

2023 Nutcracker Guide

Sunday, December 10



Sarasota Opera House

61 N. Pineapple Ave.

Sarasota, FL 34236

We are ecstatic to produce our first Nutcracker performance – and can't believe we will have 85 performers!! This show has a bit of everything, with ballet, pointe, acting, magic, acrobatics, jazz, tap, and more. Please read through this entire show guide for details on everything regarding the performance, and let us know if you have any questions!

History of the Nutcracker:

The story for the Nutcracker Ballet was adapted from the book *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* written by E.T.A. Hoffman in 1816. In 1892 in Russia, the first performance of the Nutcracker was presented, with musical scores composed by Pyotr Tchaikovsky and routines choreographed by Marius Petipa. The first American performance of *The Nutcracker* was performed a few years later by the San Francisco Ballet on December 24th, 1944. The beginning of *The Nutcracker* as an American tradition is usually credited back to George Balanchine's 1954 production with the New York City Ballet. Balanchine adapted the ballet to fit the times in America and it began to find success. Just a few years later it became even more widely known to where it is now a beloved part of the American Christmas tradition.

Story of the Nutcracker:

The Party Scene: It is Christmas Eve at the Stahlbaum house. The Stahlbaums are hosting their annual Christmas party, welcoming the arrival of their family and friends. The children, Clara, Louise, and Fritz, are dancing and playing as they welcome their friends too. The party grows festive with music and dance as their Uncle Drosselmeyer arrives. He is a skilled toy maker and always full of surprises.

Drosselmeyer draws everyone's attention as he presents life-size dolls which dance throughout the party. The children begin to open gifts from him when Drosselmeyer presents a beautiful Nutcracker to Clara.

Fritz becomes jealous and, having a bit more spunk than a boy should have, grabs the nutcracker from Clara and promptly breaks it. Clara is heartbroken looking on as Drosselmeyer quickly repairs the Nutcracker with a handkerchief. As the evening grows late, the guests depart and the Stahlbaum family retires for the evening. Clara, worried about her beloved Nutcracker, sneaks back to the tree to check on him, falling asleep with him in her arms.

The Battle Scene: As the clock strikes midnight strange things begin to happen. Clara begins shrinking as her beautiful Christmas tree grows high above her. The toys around the tree come to life while the room fills with an army of mice, led by the fierce Mouse King. As the Nutcracker awakens, he leads his army of toy soldiers into battle with the mice. The Mouse King corners the Nutcracker and battles him one-on-one. The Nutcracker seems to be no match for the Mouse King. The Nutcracker and his army can go on no longer and are captured by the mice and their King. Clara makes a final daring charge throwing her slipper at the Mouse King, hitting him square on the head.

The Mouse King drops to the floor and the mice run away.

The Land of Snow: The Nutcracker turns into a Prince and takes Clara on a journey to the Land of Snow, an enchanted forest wonderland where they are welcomed by dancing snowflakes.

The Land of Sweets: The Prince escorts Clara to the Land of Sweets where they are greeted by the Sugar Plum Fairy. The Prince tells her about their daring battle with the army of mice and she rewards them with a celebration of dances including Mirlitons, Spanish Chocolate, Mother Ginger's Children, Russian Candy Canes, Arabian Coffee, Chinese Tea, Italian Pie, and Waltz of the Flowers.

As a finale, the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Cavalier dance a beautiful Pas De Deux.

The Dream Ends: Clara awakens from her dream and finds herself by her Christmas tree with her beloved Nutcracker.

Thank you for supporting our dancers, studio, & performance!

Important Dates & Schedules:

Subject to Change

November 6-11: Picture Week

- In-studio & during class time
- Please wear black leotards (we have a few extra to borrow if you do not have one) & pink tights, with hair pulled back into a tight ballet bun
- Light stage makeup preferred (blush, red lipstick, mascara, etc.)

