

Dancer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Nutcracker 2019**

27<sup>th</sup> Season

**Audition Form and Production Agreement**

**Between:**

Union County Youth Ballet  
903-B North Charlotte Avenue  
Monroe NC 28110

**And:**

**Dress Rehearsals:** Dec. 2-5, 2019  
(with Cast A & B alternating rehearsals)  
**Performances:**  
Friday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Saturday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_ **and** \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature Parent/Guardian Signature

**Personal Information:** (Please print)

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ School Grade \_\_\_\_\_

School Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Place of Employment \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Place of Employment \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please List any Health Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Dance Experience:** (Child must be actively enrolled in a **ballet program** at a local dance studio)

Current Dance Studio \_\_\_\_\_ Total Number of Years Studied \_\_\_\_\_

*If the current studio is different from the one attended in 2018-19 year, please list previous studio here.* \_\_\_\_\_

**List the parts you have danced in the previous UCYB's production(s) of "The Nutcracker"**

2018 \_\_\_\_\_

2017 \_\_\_\_\_

2016 \_\_\_\_\_

Dancer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Parent Volunteers**

As a non-profit organization, the Union County Youth Ballet relies heavily on volunteer support to help the artistic staff, dancers, and the production team present a professional, well-organized, and polished production. The production of the Nutcracker requires a team effort. All parents of UCYB cast members are asked to help with the many tasks that need to be accomplished. Each cast member's family is expected to be responsible for providing volunteer time to help with the production (which does not include time assisting your own child). This is a great way for parents to contribute to the growth and success of UCYB. Please choose at least one of the following areas to volunteer. *Parents may be asked to assist in areas other than those for which they volunteer if there is insufficient help in any area.* Volunteer assignments will be sent out the week before the show via email.

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising/Marketing           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing (Alterations)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boutique Set-up                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Costume Cleaning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boutique Worker                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Loading props and flooring after final show at the Batte Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boutique Pack-up                | <input type="checkbox"/> Loading Costumes at the Batte Center after show                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development/Fundraising         | <input type="checkbox"/> Unloading costumes at BSOB after show                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Show Ushers              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing (minor repairs/handwork) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing (Adding trim/lace)       |  |

**\*\*\*In addition to this, at least one parent of the appropriate gender must be a "Section-Parent" for at least one performance.**

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## **Audition and Participation Fees**

**The Audition/Participation fee of \$40 will need to be provided at the time of audition.** The participation fee covers the cost of instruction time, costume use, and administrative fees. Please make checks payable to UCYB.

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**Absence Policy** \*Please Refer to the *Absence Policy* on Page 4 of the Rules & Regulations

Reminder: No more than 1 rehearsal absence will be allowed from September 6 - December 7. The cast member may not be in the parts that are taught on the day that he/she is absent.

If you know you will not be able to attend on a certain day/time, please list it below. **You should NOT list a date during the week of dress rehearsals or the week before—NO ABSENCES ARE ALLOWED DURING THIS WEEK.**

- If no absence is listed, we understand that your dancer will be present at all fittings and rehearsals.

Absence date and time: \_\_\_\_\_

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I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name) hereby release UCYB, their employees, and volunteer assistants from any liability whatsoever arising from injury, damage or loss which may be sustained by the above-named person during the 2019 production of "The Nutcracker".

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name), grant the Union County Youth Ballet (UCYB) and their representatives permission to take and utilize photos or video images of my child participating in UCYB activities for promotional purposes.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name) have read and understood the Union County Youth Ballet Nutcracker Policies, Rules and Regulations and agree to follow all policies outlined therein.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Participant or Parent/Guardian's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

