

2026 AUDITION PACKET

Dancer North's 38th Anniversary Production of

The Magic of the Nutcracker

Audition paperwork and fees for all DCN performing companies are due no later than **Monday, August 10th at 5:00 pm**

AUDITION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

4:30-5:45 pm Ballet 2B, 3A, 3B, & 4

6:00-7:15 pm Ballet 5 & 6

7:30-8:45 pm Ballet 7 & 8



\$5.00 Audition Fee, due with paperwork (late paperwork will be assessed an increased audition fee of \$10)

NUTCRACKER WORKSHOP: August 11, 6:30-7:15 pm

This workshop is designed for students who are new to the audition process. **It is highly recommended for those seriously interested in becoming a cast member.** Students will be guided through a mock audition and have an opportunity to ask questions with a member of the directing team. This workshop coincides with the Nutcracker Parent Discussion Circle. Parents will be guided through the logistics of Nutcracker auditions, rehearsals, performances, and everything associated with being a member of the Nutcracker performing company. No registration or fees are required for this workshop. **Students should wear full Ballet attire to the workshop.**

Please read this entire packet before auditioning!

Dancer North's annual production of *"The Magic of the Nutcracker"* is a wonderful opportunity for students to take part in a high-quality production that is seen by thousands of people each holiday season. Dancer North utilizes the talents of professional dancers and choreographers, along with our very talented student performers, to present a production that is of the highest caliber. We strive to give our audiences our very best!

Being selected as a cast member is an honor and a privilege, but it is also a commitment and a responsibility that requires a high level of dedication from both the performer and the performer's parents/guardians. Before auditioning, potential cast members must consider all other activities in which they may be involved and be willing to put their commitment to our production above and beyond any other activities that may conflict with the rehearsal and performance requirements associated with *"The Magic of the Nutcracker"*. Please bear in mind while making the decision to audition that being a cast member is not just another extracurricular activity. Dozens of people, including performers, directors, choreographers and the performance itself are negatively affected if all cast members are not demonstrating the same level of commitment.

Once you have reviewed this entire packet and have made the decision to audition, you need the following items turned in to the Dancer North office by **Monday, August 10th at 5:00 pm**.

- **Audition Application** (page 4)
- **Student/Parent Contract** (page 5)
- **\$5 Audition Fee** (exact cash)
- **Headshot or School Picture** (no larger than 4"x4")

Please do not staple your paperwork; use a paperclip or submit in an envelope. Only the requested paperwork should be submitted. Keep all other paperwork in this packet for your personal reference. Turning in the completed forms does not guarantee acceptance as a cast member. It only guarantees the opportunity to audition. No one will be allowed to audition without completed forms.

Audition status will be announced via email no later than Friday, August 14th

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2026 CASTING, REHEARSAL, & PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

PLEASE NOTE! Attendance is required and mandatory for all of the following dates (*unless otherwise noted).
If you are unable to attend one or more of the following dates, you will not be accepted as a company member.

August 22-23	Casting
August 29-30	Casting
November 22	Studio Run-Thru
December 6, 7, 10, 11	Libertyville High School Stage Rehearsals
December 12-13	Libertyville High School Performances
December 14-16	Genesee Theatre Stage Rehearsals
December 17-18	Genesee Theatre Performances

CAST MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

1. Cast members must meet the following requirements in their Dancenter North Fall 2026 class registration:

Performance Practice Group 1 (PP1): 2 Ballet Technique classes, a choice of 1 Modern, Lyrical, Broadway Dance, or Character class, and the PP1 Company Rehearsal Class (Saturdays, 11:00-12:00).

Performance Practice Group 2 (PP2): 2 Ballet Technique classes, 1 Pointe or Pointe Prep class, a choice of 1 Modern, Lyrical, Broadway Dance, or Character class, and the PP2 Company Rehearsal Class (Saturdays, 1:30-2:30).

Performance Practice Group 3 (PP3): 3 Ballet Technique classes, at least 1 Pointe class, a choice of 1 Modern, Lyrical, Broadway Dance, or Character class, and the PP3 Company Rehearsal Class (Saturdays, 4:00-6:00).

2. Cast members are to maintain consistent attendance in their required classes. There may be no more than two absences from any required technique class. Classes that are made up within a 2-week period are not counted as absences. After two absences, there will be a meeting with the director to determine if continuing as a cast member is a good fit.

3. Performance Practice classes and Sunday rehearsals are vitally important to a successful production. Every effort must be made to attend each and every one. **There may be no more than two rehearsal day absences.** Absences must be communicated in advance either via email to the director(s) at least 24 hours prior to rehearsal, or by calling the DCN front desk the day of rehearsal so they may alert the directing team. Any performer missing more than two rehearsal days will be removed from the cast. There will be no exceptions. Extenuating circumstances, such as injury or illness, should be discussed with the director.

