



Opus Nutcracker Performance Policies

Audition Registration

Opus is thrilled to be back on the Mount Baker Theatre stage for The Nutcracker on December 15 & 16, 2021. We are already deep into preparation with co-director Ian Bivins as we plan our return to the stage!!!

To Consider Before You Register: _____

Performing is a significant commitment for students and their families. For parents it involves bringing students to numerous rehearsals and performances during an already busy time of year. For students it involves learning and absorbing a great deal of choreography in a short period of time. With this commitment comes the invaluable learning experience of performing in a production. We believe this unique opportunity is one your child will never forget. Please take the time to carefully read over the following information.

Performances: _____

Opus Performing Arts Presents: The Nutcracker
Two performances to take place at Mount Baker Theater on:
Wednesday, December 15
Thursday, December 16

Casting Requirements:

All dancers must be enrolled students with the minimum number of required classes at Opus Performing Arts School. Class enrollment deadline is September 13, 2021

All performers must submit:

1. Signed Nutcracker Commitment Form
2. Student Information Form
3. Costuming Form
4. \$150 Performance Fee to cover venue rental, videographer, backstage photographer, choreography, rehearsal costs and costume cleaning/maintenance
 - Performance fee paid in full by audition date

It is our policy that no student should be precluded from dancing at Opus for financial reasons. We have a variety of scholarships and other assistance programs available. Please contact Opus to learn more.

In-Person Audition:

On Wednesday June 2, 2021 we will be holding in-person auditions for *some* principal roles at The Firehouse Arts & Events Center (1314 Harris Ave). If you would like to be considered for a principal role, please plan to attend the Nutcracker Audition or send in a video audition. Casting of main roles will be announced via email by July 10, 2021

To Audition In-Person

Email Brooke by Monday May 31 to be assigned a group for attending the audition. Group assignments will be emailed out on Tuesday June 1. Please print, complete and turn in the Nutcracker Performance Forms at the audition.

brooke@opusbellingham.com

COVID Safety Requirements for In-Person Auditions:

We will be auditioning students in small groups (less than 3-4 students at a time) to limit potential COVID exposure. Brooke & Ian will be in the room during the audition, both have been fully vaccinated. Celeste is leading the audition, who will have received her second shot by the audition date.

1. Liability form for Opus - Signed and emailed back to both Allan and Brooke. This form confirms your child's in-person registration. Students are required to have this emailed to us BEFORE the audition. They will not be able to participate without it.
2. Contact tracing - The Firehouse requires contact tracing. Please ensure you've provided your best emergency contact number on the liability form.
3. Masks - A well-fitted mask that doesn't slip down during turning or jumping. A mask with a filter or double-masking is preferred.
4. Temperature checks - Brooke will take each student's temperature upon arrival and document it

In-Person Audition Protocols:

1. All auditions will be held at The Firehouse Arts & Events Center, 1314 Harris Avenue. If you haven't been there before, come in the back door by the park and you'll see the studio through the doors. Please only one student at a time in the small lobby at a time. Look through the window to make sure there is not another student in the lobby area already before you enter. The Firehouse has a small café, with lovely outdoor seating & wi-fi for parents who want to stick around while their child is auditioning.
2. Upon arrival, student's temperatures will be taken and documented
3. Please take your items into the studio with you and not to the small dressing room. Teachers will direct students where to place your items and which section of the floor will be theirs to dance in for the duration of the class

4. Barres will be wiped down before and after each audition
5. The ventilation fan will be going during each audition, which runs through a pleated Merv 13 Air Filter made with electrostatically charged synthetic material that draws and captures allergens between 0.3 - 1.0 microns, including lint, mites, mold spores, pollen, dander, fine dust, smoke, viruses, and bacteria
7. Water breaks will happen outside & distanced only. If your child has a pair of easy slip-on shoes to go outside for water, this is helpful!
8. Pick up - Students will exit out the back door one-at-a-time once the audition is finished to meet up with their parent

Wednesday June 2 Audition Schedule:

4:30-5:30 Group #1
5:45-6:45 Group #2
7:00-8:00 Group #3

***Dancers are required to warm up at home before their audition time.** There will not be a warm up provided. Regular Ballet IV+ Zoom class will not take place on this date.

Email Brooke by Monday May 31 to be assigned a group for attending the audition. Group assignments will be emailed out on Tuesday June 1. Please email Brooke completed Nutcracker Performance Forms

brooke@opusbellingham.com

Video Audition:

If you are uncomfortable with an in-person audition, we invite you to submit a video audition for review. Audition material will be emailed to you by Monday June 7. You will have one week to submit your online audition.

