2019-2020 AUDITION GUIDE
FOR FAMILIES AND STUDENTS
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EXAMPLE LETTER FROM BOSTON BALLET

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to a new Kansas City Ballet School year and I hope everyone has enjoyed a wonderful summer. We are already preparing for our annual holiday classic, *The Nutcracker*. Our *Nutcracker* production, with beautiful sets by Alain Vaes, costumes by Holly Hynes and re-envisioned choreography premiered in 2015 and continues to be a holiday highlight for the community and beyond. Our Kansas City Ballet School students’ participation is a major part of *The Nutcracker* and I am pleased you are considering having your student audition for the opportunity to take part this year.

Each student performer and their family play a very significant role in this production, and we greatly value the time and energy of everyone involved in auditions, rehearsals and performances. Communication with you, the parents and guardians of these student performers is extremely important to the entire *Nutcracker* experience, beginning with registration for the auditions and continuing throughout all performances.

This guide is designed to inform you and your student about the audition process and the experience of participating in a professional production. Auditioning for and performing in *The Nutcracker* is not necessarily for everyone. It is important to be aware of the substantial time commitment for your child and your entire family at a very busy time of year. Maturity and a sense of responsibility are essential and expected of all students.

I ask that you review this guide with your student before deciding to audition. If your child would like to audition, please complete the online registration form and media release.

Please remember that we are not able to select all auditioning students to perform in *The Nutcracker*. The audition process is a learning experience in and of itself if you prepare your child in advance. Following the auditions, notification regarding selection for The Nutcracker will be sent by Saturday, October 5.

I wish your student a happy and productive year of growth and progress in dance education, and thank you for choosing Kansas City Ballet School for your family.

Sincerely,

Devon Carney,
Artistic Director, Kansas City Ballet
# IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, September 20</td>
<td>Deadline for Level 6-8 Men &amp; Daytime Men to submit audition form (no in-person audition)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, September 20</td>
<td>Pre-Ballet – Level 5 Boys Audition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, September 20</td>
<td>Level 6-8 Women &amp; Daytime II, III &amp; IV Women Audition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, September 21</td>
<td>Level 4-5 Girls &amp; Daytime I Girls Audition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, September 22</td>
<td>Level 2-3 Girl’s Audition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, September 22</td>
<td>Pre-Ballet – Level 1 Girls Audition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, October 5</td>
<td>Role Casting Notification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, October 13</td>
<td>Mandatory Parent/Guardian Informational Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 17</td>
<td>Rehearsals Begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, November 10</td>
<td>Last day for excused absences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 12</td>
<td>All rehearsals &amp; performances required from this date forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, November 16</td>
<td>Nutcracker Cast Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 21</td>
<td>Theatre Rehearsal &amp; Performance Schedule Notification (includes Cast A/B performance dates)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, November 30</td>
<td>Theatre Rehearsals Begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 5</td>
<td>First Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 24</td>
<td>Final Performance</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE THE AUDITION

Performing in *The Nutcracker* is a tremendous commitment for students and their families. As a parent or guardian, it means bringing students to numerous rehearsals and performances during an already busy time of year. For students, it means the learning and absorbing of choreography in a short period of time. Nonetheless, the experience of performing in a professional production is a unique opportunity and one your student will never forget.

Please take the time to carefully read over the following considerations before you decide to audition for *The Nutcracker*:

1. **All students cast in *The Nutcracker* must be available to rehearse and perform in any cast for all rehearsals and performances from Friday, October 18 through Tuesday, December 24. No exceptions will be made for students who are unable to commit to the full rehearsal and performance schedule. This includes vacations, holiday plans, school activities, etc. More than one unexcused absence may result in dismissal from the cast and may jeopardize a student’s eligibility to audition for future productions.**

2. **Theatre rehearsals will begin Saturday, November 30 and will run through the dress rehearsal on Wednesday, December 4. There is a possibility that students will be required to attend a theatre rehearsal in the afternoon on Tuesday, November 3 which will involve missing academic school.**

3. **Students will be required to perform in at least one 10:30am student matinee (Friday, December 6, Thursday, December 12, Friday, December 13). The detailed theatre schedule with this information will be distributed on Thursday, November 21.**

4. **Students who audition must be prepared to accept the role and cast to which they are assigned. Each role is equally important to the production as a whole. If any student is not ready to accept the part that they are assigned, please consider not auditioning at all. Failure to accept a particular role or cast after your student has auditioned will result in ineligibility to audition for future productions.**

5. **Parents or guardians should prepare their student for the possibility that they may not be assigned a role. If you feel your student will have difficulty with the audition process in any way, it is best not to audition at this time.**

6. **Student performers spend a fair amount of time waiting backstage to get into costume and for their turn on stage. If you anticipate your student having difficulty with this process, it is probably best that they do not audition this year.**

7. **Certain roles will require the purchase of new shoes and/or tights, this information will be provided when students are notified of their assigned role.**