November 18: Mandatory In-Studio Rehearsal

- Please wear black leotards, pink tights, & hair pulled back into a tight ballet bun
- 1:00-1:30 - Level 5 & 6 Warm-Up
- 1:00-1:45 - Angels Run-Through (Dream Angels, Little Angels, Guardian Angels)
- 1:45-2:15 - Finale Rehearsal (All Performers except Party Adults)
- 2:15-3:15 - Party Scene Rehearsal (Clara, Fritz, Louise, Maids, Party Girls, Party Boys, Party Adults, Drosselmeyer, Ballerina Dolls, Toy Soldier)
- 3:15-4:15 - Battle Scene Rehearsal (Clara, Mice, Soldiers, Mouse King, Nutcracker)
- 4:15-6:00 - Snowflakes & Kingdom of Sweets Rehearsal (Clara, Prince, Sugar Plum Fairy, Dew Drop, Cavalier, Snow King, Snow Queen, Snowflakes, Chinese Tea, Russian Candy Canes, Waltz of the Flowers, Spanish Chocolate, Mirlitons, Mother Ginger's Children, Italian Pie, Arabian Coffee)

December 10: Show Day!

- 10:00-10:15 - Level 5 & 6 Dancers Check-In
- 10:15-10:30 - Level 1-4 & Other Performers Check-In
- 10:30-11:00 - Level 5 & 6 Dancers Warm-Up (backstage)
- 10:45-11:00 - Level 1-4 Dancers & Others Warm-Up (backstage)
- 11:00-11:15 - Finale Rehearsal
- 11:15-1:30 - Full Dress Rehearsal Run-Through
- 1:30-2:00 - Announcements & Awards
- 2:00-3:00 - Meal Break
- 3:15-3:45 - Level 5 & 6 Dancers Warm-Up (on-stage)
- 3:30-3:45 - Level 1-4 Dancers & Others Warm-Up (backstage)
- 3:30 - Doors Open
- 3:45 - 1st Act Ready Backstage
- 4:00-5:45 - Showtime!!

December 11-16: Holiday Fun Week! (classes as normal)

Hair for All Performers:

Tight, mid-level ballet bun with a middle part.
Instructional video (but add a hairnet at the end):
<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/5qVhWlw2OXs>
You will need hair ties, bun pins,
bobby pins, hairnet, & hairspray.

If they have a hairpiece it will go on the right side of the bun.
Hats will go right on top on head & need to
be securely fastened.

EXCEPTION: Party Girls, Clara, & Louise - Tight curls (do not
brush them out) with half of hair up. They can wear their hair
like this for the entire rehearsal, but for the show most will
need to transition to a bun after the Party Scene. They will
have plenty of time to do so! Instructional video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nza-XhAElyg&t=350s>

Make-Up for All Performers:

Ages 7 and under - Lipgloss &
light blush preferred (they are
welcome to wear red lipstick &
mascara if they would like)

Ages 8 and up - Red lipstick,
blush, neutral eyeshadow, black
eyeliner, and mascara preferred
(they can wear eyelashes
if they would like)

Only nude or clear nail polish allowed!
Small earring studs may be worn
as long as they match the costuming -
otherwise no other jewelry
should be worn.

Costume Rentals

Nutcracker costumes are rented from the studio to students for the show only. This fee is included in the all-inclusive tuition. Costumes will be tried on in class and most can take home in the weeks leading up to the show. Anyone with a balance on their account will not be able to take their costumes home. Angels will not take their costumes home as the 2 groups will be sharing the costumes. Costumes not returned by January 20 will be subject to a \$25 late rental fee. Costumes not returned by March 4 will be subject to a \$75 replacement fee.

Dancers are highly recommended to wear a skin-color leotard underneath all costumes.

Tights & Shoes

Most routines will wear pink convertible tights (handed out with check-in at show) and pink ballet shoes (and pointe shoes for any pointe routines). Please bring an extra pair of pink tights! A few routines may not wear tights as they will be wearing leggings or other full length pants.