To Register for Video Audition

Email Brooke by Monday May 31 to confirm you will be submitting a video audition. Please email Brooke completed Nutcracker Performance Forms.

brooke@opusbellingham.com

Summer Rehearsals:

Principal roles are required to rehearse in-person over the summer break, depending on student availability. We can work around vacations and other summer commitments since these roles will have smaller casts. Rehearsals will not begin until mid-July, so there is plenty of time to get vaccinated before rehearsals begin!

Casting Results:

- Casting for all non-auditioning roles will be emailed by September 15, 2021
- Casting results are final.
- You are committed to the performance regardless of the role(s) received.

A note on casting:

Casting will be done with the spirit of the collaborative ensemble in mind. Students will be assigned roles based on what will ensure their success and growth in a demanding yet extremely supportive environment. Please understand our professional faculty considers a multitude of factors when it comes to casting decisions. These include:

- Class attendance
- Dancer's technique level
- Number of dancers
- Dancer schedule conflicts
- Dancer maturity in the audition and in class
- Acting skills and performance quality

We want to assure dancers that this audition is in no way competitive but a way to explore new concepts, especially as we dig deep into the storytelling aspect of The Nutcracker. Students can often desire the same role(s) which can lead to feelings of competition. However, we seek to create a community where we are all supportive of one another while exploring new skills and challenges. We kindly ask parents to model a supportive, appreciative attitude about casting. Everyone will get a role. We have many wonderful dancers at Opus, choosing the best suited dancers for all of the roles is a difficult decision and not one that we take lightly.

Communication:

- All communication regarding rehearsal schedules, performance information, etc. will be done through email. Please give Opus an email address you regularly check so that we can effectively communicate with you.
- If a student will miss a rehearsal due to illness or other circumstances, please call or email.

Rehearsals:

- Rehearsals will be held every weekend beginning in September. Weekly schedules to be determined. We will be rehearsing both Saturdays and Sundays, though not all students will be required to attend both rehearsal days. Please indicate your availability on your registration form.
- Dancers must arrive at OPUS at least *15 minutes early* for rehearsals to adequately prepare themselves.
- Rehearsals are closed to friends and family members, including technical and dress rehearsals.
- Students and their parents should consider the large time commitment required for rehearsals and performances. A commitment of this level is viewed as a family commitment. If you are involved in other activities that meet regularly on the weekends (soccer!), the potential for conflict does exist.

Mandatory Rehearsal Dates:

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|------------------|-----------|---|
| November 27 | - | No Saturday rehearsal |
| November 28 | Time TBD | <i>Sunday</i> rehearsal during Thanksgiving weekend |
| December 4 | 2:30-5:30 | Mandatory Show Run Through |
| December 9 | 4:00-9:00 | Mandatory Dress Rehearsal |
| December 11 | 2:30-5:30 | Mandatory Show Run |
| December 14 | 4:00-9:00 | Mandatory Tech/Dress @ Mount Baker Theatre |
| December 15 & 16 | Call TBD | Performances @ Mount Baker Theatre |
| December 17 | 5:00-7:00 | Cast Party |

*Dates/times are subject to change.

Rehearsal and Class Attendance:

Absence from rehearsal affects the ability to learn and refine choreography. The entire cast is unable to progress when one member is missing from rehearsal. *You are part of a team.* You will be expected to attend every rehearsal for which you are scheduled, so please check your calendars now, before you make this commitment.

- **Please make every effort to attend every rehearsal for your role(s).**
- **We ask students to not miss more than two rehearsals in this short process.**

Attendance in regularly scheduled classes is needed to support and strengthen your role onstage. Students with excessive absences from rehearsal or class will not be allowed to perform. Dancers and/or parents who are aware of a potential date of conflict will be given the opportunity to submit a date/time to the Artistic Director on the Nutcracker commitment form.

Costumes:

Families are responsible for providing the following for performances:

1. Pink and flesh colored tights are welcomed. Tights should be matte (not shiny or Lycra), with no holes and worn without underwear (2 pairs recommended)
2. Ballet slippers should align with the color of the tights, elastics sewn properly into shoe & drawstrings adjusted for comfort, tied into a knot, trimmed and tucked into shoe
3. Tan or Black Jazz Boots - Party Scene & Battle Scene characters
4. Leotard - color and type dependent on casting
5. Nude leotard best matching your skin tone for Ballet I+ (girls)
6. Dance belt (boys)
7. Make up products
8. Hair accessories

All other costumes are property of Opus Performing Arts School

NO eating or drinking in costume

There will be a replacement charge for any costumes damaged or lost