



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

July 2022

Dear MPBT *Nutcracker* Dancers and Parents:

Thank you for taking part in MPBT's 2022 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 Founder

MPBT 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 complete all audition forms electronically by 10:00 AM on August 19. Links can be found in the emailed newsletter OR at www.MPBalletTheatre.org under *Performance & Event Information*
- The \$25 registration may be paid by cash or check made to MPBT (preferred) or by Visa, MasterCard, Amex.
- Ballet 3/4 and up as well as Pointe dancers wear a black leotard, pink tights and, if applicable, bring **both pointe** and ballet shoes
- *ALL AUDITIONEES* please wear appropriate dance attire (black leotard and pink tights or active dancewear 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).

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. Each Ballet 3 and under dancer will be assigned two roles, unless requesting a single role only.

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 3rd .

Tech Week and Production Dates:

- Sunday, November 28th evening full cast run-through studio 5.
- Tech rehearsals will take place the evenings of November 29th and 30th (Tuesday and Wednesday) with an approximate start time of 5:30 PM. A full dress rehearsal will be scheduled



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for Thursday, December 1st @ 6:00 PM with a 5:30 PM theater call. The dress rehearsal will be full costume, makeup, and hair.

- Friday, December 2nd 10:00AM -- Community Outreach performance.
- Friday, December 2nd 7:00PM – Opening night
- Saturday December 3rd 7:00PM
- Sunday December 4th 2:00PM- Matinee
- Wrap Cast Party, Sunday December 4th, 4:30-5:15 pm Sunset Center Studio 105

Q: When and where do the children rehearse?

A: The Dance Center is sponsoring all rehearsals in their five studios at Carmel Rancho AND at their newly acquired space in Carmel By The Sea (BTS) located at 8th Avenue and Mission Street. Most rehearsals will take place on Friday PM, Saturdays and Sundays from September 9th until November 27th. Rehearsal schedules can be found in the MPBT information board posted outside of the studio lobby, on the MPBT website (MPBallettheatre.org) and in the newsletter emailed weekly. PLEASE read the entire email as there may be important updates posted throughout. 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 29th on both the MPBT website and outside the TDC studio.

Once the cast list has been posted you and your dancer will be asked to review and sign our *Participation Agreement* and submit participation fees 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) -- \$295
- 8 to 12 years, 2 parts (demi) -- \$375
- pointe, non-lead up -- \$425
- all leads -- \$475



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All fees are due by the 9/1, prior to the start 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: Storage, rental and basic maintenance as well as improving some pieces from last year.
- Primary Dancers: We're excited to be bringing in a few professional male dancers to enhance our performance.
- "Miscellaneous": Instructors, promotional fees, rental fees, insurance, etc.



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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 a Gala or other fundraising opportunities, 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 Sarah Norbraten at info@mpballettheatre.org. 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.