Please remember that tights are meant to serve as the undergarments for the costumes - please no underwear or visible bras!

Additional Items to Bring:

Show T-Shirts will be handed out as dancers check-in the day of the show.

Hair Ties, Bobby Pins, Hairspray, Hairnets
Make-Up
Additional Tights
Jackets/Sweatpants/Cover-Up
Activities if Needed (books, puzzles, etc)
Water & Snacks

Nice Outfit for After the Show (traditionally at the ballet, performers will dress up afterwards for pictures with family & friends - we would like to start this tradition, at least with the older dancers!)

Ticketing:

**Tickets are available now online at
<https://tickets.sarasotaopera.org/6651/6652>.**

Tickets will be available at the door unless the show is sold out.

ALL audience members that need a seat will require a ticket, regardless of age. Student tickets are for children ages 0-18 needing a ticket. All tickets & fees are nonrefundable.

Performers may not watch in the audience during the show.

Performer Arrival & Check-In:

Level 5 & 6 performers will need to arrive between 10:00-10:15am.

Level 1-4 and all other performers will need to arrive between 10:15-10:30am.

Everyone will need to arrive with hair & makeup ready to go.

They will have a few minutes to change into their first costumes once they arrive.

All performers will need to enter through the side door of the Opera House and check-in with a volunteer. They will receive a bag with their show t-shirt and program, and be told where their dressing room is.

Warm-Ups will begin a few minutes after the check-in process is complete, so dancers will need to change quickly and go backstage as soon as they are ready. Younger levels will need to stick together with their class leader and only go backstage once they are all ready.

Dressing Room & Backstage Etiquette:

Only parents with children 8 years and under can stay in the dressing rooms. Parents are welcome to assist in checking their kids in before the rehearsal & show, but by warm-up time no other parents will be allowed in the dressing room. **No parents (except for volunteers) will be allowed backstage.** If you would like to be with your child the entire time of the rehearsal and/or show, you will need to volunteer as a class leader.

No food or drinks except water will be allowed backstage or in the dressing rooms. There is an outdoor courtyard which is a perfect spot to eat (there are some covered sections as well). All students will need to coverup their costume or change before eating or drinking anything!

No pictures are allowed in the dressing rooms!!! If you would like to take pictures, please go just outside of the dressing rooms.

Males are not allowed in any female dressing room.

We can assist in showing your child where to go if needed.

Dress Rehearsal & Show Time:

All performers will need to stay either backstage or in the dressing rooms during the entire rehearsal & show. Parents are welcome to sit in the general admission area during the rehearsal.

Please note the rehearsal is not a time to bring guests to see the show - only one person per student is allowed to watch the rehearsal.

After the rehearsal, we will have a few minutes of announcements & awards, followed by a meal break and plenty of time to prep for the show. Please do not take them off the premises during the meal break. You will also need to check them out with their class leader before taking them out of the dressing room area to eat (those over 10 years old may leave on their own).

Performers will need to be back to their dressing rooms or backstage by 3:15 and be ready for show warm-ups.

Finale Fun:

The finale will be required of all performers. We will learn the finale piece all together during the mandatory rehearsal on November 18, and quickly run-through it on December 10.

Performers will need to stay in their last costume unless told otherwise. Angels will all need to change out of their costume & put their show t-shirt with any shorts/pants on.

Pick-Up Information:

Dancers over 10 years old will be allowed to leave the backstage/dressing room area themselves. Please make a plan with them if you will meet them in the dressing room, auditorium, lobby, or anywhere else after the show.

If your child is under 10 years old, you will need to pick them up from the dressing room. Please let the class leader know you are picking them up before leaving.

Performers will need to change out of their costumes (and preferably into nice outfits). Check to make sure they are not leaving any costume or dancewear pieces behind before leaving the dressing room area.

Costume Rental Return:

All costume pieces should be returned to the front desk at the studio by January 20 at the latest. Please do not wash the costumes without approval.

