



# PERFORMANCE HANDBOOK 25-26

For more than 80 years, we have provided our students with the exciting and valuable experience of presenting a staged concert or recital. It is a portion of your child's arts education that many often look forward to most! This year, we are presenting two shows: Nutcracker Mac Gray Auditorium and a Spring Recital at Mac Gray Auditorium.

## **Nutcracker 2025**

Friday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm AND Saturday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm  
Mac Gray Auditorium

- Call time for Dancers in ACT I (arrive dressed & ready to perform) at 6:00pm on FRIDAY and 3:30 on SATURDAY.
- Call time for Stage Moms for ACT I is 5:15pm on FRIDAY and 3:15pm on SATURDAY.
- Dancers in ACT II only should arrive dressed & ready to perform in time to find their seat for the show. Dancers will be called backstage during intermission.
- Stage Moms for ACT II only will be called backstage during intermission.

## **Spring Recital 2026**

Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm  
Mac Gray Auditorium  
Dancers arrive at 3:15pm / Stage Moms arrive at 3:00pm

**\*\*Visit the website Bulletin Board for a full list of which classes are in each performance. \*\***

### **Purpose**

Our end-of-year performances allow our students an opportunity to present a piece of their study and progress to their family, friends, and community. The performance is just one of many purposes in the study of dance, and it is also part of the learning process—a tool for the artist/student. Throughout the performance process, your dancer is learning important skills such as commitment, preparation, time management, organization, responsibility, on the spot problem solving, quick response and thinking, cooperation, adaptability, respect, flexibility, the ability to bounce back quickly, and how to manage an array of emotions and information during a high-pressure situation. These are all important skills for life, and the beauty of learning them through dance is that your child's joy in the art helps them also develop self-esteem, self-assurance, self-love, resilience, vision, grace, initiative, confidence, pride, and joy throughout the process. As much as we all love the show, remember it is just the surface of what is happening before you. As you help your child prepare and experience these performances, keep in mind the depth of what they are learning and help them acknowledge these accomplishments in addition to the skills that they present on the stage. The really good stuff lies beneath the surface.

### **Commitment**

By enrolling in a class at Betty's, you have also enrolled in our performances. You can easily withdraw from the performance before the due date of the first performance fee by simply notifying us in writing that your dancer will not be performing. If you enroll in class after performance fees are billed, you must let us know if your child wants to participate in the performances. If there is enough time for your child to prepare, and we can still prepare costumes, you will then be able to pay any associated performance fees and participate in the performance.

In the case of Nutcracker, when there are multiple performances, dancers who wish to perform in the show should be present for *ALL* performances. Changing the number of dancers in a dance changes the choreography and line-ups for the entire class. If your dancer cannot attend all scheduled performances, be sure to inform the front desk at the time the first performance fee is due, so the class can learn variations in choreography if possible.

Students who are not performing in the recitals are welcome and encouraged to continue to participate fully in classes. If your child *is* performing, your commitment to the performance is very important. Many hours of preparation go into

the performance. Changes in formations, timing, costumes, etc. affect ALL students, choreographers, teachers, staff, and ultimately impact the entire performance. Being present in classes and rehearsals is the base level of commitment for being in a performance. Your dancer's class depends on your dancer to help them present their best work and every dancer is important and valuable to the piece.

In addition to time commitment, there is also a financial commitment to the performance. We know the actual cost of putting on a performance is not obvious to those outside of the production planning, so we do post a list on the bulletin board in the studio to help our families understand the need for performance fees, costume rental fees, and tickets. Our financial planning and spending starts early. Having a set budget to work with is important in our ability to prepare for the productions. We do not refund or credit any performance fees, costume fees, or tickets, as our planning and financial commitment is based on the initial performance budget, and our students are depending on us to prepare for their performances.

### **Staying Informed**

We post important information about performances on the studio website Bulletin Board at [www.dancenc.com/bulletin-board](http://www.dancenc.com/bulletin-board). Scroll down below the Important Dates for detailed information. This is also available in the middle of our homepage. Families *must* access this information to know how to meet expectations for the performances. We do also send out emails with important information or changes, but please refer to the website often for information you may have missed.

### **Stage Rehearsals**

During the week of stage rehearsals, your child's schedule may be different than usual. It is crucial that you view the stage rehearsal schedule at [www.dancenc.com](http://www.dancenc.com) and make plans for your child to be at the stage on the set days and times. The auditorium rents for about \$200-\$250 per hour. We cannot afford to extend rehearsals for late arrivals. Your child's class is depending on everyone being present to properly prepare their dance for the performance. We *cannot* rehearse the exact spacing of the stage in our studio. If there is *one* dancer missing at stage rehearsal, that means the *entire* class does not get to run through their dance with the adjusted spacing before the performance. These rehearsals are very important, not only for your child but for her/his entire class.