## **Union County Youth Ballet Nutcracker Rules & Regulations**

1. CASTING is the responsibility of the Artistic Director, who must consider the specific needs of an entire production. The selection of students is based on characteristics of relative height, costume availability, and technical ability; therefore, dancers should not request specific roles before, during, or after auditions.
2. ATTENDANCE of rehearsals is of utmost importance. 100% attendance and 100% effort is expected for all rehearsals; however, UCYB does not want ill dancers to rehearse. Injured dancers are expected to attend all rehearsals and watch.
3. PUNCTUALITY at rehearsals and performances is critical for a dance company. You are expected to be ready at least 15 minutes before your scheduled rehearsal time. A dancer who is consistently tardy can have an adverse effect on the running of a rehearsal and will be reviewed by the Artistic Director.
4. READINESS for rehearsals is extremely important. You need to come ready to do your best: girls – hair pulled neatly back into a bun, wearing tights, leotard and ballet shoes; boys – properly dressed in pants or tights, shirt, and black canvas ballet shoes.  
At NO TIME will you be allowed to rehearse or perform if the Artistic Staff suspects you may be vaping, under the influence of nicotine, illegal drugs, or alcohol. Violation of this rule will result in dismissal from the UCYB sponsored activity.
5. RESPECT for others is our code of conduct when you participate in UCYB activities.

UCYB believes all individuals deserve to be treated in a respectful manner. Profanity will not be tolerated, nor will arguing with Artistic Staff. The Artistic Staff reserves the right to ask a dancer to leave a rehearsal if they feel the dancer is being disruptive or negatively impacting others. We expect that dancers will display mutual support and teamwork for each other.

We expect dancers will not talk disparagingly about their dance peers nor UCYB adults, either in conversation or online. Reports of bullying or physical threats by an UCYB dancer should be made to the Artistic Director, Ms. Bonita, immediately. Serious cases will be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors.

6. POSITIVE thinking lets you do everything better than negative thinking. Excellence will be achieved as a result of always trying to do better. We must work together to achieve excellence. We will inspire each other through clapping and cheering. An UCYB dancer is a role model for others.
7. PARENTS are expected to make every effort to ensure their dancer arrives on-time for all rehearsals and to comply with UCYB absence procedures.
8. THEATER WEEK is a big commitment for the dancers and their families. Dancers will be required to attend rehearsals at The Batten Center, on the campus of Wingate University, Monday through Thursday in the afternoon/evening during the week of December 2-5, and all day for the performances Friday & Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. \*\* More exact times will be posted when available.

\*\*Dancers who are cast in both Cast A & B will have to be at all rehearsals & performances. Dancers who are in only in one cast should only be there for the days that their cast rehearses.

Dancer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

9. THEATER ETIQUETTE: We are guests on the Wingate University campus. We must respect the building and all the staff who are helping us present a quality performance.
- a) QUIET must be observed while in the hallways, theater, and backstage
  - b) NO FOOD or DRINK is allowed in the theater at any time.
  - c) NO FOOD or DRINK (other than water) is allowed in the dressing rooms at any time.
  - d) No one is allowed in the backstage wings without permission.
  - e) You must remain in your assigned dressing rooms until requested. NO ONE is allowed IN ANY OF THE PUBLIC AREAS of the Batte Center unless you are being escorted to your dressing room or to the stage area.
  - f) Dancers should not be in the lobby of the theater **AT ALL** WHEN IN COSTUME—neither before or after the performance. Lead characters (to be decided at the discretion of the Artistic Director) will be allowed into the front lobby in costume after the show to sign autographs for children.
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### **Union County Youth Ballet Nutcracker Rehearsal Absences**

The Union County Youth Ballet (UCYB) is committed to providing our audiences with a Nutcracker ballet of the highest quality. Ballet is an extremely complex art form and requires lots of practice to make it perfect. This means the dancer must be committed to attending all rehearsals.

Absences from rehearsals really throw the whole team off. It affects the timing and spacing of other dancers. The rehearsal mistress must change her rehearsal plan and choreography to compensate for the absence. It also puts the dancer behind the rest of the group because changes are made at every rehearsal.