Show Photos & Videos:

We will have professional photography and videography of our shows - which is included with your all-inclusive tuition! As soon as they are available after the show, we will send out links with digital copies to download & share. :)

Theater Etiquette:

This is a formal show in a beautiful and historic theater. We expect all audience members to represent our studio well. Please no talking during the show. Keep electronic usage to an absolute minimum. Food & drinks are not allowed inside the theater. Clapping after performances is absolutely welcome, but please no yelling until the end of the show. Once the show begins, please try to only leave the theater during intermission, although doors will quickly open in between routines if needed. If the show is in progress and you need to enter the theater, you may not be allowed to sit in your seat - make sure to arrive promptly!

Parking:

There are plenty of places to park near the Opera House. Please visit <https://www.sarasotaopera.org/parking> for a detailed map of all options!

Volunteers Needed!

We need 15+ volunteers to make the show run smoothly.

Volunteers can be anyone ages 12+ as long as they are responsible & willing to work. Performers cannot volunteer for this show.

All volunteers will be able to receive a comp ticket. Class Leaders & Backstage Runner/Dressing Room Assistant may be able to watch parts of the show from backstage.

Types of Volunteers Needed:

- Class Leader (needed 10:00am–6:00pm): This volunteer will be in charge of a class or group of classes, and make sure they are ready to perform as well as walk them to the backstage area & back to the dressing room.
- Backstage Runner/Dressing Room Assistant (needed 10:00am–6:00pm): This volunteer will assist in anything needed backstage as well as in the dressing room.
- Performer Check-In (needed 9:30–10:30am): This volunteer will check-in all performers.
- Performer Pick-Up (needed 5:00–6:30pm): This volunteer will assist in the pick-up process in the dressing room.
- Flowers & Accessory Sales (needed 10:00am–2:00pm or 2:00–4:00pm & during intermission): This volunteer will hand out all ordered flower & accessories, and sell them as well.
- Marley Movers (heavy lifting required!! Needed the afternoon of December 9 or after the show December 10): Assist in moving items off of marley dance floor, rolling it up, and placing in the trailer. After the show, assist in moving out of trailer and into studio, rolling out, and putting items back where they go.

**Visit forms.gle/Lw3rztKb5ukcBbHa7
to Sign-Up to be a Volunteer!**



Performance Flowers

Purchase flowers for your performer & pick them up right at the recital!

3 Rose Bouquet - \$15

6 Rose Bouquet - \$25

12 Rose Bouquet - \$35

Personal Note with Flowers - Additional \$5

Flowers are only sale online through December 1. We will have a few bouquets available at the show, but it is best to purchase ahead!

Visit StarAcademyFL.com/events/Nutcracker-Flowers to order.



Show Teddy Bears

All performers will want this adorable teddy bear with a matching recital t-shirt!

\$20 each

Teddy Bears will be available to purchase online through November 25.

Purchase yours at staracademyfl.com/events/Nutcracker-Bears.



Personalized Nutcracker Ornaments

Order your dancer a personalized ornament!

\$20 each

Ornaments will be available to purchase online through November 20.



Order yours at staracademyfl.com/events/Nutcracker-Ornaments.

Additional T-Shirts & Programs

All performers will receive a show t-shirt & program, but we will be selling additional ones if you would like any additional.

Show T-Shirts: \$17 each;

Order at staracademyfl.com/events/Nutcracker-Shirts

Show Programs: \$10 each;

Order at staracademyfl.com/events/Nutcracker-Programs



2023 Nutcracker Program Ads

*Give your dancer a special spot
in our recital program!*

Offer a congratulatory message with a picture(s) for your favorite dancer in our show program.

Full Page - \$115

Half Page - \$75

Quarter Page - \$55

Shout Out (25 words only) - \$25

Purchase yours at staracademyfl.com/events/Nutcracker-Program-Ads



*Complimentary
ad design
included in price!*

Ad Deadline:

November 17

*Ads designed by
Michele Slaughter
Designs.*