly **encouraged to reserve these absences** for circumstances that are truly necessary. Using both absences early in the season does not provide additional flexibility if later conflicts or emergencies arise.

_____ **All known attendance conflicts should be indicated on the Audition Form—including** school concerts, holiday events, travel, family commitments, and extracurricular activities. **Families are responsible** for carefully reviewing all school, activity, travel, and holiday calendars for the **full rehearsal period**.

_____ We have reviewed the [**ABSENCE REQUEST FORM**](#) and understand that **any** missed rehearsals and/or absence requests, not indicated on Audition Registration Form, must be submitted via this form **before** the dancer misses rehearsal in order to be *considered* an excused absence. We also understand that submitting this form **does not** guarantee approval for an excused absence.

_____ We will be **taking attendance at every rehearsal**. While we are collecting individual availability on the Audition Registration Form, we *cannot guarantee we can work around specific schedules and rehearsals should be treated as a priority commitment*.

_____ **Injured** dancers are expected to attend rehearsal to **observe**. Artistic staff reserve the right to determine if non-participation jeopardizes the production and may remove the dancer if necessary.

_____ **Approval of a late absence request is not guaranteed.** Decisions will be based on the reason for the request, the dancer's attendance record, the rehearsal being missed, and the needs of the production.

_____ **Unapproved absences, absences exceeding the two permitted, or missed mandatory rehearsals may result in a change of placement, modification of the dancer's role, removal from a section of choreography, or removal from the production.**

_____ Illnesses, injuries, and genuine family emergencies will be **considered individually**. Families should **notify the artistic team as soon as possible** when an unexpected absence occurs. An emergency arising after a dancer has used the two permitted absences will be reviewed case by case and does not automatically guarantee that the dancer's role or placement can remain unchanged.

_____ **Removal** from a piece due to excessive absences, lack of preparedness, failure to meet rehearsal expectations, or any other artistic or disciplinary reason is at the discretion of the artistic team. **Performance fees are non-refundable.**

4. REHEARSAL COMMUNICATION

It is the dancer's and parent's responsibility to:

- **Check email regularly** for rehearsal schedules, updates, cancellations, costume fittings, videos, and urgent notices
- Weekly **rehearsal schedules** will be **emailed and posted** at the studio.

Please add **dance@ashevilleballet.com** to your contacts to make sure you are receiving all email communications

5. PERFORMANCES

Public Performances — Diana Wortham Theater at Wortham Center for the Performing Arts

- Thursday, December 10 at 9:30am
- Friday, December 11 at 7:30pm
- Saturday, December 12 at 2:30pm and 7:30pm
- Sunday, December 13 at 2:30pm

ALL performances are MANDATORY.

6. TECHNIQUE & CLASS REQUIREMENTS

- All performers (excluding Party Parents) must take **at least two (2) technique classes per week**.
- At least **one class must be Ballet**.
- Pointe dancers must take additional Pointe classes.
- Dancers ages 4 – 9 may take a single weekly class; for dancers ages 7 – 9, it should be Ballet.)
- Failure to meet technique requirements may result in removal from the production.

7. MEDIA RELEASE

All performers grant permission to be **photographed and filmed** for Asheville Ballet promotional use.

8. COSTUMES

Performers will be responsible for providing some of their own costume pieces such as a nude camisole leotard for every female dancer, tights, shoes; accessories such as curly hairpieces, bike shorts, and additional ballet shoes may also be required. Other costume info available in the Costume Needs List by role, which will follow via email.

9. HEALTH & ILLNESS GUIDELINES

- Do not attend rehearsal if experiencing cold symptoms or testing positive for the flu or COVID.
- If recovering from illness, please wear a **mask** until symptoms resolve.
- If someone in your household is flu or COVID-positive, wear a **mask** in rehearsal.
- Rehearsal staff **may require masking** if symptoms are observed.
- **Wash hands** upon arrival and departure.
- Bring your own **water bottle**.
- Please be aware that illness may impact performance participation beyond our control.

10. COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

We are proud of our diverse and supportive community. By participating, you agree to:

- Treat **everyone** with kindness and respect
- **Arrive** early and prepared
- **Honor** diversity, inclusion, and professionalism
- Understand that participation in a **professional** production is a **privilege** that requires **commitment and accountability**.

AGREEMENT & SIGNATURES

Along with the signatures below, make sure you have reviewed and **initiated** the **Attendance Policy** under section 3 where indicated.

I have read and accepted these conditions for participation in **The Asheville Ballet's 2026 production of *The Nutcracker***

Dancer #1 Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Dancer #2 Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

If Dancer is under 18:

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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 skills _____

Email **ALL pages** of this completed contract to dance@ashevilleballet.com by **October 15, 2026**. Do not email the signature page only. A clear photo of each page is acceptable. *Thank you!*