4. All dates listed in the above calendar are mandatory and cannot be missed for any reason.

5. If you are notified of your child's selection for the company, your child will be automatically enrolled for the appropriate Company Rehearsal Class. Tuition for the class is included in our Carte Blanche program. **If a tuition balance is due for the Company Rehearsal Class, it will be automatically charged to your default credit card on file upon enrollment on August 14, 2026.** Production fees are not covered in the Carte Blanche program.

6. All company members must pay a non-refundable production fee of **\$255.00**, which will be **automatically charged to the default credit card on file the week of October 5, 2026.** Families wishing to submit a different form of payment can do so prior to October 5, 2026. An email reminder will be sent before payments are processed. Production fees will not be refunded for any reason. The production fee includes, but is not limited to, the following: casting sessions, costumes, choreography, extra rehearsal time, stage rehearsals, outside venue insurance, storage rental, warm-up classes, administrative staff, backstage supplies, janitorial supplies, wardrobe supplies, sewing supplies, make-up, and additional room rentals.

7. Performers' parents/guardians are required to accumulate the necessary number of BRAVO! points in support of the performers and the productions. Failure to do so will result in the student's ineligibility to audition for future DCN productions. Details can be found on page 3.

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CASTING INFORMATION

Casting decisions are left entirely up to the directing team. **Directors will not discuss casting with parents or students after the list is published.** Every effort is given to showcase all of our students. To present productions of quality and interest to our audience, there will sometimes be parts that are larger than others or some that are more appealing for one reason or another. As part of the students' education in the performing arts, they must learn that these decisions are made for the success of the entire production. Parental support in these decisions is necessary and appreciated.

2026 CASTING SESSIONS

All students chosen for the 2026 production must attend the following casting sessions:

Saturday, August 22

11:00-12:00 PP1
1:30-2:30 PP2
4:00-6:00 PP3

Sunday, August 23

2:15-3:00 PP1
3:00-4:00 PP2
4:00-6:00 PP3



Saturday, August 29

11:00-12:00 PP1
1:30-2:30 PP2
4:00-6:00 PP3

Sunday, August 30 *(only if needed)*

2:15-3:00 PP1
3:00-4:00 PP2
4:00-6:00 PP3



CASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

It is hard to predict when the exact announcement will be made. Our target is Labor Day weekend. Emails will be sent when casting is completed. A great deal of thought is given to the casting decisions to create a balanced and strong production. **Out of respect for each dancer, casting should not be discussed among fellow cast members until 24 hours after the list is published.** This allows dancers to privately celebrate their casting with their families.

All cast members will begin attending their Saturday company rehearsal classes on September 12. Sunday rehearsals will begin September 13. Sunday rehearsals are by role and the calendar will change each week. Rehearsal calendars are published in the online Company Corner (www.dancercenter-north/company-corner).

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies are assigned for all parts in the production. **Understudies must attend all rehearsals for those parts.** They must learn and keep accurate notes of all choreography and stage directions as they may be called upon at any time to perform whenever there is an illness, injury, or if a performer is not able to keep their performance commitment. **Absences from rehearsals for understudy roles are counted the same as all other absences and are included in the two-absence limit per dancer.**

OPEN CASTING FOR SPECIALY PARTS

Auditions for Party Adults & Party Boys will be in September.

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2026 NUTCRACKER BRAVO! PROGRAM

The BRAVO! program is for parents and guardians of cast members. Volunteering during the Nutcracker season is required (and fun!). There will be a BRAVO! meeting on **Sunday, September 13th @ 2:30 pm**. All new Nutcracker families are required to send one parent or guardian to the meeting. Veteran families are always welcome. New families will be assigned a Nutcracker Mentor Family, who will be present with you at the meeting. Team leaders will explain the volunteer opportunities available in their categories. There will also be a Q&A session.

BRAVO! jobs are first come, first served. Sign up takes place online through **www.signupgenius.com**. The link for the 2026 Nutcracker BRAVO! sign up will be sent via email to all parents/guardians listed on the audition application. Parents can volunteer for any combination of jobs in order to fulfill their required points.

A minimum of 60 points is required for one cast member. A second child in the cast requires an additional **30 points**. Please take into consideration that many families choose to exceed the required number of points, as they are aware of the intricacies and difficulties of producing such a quality production. If you are able to do additional work in any area of need, it is always appreciated! As they say, "Many hands make light work!"

There are five categories for volunteers to engage in supporting the production.