To save time and reduce the mounting cost of auditorium rental, we do not hold full dress rehearsals at the stage for our shows. We hold staging rehearsals only. If you notice that your dancer has a quick change (less than 3 dances to change), please check with your class's stage mom to verify the quick change has been noted.

We will try our best to stay right on schedule during stage rehearsals. All dancers below level 400 should have a chaperone with them in the auditorium throughout the entire rehearsal. Stage moms are not present for stage rehearsal, and your dancer may need your help with shoe changes. There is also a chance they may finish early! While your dancer does not need to wear her/his costume, they should wear usual dancewear and their appropriate shoes.

### **Costume Rental**

We rent costumes to our students instead of having families purchase them. The costume rental fee covers things like purchasing or making new costumes and props, cleaning costumes and props, repairing costumes, and organizing/cataloging costumes. We chose to switch to costume rentals to help our studio families save money each year and to reduce waste. Before we switched to costume rental over 10 years ago, our dancers were paying \$75-\$125 per costume for recital. The studio paid out over \$26,000 to costume companies each recital, which meant our families were paying that much for costumes they would wear once. That is the typical cost for dance costumes. Our costume rental fees are now typically \$25 (or more for some ballet company costumes). While we do have expenses that we did not have when we just purchased costumes, such as cleaning, repairing, cataloging, and altering, we are still able to reduce our cost by about \$20,000. Not only does this save our families a significant amount of money, but we are also reducing our contribution to the waste of producing similar costumes repeatedly only to be used once and then stored in a closet forever or tossed in the donation bin.

**Costume return** is an important part of this process. The rental fee for your costume only includes rental up to the due date of the costume. This date is posted on the website, in your contract, and on the studio bulletin board. If your

dancer's costumes are not received by the set due date, you will be charged an additional costume rental fee *per costume* to cover the next rental period (usually two weeks or our last day of classes for the term). If we do not receive your costumes by that time, we will charge you for the full cost of replacing the costume. Sometimes this means having a costume custom made, so please contact us immediately if you have problems returning your costumes or if you are missing any pieces. There is also a charge for missing hangers and name tags. Late costume return also increases our cost of cleaning, organizing and cataloging costumes, so please make every effort to return all pieces of your costume on time.

**Costume distribution** typically happens the week before the performances, and you can see the official date posted in the studio and on the website. You will pick-up your dancer's costumes from the front desk during costume week. Our staff will review with you the parts of the costume, and you will sign that you have received those items.

- We use these tags and hangers to help guide costume changes backstage. If you remove your child's costume from the hangers before the show to try them on or practice changes, be sure to return all parts of the costume to the proper hanger and accessory bags as they were before you tried on the costume.
- You are welcome to take photos – self or professional. However, be sure to get all costume parts back on the proper hanger when you are finished.
- Do not let your child play in their costumes or take them on and off the hangers themselves. This commonly leads to missing pieces, and those pieces may not be replaceable in time for the show.
- Check after the performance to make sure your child has all of their costume pieces with them so you can return them during costume return. We do not typically do this at the stage because of the high cost of auditorium rental.
- There will be a fee for any missing parts of the costume as well as missing hangers and name tags.
- Please do not launder the costumes or make unapproved alterations. They will be cleaned by the studio before they are cataloged.

### **Tights, Shoes, Hair, Make-up, Nude Leotards, and Other Student Provided Items**

Students are responsible for providing their own **tights and shoes** for the performance. The color of tights and shoes needed will be posted with your child's costume details. Tights and shoes can be purchased at the front desk.

Items that are considered standard dance supplies are also sometimes **provided by the student**. These items are also posted with the costume details and may include things like black dance shorts, black leotards, black leggings, socks, etc. If your dancer needs to change costumes during the show, she/he will need a **nude leotard**. This personal undergarment is worn under your dancer's tights and under your dancer's costumes. It allows your dancer to change quickly while still being covered backstage. We will hold a nude leotard order at the studio, and there are also places you can order them in a variety of colors to match your child's own skin tone if we cannot get a matching color. A nude leo also helps avoid any lighting issues that may make certain fabrics seem like they have less coverage.

