



Monterey Peninsula Ballet Theatre, Corp. PO Box 253 Carmel CA 93923

June 2018

Dear MPBT *Nutcracker* Dancers and Parents:

Thank you for taking part in MPBT's 2018 production of *The Nutcracker*!

Participating in a production of this size involves the dancer, parent(s) and sometimes siblings! To save time and energy, we've put together an information packet that attempts to answer all of your questions. We greatly appreciate you taking a few minutes to review the packet with your dancer. Please feel free to email us at info@mpballettheatre.org if you have any questions not covered on the following pages.

We look forward to getting to know you and your children in the coming months as we work together to make memories and create a fantastic production that will become part of a Monterey Peninsula tradition for years to come!

With love and appreciation,
Tia Brown
MPBT Co-Founder
MPBT Executive Director
Artistic Director



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Audition Information

Dancers:

- Should arrive 30 minutes prior to their audition time to register and have their measurements taken.
- Please print out and complete the *Audition/Participant Information Form* prior to arriving
- The \$25 registration may be paid by cash or check made to MPBT (preferred) or by Visa, MasterCard, Amex.
- Friday auditions please wear leotard, pink tights and bring **both** pointe and ballet shoes
- Saturday auditions please wear appropriate dance attire (leotard and tights or active dance ware if the student is not currently taking ballet, hair in a bun and/or secured back, and ballet slippers preferred, jazz or contemporary shoes ok if ballet shoes are not owned).

Friday, August 17th

- Pointe dancers with over one year of pointe training (a pointe role is not guaranteed by audition attendance). Please arrive 30 minutes prior to audition time register and have your measurements taken.
- 7:00 PM Registration opens, gala tickets available for purchase, dancer's measurements taken for costumes
- 7:30-9:00 PM Audition for Ballet 5, Ballet 5/6, Ballet 6, and all pointe dancers with over one year of pointe training

Saturday, August 18th

- Please arrive 30 minutes prior to your audition time in the appropriate dress (see above) to register and have your measurements taken. All levels referred to below are the levels the student is **currently enrolled in**.
- 12:00 PM Registration opens, dancer's measurements taken for costumes and gala tickets available for purchase
- 12:30-1:00 PM Auditions for Kinder and Beginning Ballet (Beginning Jazz / Contemporary Levels)
- 1:00-1:45 PM Auditions for Ballet 1 & Ballet 2 (Adv Beginning & Intermediate Jazz / Contemporary Levels)
- 1:45-2:30 PM Auditions for Ballet 2/3 & Ballet 3 (Intermediate Secondary Jazz / Contemporary Levels) (dancers having auditioned en pointe Friday need not attend)
- 2:30-3 PM Auditions for Ballet 3/4 & Ballet 4 (Advanced Intermediate Jazz / Contemporary Levels) (dancers having auditioned en pointe Friday need not attend)



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Answers to Common MPBT Nutcracker Questions

Q: How is my child selected for his or her role(s)?

A: All children will audition by level and will be placed in roles that will allow them to shine as well as technically challenge them as dancers. They will be dancing amongst their peers and cast by strengths.

Q: How many performances will the dancers be participating in, where and when are they?

A: The performances will take place at Sunset Center the weekend of December 14th.

Tech Week and Production Dates:

- Tech rehearsals will take place the evenings of December 11th & 12th (Tuesday and Wednesday) with an approximate start time of 6:00 PM. A full dress rehearsal will be scheduled for Thursday, December 13th @ 6:00 PM with a 5:30 PM theater call. The dress rehearsal will be full costume, makeup, and hair.
- Friday, December 14th 10:00AM -- Community Outreach performance.
- Friday, December 14th 7:00PM – Opening night
- Saturday December 15th 7:00PM
- Sunday December 16th 2:00PM- Matinee
- Wrap Cast Party, Sunday December 16th, 5pm Sunset Center

Q: When and where do the children rehearse?