The Artistic Director requires written notification of absences not related to illness for review. No more than 1 rehearsal absence will be allowed from September 6 - December 7 and the performer may not be in the parts that are taught on the day that he/she is absent. It is the dancer's responsibility to schedule and pay for a private lesson with the instructor to learn the missed choreography. If you know you will not be able to attend on a certain day/time, please list it on the Audition Information Form. **You should NOT list a date during the week of dress rehearsals or the week before—NO ABSENCES ARE ALLOWED DURING THIS WEEK.** If no absence is listed, we understand that your dancer will be present at all fittings and rehearsals.

Any other absences should be submitted as soon as you know about them. Please follow the procedure for notification outlined below. Any dancer who is injured or ill but not contagious should come to rehearsal to watch any new choreography and take notes.

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#### New Absence Notification Procedure

- 1) Absences known ahead of time. Submit in writing, BY SEPTEMBER 30th, to Ms. Bonita via e-mail to bonitasballet@yahoo.com. Facebook Messenger is **NOT** an acceptable form of communication about absences.
  - 2) Absence due to illness. Please call Bonita's School of Ballet at (704)289-5733 to report the illness.
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Keep in mind that the Artistic Director, Ms. Bonita, reserves the right to remove a dancer from a role due to excessive absences or consistent tardiness.

***Thank you for being responsible about your rehearsal schedule  
and courteous to all fellow 'team' members!***

**Union County Youth Ballet**

# Nutcracker Policies

## (Revised 2019)

### **Auditions**

#### **Background**

The UCYB strives to provide performing experience for young aspiring local dancers who are dedicated to the art of ballet, to offer them a means by which to gain experience through practice and performance. The Union County Youth Ballet's annual holiday performance, The Nutcracker, is an important production for UCYB. It provides young, aspiring, local dancers the opportunity to dance in a classical ballet, perform in corps and small ensemble pieces, and dance alongside professionals.

The Artistic Director reviews the overall composition of the production from several viewpoints including size and staging of the corps and ensemble pieces, dramatic impact, cohesiveness, as well as the talents and desires of the performers themselves.

#### **Policy**

The Nutcracker is open to all ballet students in Union County and surrounding areas in school grades first through twelfth grade. Performers must be enrolled currently in a ballet class at a local dance studio. Post high school students and adults are encouraged to participate in The Nutcracker as well. Adult roles are limited.

All dancers, first through twelfth grade must participate in auditions as scheduled with their appropriate age level. Roles that are deemed unfillable by the Artistic Staff will be discussed in order to cast dancers who may not be able to attend all rehearsals or the audition and the board will have final decision.

All who audition, must meet the UCYB requirements at the time of the audition (i.e. paperwork, fees, and attendance at rehearsals). All cast members must follow the attendance policy to maintain their casting.

A late audition or inability to attend the audition may still result in casting on a case-by-case determination, if the request is submitted to the Artistic Director prior to scheduled auditions.

The Artistic Director, Ballet Mistresses and Choreographers will conduct the audition in a safe, professional and non-biased manner.

### **Costuming**

#### **Background**

In order to achieve the aesthetic that makes the Nutcracker such a magical story, it is important that all performers maintain the appearance of their character. This means that the costumes must be maintained from year to year, and that the general appearance of all dancers is neat and clean.

Costumes are provided by the Union County Youth Ballet, and usage fees are covered in the cost of the Audition & Production Fee. Dancers must provide their own tights, undergarments, and shoes for the shows.

#### **Policy**

Costumes assigned to the dancers are the property of UCYB. Costume Fittings will be scheduled by role and are required for all cast members as well as at least one parent/guardian. No early fittings will be allowed.

Dancer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Performers should not remove any costume piece from the designated backstage or dressing area. Performers do not get to keep costumes/props after the performances and should handle their assigned costumes and props with care. Performers are responsible for the way the costumes are treated once they have been assigned.

It is the performer's responsibility to be sure that his or her costumes are stored/hung up properly between rehearsals and shows. No part of the costume should not be left out or on the floor.