- A. **PRE-PRODUCTION:** costuming, sets, props
- B. **TRANSPORT:** load-in, load-out, laying dance floor, strike
- C. **MARKETING:** poster distribution, ad sales
- D. **PERFORMER WELFARE:** providing food for cast, setting up, serving
- E. **SHOWTIME:** dresser, makeup, security, usher, lobby sales



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please print clearly in black or blue pen

2026 AUDITION APPLICATION

STUDENT NAME _____

AGE _____ HEIGHT **IN INCHES** _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/ZIP _____

SCHOOL _____

GRADE _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

PRIMARY PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME _____ PARENT CELL _____

PARENT EMAIL _____

I AM A NUTCRACKER VETERAN PARENT & AM INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AS A NEW FAMILY MENTOR: YES _____ NO _____

ADDITIONAL PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME (OPTIONAL) _____

PARENT CELL _____ PARENT EMAIL _____

I AM A NUTCRACKER VETERAN PARENT & AM INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AS A NEW FAMILY MENTOR: YES _____ NO _____

If you have never been in a DCN production, please tell us about your dance training and performing experience.

I am a registered student at Dancenter North: ____YES ____NO

List all classes enrolled in for Fall 2026 at DCN (*discipline and level only; do not list days & times*).

If you were a 2025 Nutcracker cast member, please list all roles, including understudy roles, in which you were cast.

List all school/sport/religious/extracurricular activities and day/time of involvement, August-December, 2026.

List any planned family or school trips, August-December, 2026.

List any other personal dates of conflict, August-December, 2026.

STUDENTS & PARENTS! Please review this contract together carefully. Items should be discussed and understood before making a commitment. After reading the entire contract, both the performer and the parent must initial every rule as listed, and both must sign and date at the bottom.

**STUDENT
INITIALS** **PARENT
INITIALS**

- | | | |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | I understand that the audition application and the contract must be fully completed, accompanied by a headshot and audition fee, and turned into the DCN office no later than August 10, 2026 at 5:00 pm. I understand that my audition fee will increase to \$10 if we do not meet the deadline. |
| _____ | _____ | I understand that if notified of selection for the cast, my child will be automatically enrolled for the assigned Company Rehearsal Class. If applicable, I will be charged tuition associated with that class to my default credit card on August 14, 2026. I understand that it is my responsibility to contact the front office if I need to make changes to my default credit card on file or if I wish to submit a different form of payment. |
| _____ | _____ | I understand that casting decisions are final and that directors will not discuss casting with parents or students. |
| _____ | _____ | I understand the class/rehearsal attendance requirements as spelled out in this packet. I commit to communicating in a timely and efficient manner if I am unable to attend my required classes and/or company rehearsals. |
| _____ | _____ | I understand that it is my responsibility to check my personal performer file folder each time I come to the studio for any rehearsal scheduling, costuming information, or any other show-related information. In addition, I understand that it is my responsibility to frequently check the online Company Corner (www.dancenter-north.com/company-corner) for scheduling changes, updates, and general cast information. |
| _____ | _____ | I understand that as a Nutcracker cast member, I am expected to be a good role model and an ambassador of Dancenter North. This means that I will exhibit good behavior at the studio, theatre, and all other venues. I will be a team player. I will be courteous to other students, guest artists, teachers, directors, staff members, and BRAVO! volunteers; whether at Dancenter North or other locations. I also understand that any inappropriate behavior, including gossiping, complaining, or bullying, will result in a personal conversation with the directors and may lead to removal from the cast. |
| _____ | _____ | I understand that if accepted as a cast member, a non-refundable production fee of \$255.00 will be automatically charged to my default credit card the week of October 5, 2026. I understand that it is my responsibility to contact the front office if I need to make changes to my default credit card on file or if I wish to submit a different form of payment. Additionally, I understand that my fee will not be refunded for any reason. |
| _____ | _____ | I understand the requirements of the Nutcracker BRAVO! program. If my child is selected for the cast, I commit to accumulating a minimum of 60 points in support of the production. I commit to accumulating an additional 30 points if I have a second cast member in the production. If I fail to do so, my child will not be eligible to audition for future productions at Dancenter North. I also understand that if we are new to Nutcracker, a parent or guardian from our family will attend the BRAVO! meeting on 9/13. |
| _____ | _____ | I understand that for the privacy of our families and the respect & protection of the directors' choreography, no unauthorized videos or photographs of rehearsal and/or performances may be posted online or on social media without the direct consent of the director. |

I have read all of the information contained in this packet and in the above contract. I understand and agree to this commitment as outlined.

Student's Name (print) _____ Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Name (print) _____ Parent's Signature _____ Date _____