A: The Dance Center is sponsoring all rehearsals in their five studios on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from approximately September 8th until December 9th. Rehearsal schedules will be posted on the MPBT website with update emails alerting you of any changes or new information as it is posted. We encourage you to check the website frequently for scheduling changes and be sure to include your most current email address on your child's audition form. It is our intention to communicate with everyone efficiently and effectively but occasionally emails are accidentally overlooked or missed. Checking the website regularly is the best way to keep informed and please kindly alert us if you are concerned that you may not be receiving emails.

Q: When will we find out what part(s) my child has been cast in?

A: The cast list will be posted by August 27th on both the MPBT website and in the TDC studio.

Once the cast list has been posted you and your dancer will be asked to review and sign our *Participation Agreement* by September 1, committing to your role(s) and paying the following:

Participation Fees

- Participation fees can be paid by Visa or Mastercard, check made out to MPBT or cash
- 5 to 7 years, 2 parts (mini) -- \$265
- 8 to 12 years, 2 parts (demi) -- \$340
- pointe, non-lead up -- \$365
- all leads -- \$390



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All fees are due by the first day of rehearsals. Failure to submit your agreement and fees will put your part in jeopardy of being reassigned or deleted from the production. Prompt response is greatly appreciated!

Q: Why are the participation fees different?

A: Older more experienced dancers will typically have larger parts requiring more choreography and rehearsal time than the younger children. We also hope this encourages the younger children and their families to start participating in *The Nutcracker* early on!

Q: Why do I have to pay a participation fee?

A: Your fee helps to offset about 15% of the costs of putting on a production of this size. We are hoping to cover most of our expenses through fundraisers like the Gala and from donations from generous supporters. Please feel free to speak with a Board Member or Tia Brown if you or someone you know would be interested in making a donation.

- Costumes: Our Costumer, Kirsten Raven Asturi, will be busy making sure your child's costume fits correctly, making adjustments as needed. In addition, Kirsten will be helping us add to our collection as well as update some of last year's pieces.
- Theater Rental and Staff: Sunset Center requires us to hire union professional theater staff for the week that we rent the facility.
- Sets and Scenery: We are thrilled to be adding a Mother Ginger and Drosselmeyer's Toy Shop to our production, as well as improving some pieces from last year.
- Primary Dancers: We're excited to be bringing in a professional male dancer to take on a few roles within our performance.
- "Miscellaneous": Instructors, promotional fees, rental fees, insurance, etc.

Q: Why am I asked to volunteer?

A: "*Many hands make light work.*" We are making every attempt to keep participation in the Nutcracker easy and low maintenance. But like the saying about a duck (they look calm and relaxed on the surface but under water their legs are paddling furiously) we are busily trying to make this an awesome experience for all. So, we hope that everyone can help us out by volunteering a minimum of 20 hours per family between auditions and production time. Please try to leverage your talents! Assisting with the Gala (taking place on November 3rd) helping out with scenery, costumes or backstage during rehearsals and performances are just a few areas that we could really use your help. Please visit our website for a list of opportunities and if you have any questions please contact Yvette Berlanga, our Volunteer Coordinator via email at yberlanga@sbcglobal.net. If you aren't able to help, we ask that you make an extra donation of \$400.00 which equals \$20.00 per hour for your 20 volunteer hours.

Q: When is MPBT's Gala and how do I get tickets?

A: MPBT is hosting its second gala on November 3rd, 2018 at Pasadera Club. The evening will include silent and live auction, dinner and dancing as well as entertainment. Last year's event was a great success, so please make sure to join us for more fun and to kick off the holiday season! Tickets will be available for purchase at Nutcracker Auditions and are \$175.00 per person or \$1750.00 for a



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table for 10. Assisting with auction item acquisition, staffing the event and many other opportunities are ways to contribute your volunteer hours to *The Nutcracker* production. Please see our Parent Volunteer Coordinator, Yvette Berlanga, regarding these and other volunteer opportunities.

