



Westlake School for the Performing Arts

Malu Rivera-Peoples
School Director
200 Northgate Ave.
Daly City, CA 94015

Telephone (650) 757-1244
Fax (650) 757-1961
E-mail: wspal@sbcglobal.net
wspadance.com

Nutcracker Announcements

Dear Parents and Students,

It's time for that magical ballet to come alive again on December 1-2 at the Palace of Fine Arts. Attached you will find all the information regarding this year's preparation for Nutcracker. Please read carefully the following.

1. Participating and Non-Participating Students

Once your child has been accepted in the performance program, he/she automatically is required to participate in the Nutcracker. Every level (junior, jr. apprentice, apprentice or company) is assigned a role (flowers, snowflakes, mice, soldiers, etc.) and their parts will be rehearsed during the **routine class**. **If you cannot participate because of religious obligations, please inform the office by September 8.** A non-participating student in the Performance Program will be switched to the Ballet Academic Program until December.

Auditions – Lead roles are open to auditions. Please see schedule of auditions attached.

2. Expenses for Participating Students

- a) **Audition Fee** - There is a one-time \$15.00 audition fee for all those auditioning for lead roles.
- b) **Participation fee** - There is a non-refundable \$50 participation fee due from every student. The adults are exempted from the fee but are expected to volunteer their time and expertise in the promotion, marketing, fundraising, and ticket sales involved in the production.
- c) **Advertisement** - We will be soliciting business advertisement to help finance some of the costs of production.
- d) **Costumes** - All costumes and accessories will be provided for by WSPA except for the following:

Shoes and tights - Students and adults will pay for the shoes and tights required for the role.

Act I - Party Scene - All the adults and children casted in the Party Scene **with the exception of the nannies and magical toys**, will purchase their own dresses, gowns, and accessories (flowers or wigs) or enhancements required by the role. **This includes Chelsea's girlfriends.**

Boys and Men in the Party Scene will go to the assigned Tuxedo outlet for their fitting and will pay for their own Tuxedo rental fee.

3. Rehearsal Schedule

The rehearsal schedule will be posted on the first day of class once the cast has been finalized. As in the previous years, rehearsals for the Party Scene will be scheduled on Saturday afternoons starting at 3:30 pm. All ballet numbers will be rehearsed in the ballet routine classes, Spanish/Arabian/Chinese/Russian character numbers and tapping toy soldiers will have separate rehearsals. **By the first week of November, everyone in the cast must be prepared to rehearse the entire production every Saturday afternoon at 3:30pm. There will be two mandatory Sunday rehearsals on November 18 and November 25 (the 25th is Thanksgiving Weekend).** Absences will not be tolerated. We will try our best to follow the schedule, however, be prepared for any change should the need arise.

4. What about parent involvement?

Parent involvement will play an important role in the success of this production whether you are on stage performing or behind the scenes. Some organizations and schools require a minimum number of service hours from each parent ranging from 3 to 6 hours. **We will not impose mandatory service hours, however, just as we had always asked for volunteers for recitals and competitions, we would like the parents to step forward and help, especially those who will be performing in the party scene. Please note that WSPA is not requiring adults to pay the participation fee but encourages them to participate actively in the planning and supervision of the different jobs needed to be done for this production (i.e., sugar plum fairy party, costumes, ad solicitations, etc.).**

As it has become a tradition, the Parents of the student casted as Clara will be the chairperson and the parents of the Children in the Party Scene will make up the committee for the Sugar Plum Fairy Party. Please ask the office for details should you be the lucky one.

I hope I have given you all the information that you need to know, for more FAQs on the Nutcracker, a separate flyer can be obtained from the office. We have made quite a reputation for our Nutcracker performances and I hope and request for every participating student and parent to work towards keeping that high quality performance expected each year through your enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication. I have no doubt it will be a very rewarding experience for all.

I am looking forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Malu Rivera-Peoples
School Director

Nutcracker Audition - Procedures and Schedule - August 30, Thursday

1. **Arrive 30 mins.** before the audition or class provided.
2. **Please register in the office and take a number.** There is a \$15.00 audition fee.
3. **There are preparatory classes for Clara, Nutcracker Prince and Clara's Friends provided for the students who want to learn the parts before auditioning. Please pay the \$15.00 audition fee prior to taking the preparatory classes.**
4. **If you are going for a major role or a lead role, it would be good to watch the video and practice on your own before the audition.** If you are not prepared to accept the role assigned to you (lead or ensemble), please do not audition.
5. We do not know how many will show up for the auditions, therefore, we have no idea how many we have to view for each role. The audition time for each role is just an estimate. Please bear with us for any delay.
6. Some of the major roles have been pre-assigned, however, we are still posting them for auditions to give others a chance.
7. Most of all, stay relaxed, have fun, and keep a positive attitude.

Audition Times (All auditions will be held in Studio A) - Class Levels refer to 2011-2012 placement

	Estimated time Of Audition August 30	Requirements	Preparatory Class of Audition August 30
Clara's Friends & Fritz's Friends	5:15 }	Jr. 3, Jr. 4 & Jr. Appt and w/at least 1 yr dance exp. Must not be taller than 4 ½ feet	4:15-5:15
Clara & Nutcracker Prince (Mime)	5:15 }		4:15-5:15
Tapping Toy Soldiers (3)	6:15	Tap Students – Jr. Apprentice & Apprentice	

LEAD ROLES - AUDITION DATE: Wednesday, August 29

Princess Flora, Merlitons Butterflies, Dancing Doll Chelsea's Girl Friends Spanish & Arabian Leads	7:15-8:15	Company & Apprentice Levels Only	Company/Apprentice Class 5:45-7:15
---	-----------	----------------------------------	--