*Please make note of the rehearsal commitment and performance schedule and list on your audition registration form any possible conflicts in the space provided. This is not to excuse your student from being cast but merely allows the Artistic Staff to plan ahead and utilize the limited amount of rehearsal time effectively.*
Performing with Kansas City Ballet is a privilege extended only to current Kansas City Ballet School Academy Students. To be eligible to audition for The Nutcracker you must be enrolled in the KCBS Academy in any of the following areas: Children's Division (Pre-Ballet only), Primary Division (Levels 1 & 2 including Level 2 ROAD), Preparatory Division (Levels 3 & 4), Pre-Professional Division (Evening Levels 5-8 and Daytime Levels I-IV). Students in Creative Movement, Fundamentals, the Recreational Division and Studio Classes are not eligible to audition. Students with accounts that are not up to date or are in arrears will not be allowed to audition.

Artistic Discretion

The Nutcracker is a professional production, designed, managed and performed by Kansas City Ballet staff and artists. Decisions regarding casting of the professional dancers as well as of the students are made by the Company’s experienced Artistic Director and the Artistic Staff and are final. Please note that the Artistic Staff may go outside the parameters of height, class level, cast size and/or number of casts selected in order to adequately cast our professional production. These exceptions shall be at the sole discretion of the Artistic Director.

In order to provide a professional experience for students and to work as quickly and efficiently as possible in the short time available, all auditions and rehearsals for The Nutcracker are conducted by Kansas City Ballet’s Artistic Staff and are closed to parents.

Post-audition Notification

Parents and Guardians will be notified of this year’s audition results on Saturday, October 5th. If you have not received notification by this date, please contact us at kcbstagemanagement@gmail.com or check www.kcballet.org/studentperformer/nutcracker.

Rehearsal Schedules

The Nutcracker student rehearsals for most roles will begin the week of October 15. A detailed studio rehearsal schedule can be found in this packet and online at www.kcballet.org/studentperformer/nutcracker.
HOW TO REGISTER

Interested students must register for the auditions via the online audition form, the link to which is available at www.kcballet.org/studentperformer/nutcracker.

As a student’s height remains a critical component in role selection, registration must be completed in person immediately prior to each student’s audition time. On the day of the audition, your student’s height needs to be measured in the Ellis Conference Room during the allotted Registration time for each Audition group. Please note that the registration is only final when the student has been measured by a member of KCB Staff.

Audition registrations must be completed by 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the Audition for each group. There will be an iPad available at each Registration time for parents or guardians to complete the online audition form if it is not possible to do so in advance or on their personal device.

THE AUDITION WEEKEND

We continue to refine the audition process to make it as efficient and pleasant as possible for everyone involved. The following procedures and policies are outlined to provide you and your student with a better idea of what to expect at the auditions.

ATTIRE

Students should wear their class uniform to the auditions. Please have your student arrive at the Bolender Center dressed in his or her uniform. Level 6-8 Women should bring both their ballet slippers and pointe shoes. Hair should be pulled neatly back from the face. No skirts, hair bows, jewelry or other accessories should be worn to the audition.

ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

Registration will be located in the Ellis Conference Room at the Bolender Center. Registration times are set with the expectation that students should plan to arrive approximately 30 minutes to 1 hour prior to their scheduled audition time in order to complete the registration process, have their height taken and pick-up an assigned number at the registration table. We cannot guarantee that students who arrive after their scheduled audition start time will be able to participate in the audition.

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Parents who plan to wait at the studio while their student auditions must wait in the lobby. The auditions themselves are closed events and restricted from observation. Parents who choose to leave and return should be available to meet their student promptly; we will adhere to the audition schedule strictly.