Drinking, eating, or chewing gum in costume is strictly prohibited. Performers will be held financially responsible for any damage to the costumes coming from food/drinks/gum.

Each performer's hair, makeup, tights, leotard, and shoes must match the instruction of the Artistic Director.

NO nail polish or jewelry will be allowed on stage. Any ear piercing must be planned accordingly as NO earrings will be allowed. If the performer is wearing any jewelry, it will be removed before they go onstage. The Union County Youth Ballet will not be responsible for personal items.

## **Media/Photography/Videography**

### **Background**

Union County Youth Ballet loves to feature our performers in our advertising. We want to share the students that our community knows and loves as they accomplish their performance goals.

That being said, photography and videography from the audience is very distracting to both the performers and other audience members. We want to provide the best possible theatrical experience for everyone involved in the production, and don't want to spoil the magic of the Nutcracker for anyone.

Union County Youth Ballet wants to offer the opportunity to have a recording of the dancers, but we want to do so from a place that does not distract the dancers or other audience members. Professional photos and videos of the show will be available for purchase at the show.

### **Policy**

There is no photography/recording at all during the performances. Photos and video recording (ONLY with no flash) will be allowed from the audience during on-stage rehearsals.

**Video clips from rehearsals may not be posted online or to any social media site without direct permission from the Artistic Director and Choreographer. Choreography falls under copyright law.**

## **Casting**

### **Background**

Casting is one of the most critical elements in The Nutcracker production, but one of the most difficult as well. Many dancers aspire to perform a certain role in The Nutcracker for many years; others look to the role as confirming their skills in, or enjoyment of, dance. It is also a community performance, one that UCYB strives to produce not solely as a performance vehicle for dancers, but also as a classical ballet of the highest quality for the enjoyment and entertainment of the audience. These two needs must be balanced carefully during the casting process.

Dancer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Policy

Casting will be done by the Artistic Director, in consultation with the Ballet Mistresses and other choreographers.

Factors affecting the role(s) cast for a dancer include:

- Audition performance
- Costume requirements
- Demonstrated work ethic
- Past performing experience
- Physical ability
- Production needs
- Role aspirations
- Teamwork and leadership

No role shall be cast based upon a dancer's family's financial support of UCYB, relationship to Artistic Staff, relationship to UCYB's Board of Directors, or their family's participation (volunteer or otherwise) in The Nutcracker or other UCYB productions and/or activities.

All roles cast are subject to change at the discretion of the Artistic Director.

Most students in **1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades will dance in 1 role** and that **Pre-Advanced Level students will have 1-2 roles** depending on technical strength and experience. **Advanced Students may receive up to 3 roles.** Many roles will be double cast this year, meaning students may only dance in three of the six shows.

By signing the Rules & Regulations Form, a dancer agrees to accept all roles cast and follow all UCYB policies. Dancers not accepting a role forfeit the privilege of performing in The Nutcracker.

## Removal of a Dancer from the Production

### Background

The Nutcracker ballet requires the dedicated efforts of all participants. Each piece danced is a combination of an individual's skills, their interactions with other dancers, and a complex synthesis of these elements called stage presentation. Even the simplest of pieces requires lots and lots of practice to produce the desired result.

Rehearsal absences, consistent tardiness, failure to meet and maintain role guidelines, and violation of UCYB rules and guidelines can adversely affect the entire production.

### Policy

The Artistic Staff of UCYB reserves the right to remove from the production any dancer whose influence or actions are deemed harmful to themselves or others, and/or who will not follow the rules, policies, and/or guidelines of UCYB. If this occurs, no deduction or return of fee or any part thereof will be made.

The use of illegal drugs, tobacco, alcohol, fighting, foul or abusive language, gross misconduct, vaping, sexual harassment, or violation of UCYB rules, policies and/or guidelines are all examples of behavior that are grounds for immediate removal from the production.