**Hair and Make-Up** details will be listed in advanced of the show on the studio bulletin board and online. All dancers should wear make-up on performance day to prevent the bright lights from washing out their facial features and expressions. For young dancers, a minimum of blush, red toned lipstick, and mascara will help ensure that your dancer's expressions are visible from stage. As dancers get older and more comfortable with stage make-up, you can add base and eye shadows in neutral tones (no blues). Full stage make-up, including lashes, is required for 400 & 500 level dancers. Learning to do stage make-up is an important skill for performers and does affect their stage presence under stage lighting. Performance hairstyles will also be posted with your child's costume details.

### **Preparing before Performance Day**

Spend some time before performance day ensuring that everything is prepared for the performance. That way if something is missing or problematic, there is a chance it can be fixed. Last minute realizations may not be able to be corrected in time for the show. Make a checklist of your child's routines and refer to the costume information sheet to make sure you have everything together before heading to the auditorium. 400 & 500 level dancers should bring extra hair supplies, make-up, hair spray, extra tights, water, a stitch kit, personal care items, foot care supplies, and basically

all the necessities you usually carry in your dance bag. Make sure that you have all your dancer's shoes—with their names in them! Everyone's shoes look alike.

### **Performance Day Drop-off and Pick-up**

Specific details of performance specific drop-off and pick-up will be posted on the studio bulletin board and on the website. Drop off and pick up varies depending on the ACT in which your dancer performs. Dancers may only enter and exit the backstage area during the designated times (before the show, during intermission, and after the show).

**Dancers in ACT I and ACT II:** Your dancer will stay backstage for the entire show. You will drop your dancer off in their first costume, along with their supplies including other costumes on their labeled hangers and their shoes, to the door to the left of the stage. You will then send one person to that same door at the end of the show to pick-up your child. For larger shows, the director may dismiss by class from the stage. Please send one person forward to the stage.

**Dancers in ACT I Only:** You will drop your dancer off in their first costume, along with their supplies including other costumes on their labeled hangers and their shoes, to the door to the left of the stage. During intermission, you will send one person to the door to the left of the stage to pick-up your child. You and your child may then enjoy the rest of the show from the audience.

**Dancers in ACT II Only:** You should arrive at the auditorium with your child dressed in their first costume in time to take your seats in the audience before the show begins (performing dancers do not need a ticket). At intermission, dancers will be called for check-in at the door to the right of the stage. Please send one person to that door with your child and all of their additional costumes and shoes. Your dancer will be taken backstage. You will then send one person to that same door at the end of the show to pick-up your child. For larger shows, the director may choose to dismiss by class from the stage.

### **Stage Moms and other Volunteers**

We rely on Stage Moms and other volunteers to help our show run smoothly. Each class will need stage moms who will supervise dancers backstage during the performance, help dancers change shoes and costumes, and lead the dancers to and from the stage. Please consider volunteering to be a stage mom for one or more of our performances. It is a wonderful way to enjoy this process with your child, and working backstage at a live production keeps us all young and adaptable too!! We will have sign-ups via email this year, so keep an eye out for ways to help.

### **Ticket Sales**

Tickets for the performances will go on sale about one month before the show. They can be purchased in the studio or online at [www.dancenc.com](http://www.dancenc.com). Please encourage friends and community to come out and support the shows. Not only is it fun for our dancers to share their performance with the community, but it also helps us spread out the cost of the production and keep our family fees as low as possible.

### **Theatre Etiquette**

Our performances are meant for families! There are important things to teach your children and families about viewing live performances in theatre. Mostly, this means being courteous and respectful to the performers, the audience members, the staff, and the venue.

- Please remain quiet and seated during performances. If you must get out of your seat, please do so in between performances and never enter or exit during a dance.
- Do not attempt to enter or exit the backstage area during the show.
- Put away bright screens, as they are a distraction to other audience members.
- Stay for the duration of the show! We have created productions that are an enjoyable length, and your dancers will benefit from staying to watch other performances. Please also come to the show on the alternating day to support our dancers and inspire your own!
- Respect the staff members by following instructions from studio and auditorium staff.
- Theatre rules include no eating, drinking, or smoking in the theater. Please take any papers or trash with you when you leave to be deposited in the trash bins.

- Remember that this is a live performance and as an audience, you are part of it! Your energy fuels the dancers on stage, and especially if you are near the front...they can see you! You have the opportunity to offer encouragement when someone needs it with a smile, to reward an exceptional job with applause, and to build the confidence of our dancers with your attention. We are very grateful for the encouragement and support of our audience and thank you for being part of the show.