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Interested students must register for the auditions via the online audition form, the link to which is available at www.kcballet.org/studentperformer/nutcracker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20</strong></td>
<td>DEADLINE FOR LEVEL 6-8 MEN AND DAYTIME MEN TO SUBMIT AUDITION FORM (no in-person audition)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**    | PRE-BALLET – LEVEL 5 BOYS AUDITION  
  5:00-6:00pm Registration  
  6:00-6:30pm Audition  
  Height Requirement: 3’ 8” (min) – 5’ 6” (max) |
| **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**    | LEVEL 6-8 WOMEN & DAYTIME II, III & IV WOMEN AUDITION  
  6:00-6:30pm Registration  
  6:30-8:00pm Audition  
  Height Requirement: 4’ 4” (min) – 5’ 11” (max) |
| **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**  | LEVEL 4-5 GIRLS & DAYTIME I GIRLS AUDITION  
  2:00-3:00pm Registration  
  3:00-6:00pm Audition  
  Height Requirement: 4’ 4” (min) – 5’ 11” (max) |
| **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**    | LEVEL 2-3 GIRLS AUDITION  
  12:00-1:00pm Registration  
  1:00-4:00pm Audition  
  Height Requirement: 3’ 8” (min) – 5’ 6” (max) |
| **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**    | PRE-BALLET – LEVEL 1 GIRLS AUDITION  
  3:30-4:30pm Registration  
  4:30-5:30pm Audition  
  Height Requirement: 3’ 8” (min) – 4’ 6” (max) |
| **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5**     | ROLE CASTING NOTIFICATION |
| **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13**      | MANDATORY PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATIONAL MEETING |
## AVAILABLE ROLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>ACT ONE</th>
<th>ACT TWO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Ballet</td>
<td>Doll</td>
<td>Cherub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Doll</td>
<td>Cherub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Doll</td>
<td>Cherub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Party Girl or Boy</td>
<td>Soldier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Party Girl or Boy</td>
<td>Soldier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Party Girl or Boy</td>
<td>Soldier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Party Girl or Boy</td>
<td>Reindeer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Reindeer</td>
<td>Angel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Angel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys PB-L5</td>
<td>Fritz</td>
<td>Party Boy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Doll</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Soldier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men L6-8</td>
<td>Reindeer</td>
<td>Big Mouse*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Party Parent*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAY I</td>
<td>Party Girl or Boy</td>
<td>Soldier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAY II</td>
<td>Party Girl or Boy</td>
<td>Soldier</td>
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<td>DAY III</td>
<td>Reindeer</td>
<td>Angel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAY IV</td>
<td>Reindeer</td>
<td>Angel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAY Men</td>
<td>Reindeer</td>
<td>Big Mouse*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Party Parent*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Attends company rehearsals, notified of rehearsal schedule separately
SCENE INVOLVEMENT

ACT ONE

Party Scene
Party Girls, Party Boys, Fritz, Clara, Party Parent

Battle Scene
Baby Mice, Mice, Bunny, Soldiers, Dolls, Clara

Kingdom of the Snow / Snow Scene
Reindeer, Clara

ACT TWO

In the Clouds
Angels, Cherubs

Welcome / Intro
Angels, Tea & Matroyshka Children, Polichinelles, Attendants, Clara

Diverts
Spanish – Attendants
Tea – Tea Children, Fu Lion
Marzipan – Lambs
Russian – Matroyshka Children
Mother Ginger – Polichinelles, Clara

Finale
Angels, Tea Children, Matroyshka Children, Fu Lion, Clara

2019 PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUES</th>
<th>WEDS</th>
<th>THURS</th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>SUN</th>
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<tr>
<td>NOV 25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28 Thanksgiving Day</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>DEC 1 Theatre Rehearsal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 7:30pm</td>
<td>6 10:30am 7:30pm</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2:00pm 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12 10:30am 7:30pm</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15 1:00pm 5:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19 7:30pm</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22 1:00pm 5:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Hanukkah I 1:00pm 5:00pm</td>
<td>24 Hanukkah II Christmas Eve 1:00pm</td>
<td>25 2:00pm 7:30pm</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
GENERAL INFORMATION

Choreographer & Stager: Mr. Devon Carney
Student’s Ballet Coaches: Ms. Kim Cowen, Ms. Racheal Nye

- LOCATIONS:
  - Auditions & Studio Rehearsals take place at the Todd Bolender Center.
  - Theatre Rehearsals & Performances take place at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

- AUDITIONS:
  - Wear school uniform in the color assigned to student’s level, no accessories.
  - Complete Audition Form (per production) & Media Release (full season, only needs to be completed once) online in advance of the audition.
  - Student heights will be measured by KCB staff at all auditions.

- ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:
  - Levels Pre-Ballet-8, Level 2 ROAD and all Daytime Students, height range determined by level.
  - All roles for all productions may be single or double cast.

- ATTENDANCE/REHEARSAL POLICY:
  - By auditioning, students agree that they are available for all applicable rehearsals and performances and will accept the role assigned to them by the Artistic Director or Choreographer.
  - There is one excused absence per student per production. All performances are mandatory.
  - Mandatory rehearsal dates are listed on each production’s rehearsal schedule.
  - More than one absence per production may result in students being excused from the production at the discretion of the Artistic Director.
  - The school will notify students of any class changes due to rehearsal conflicts. Students will be excused from classes that conflict with company rehearsals.
  - All rehearsal schedules are subject to change.
  - Best efforts will be made to provide 24 hours’ notice for any changes. Changes/Updates will be communicated via Remind text messages, e-mail from kcbstagemanagement@gmail.com and at www.kcballet.org/studentperformer/nutcracker

- COSTUMES:
  - Students provide their own clothing to wear underneath costumes. This may result in the need to purchase a special leotard, tights, trunks or shoes.
  - Special items will be listed on Role Info Sheets (distributed during rehearsals).

- CASTING:
  - Families will be notified of audition results on Saturday, October 5.
  - Some students may be cast in multiple roles.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN KANSAS CITY BALLET’S THE NUTCRACKER.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE AUDITIONS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22!