

The Nutcracker



Virginia Regional Ballet

Parent & Dancer Packet

Dancer Name: _____



THE NUTCRACKER: A PARENT'S GUIDE

THE PERFORMANCES

Virginia Regional Ballet will be performing The Nutcracker in Williamsburg at William & Mary's Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall on Saturday, December 20th at 2 PM and 8 PM and on Sunday, December 21st at 2 PM.

VRB will be performing an abbreviated version of The Nutcracker for schools at William & Mary's Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall on Thursday, December 18th at 10 AM and 12 PM and Friday, December 19th at 10 AM and 12 PM. A letter appropriate for requesting an excused absence from school is included in this guide. All of Act I and selections from Act II will be danced. Mother Gigogne does not perform during the school shows.

THE REHEARSALS

Dancers must attend all rehearsals and performances. Rehearsals will be scheduled on Friday evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays. During the week of Dec. 15th rehearsals will be held in the afternoons and evenings. Technical rehearsal will be held at Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall on December 17th. This will also serve as dress rehearsal for the school shows. Dress rehearsal for the public shows will be Friday night, December 19th.

Please check the bulletin board and website (www.danceVRB.com) frequently for specific rehearsal times and dates.

VOLUNTEERS

Parent volunteers are an important part of The Nutcracker production. Volunteer forms are included in your VRB Nutcracker Parent & Dancer Packet. All families must volunteer for two jobs. Job assignments are on a first come, first served basis.

COSTUMES, MAKE-UP, AND ACCESSORIES

VRB provides all costumes. Parents are asked to provide shoes, tights, skin-colored body stockings, white trunks, and hair supplies. Parents will be charged a costume fee of \$40 for the first costume and \$20 for each additional costume. A complete list of required accessories will be available in the VRB Nutcracker Parent & Dancer Packet.

SUPPLIES

- Hairnets, bobby pins, ponytail holders, hairspray.

- White trunks or leotard (must be worn under all costumes).
- Pink tights. Note: All dancers must purchase the brand of performance tights selected by the Artistic Director. Mr. Bob will have the specific brand chosen in stock at Chamber Dance Attire.
- A pair of socks to cover dance shoes while not on stage.
- Label all belongings with name on inside of all shoes, trunks, and tights.
- A large bag to hold all belongings.
- Makeup
 - Dancers should provide their own makeup. Int/Adv dancers should purchase two pairs of false eyelashes – one to wear and one as a spare.
 - A makeup guide for Mother Gigogne children will be provided.
- Jewelry
 - Int/Adv dancers – rhinestone stud earrings only.
 - Ballet 1 and 2 dancers – no earrings.
 - No other jewelry should be brought to the theatre.
 - No eyeglasses or hair scrunchies worn on stage.
 - No fingernail polish.
- Extras
 - A small blanket
 - Deck of cards or other small games or books
 - Disposable camera with flash
 - Comfy clothes for cover-up

SPECIFIC COSTUME REQUIREMENTS

- Big Party Children
 - Girls: pink tights, pink or white trunks, clean pink Pointe shoes, stage make-up, hair in ringlets (make sure they are tight)
 - Boys: black socks, black lace-up jazz shoes, hair in a flat bun
- Little Party Children
 - Girls: pink tights, pink or white trunks/leotard, clean pink leather ballet slippers with criss-cross elastic (brand details will be provided), stage make-up, hair in ringlets (make sure they are tight)
 - Boys: white tights (unless otherwise specified by director), black lace-up jazz shoes, hair in a flat bun
- Party Parents
 - Women: pink tights, black character shoes, hair and jewelry must be approved by Ms. Heidi, stage make-up
 - Men: black or brown slacks, black socks, black jazz shoes, stage make-up, all other accessories must be approved by Ms. Heidi.
- Columbine: pink tights, pink trunks, dulled Pointe shoes, ringlets under the bun, false eyelashes, stage make-up to character (circle cheeks)
- Masque Dancers

- Girls: pink tights, pink trunks, dulled Pointe shoes, and hair in a bun
- Nutcracker: black shoes, black socks, and hair in a bun
- Mice: gray ballet slippers (pink canvas ~ without holes ~ ballet slippers; turn these in to Ms. Adelle prior to Dec. 5th. They will be painted gray. Old canvas shoes color the best. Dancer's name needs to be written inside each slipper with permanent marker. Stuff shoes with crumpled newspaper.) Last year's mice please bring in your shoes from last year, maybe someone can use them. NOTE: Gray tights are provided by VRB.
- Soldiers: white tights, white trunks, black leather ballet shoes with white elastic, hair in a flat bun, and stage make-up with red, round cheeks.
- Nutcracker: white tights, white ballet shoes
- Reindeer: clean, pink ballet slippers, pink or flesh tights, white or flesh colored leotard, reindeer make-up, and hair in a flat bun
- Angels: pink tights, dulled pink ballet shoes, hair in a flat bun (wigs over), stage make-up
- Cherubs: pink tights, pink ballet slippers, hair in a flat bun (wigs over), stage make-up
- Spanish, Chinese, Tirolese, Mirlitons, Candy Canes, and Presenters: pink tights, dulled pink Pointe shoes, hair in a bun, stage make-up, rhinestone stud earrings, trunks to match costume
- Russian: pink tights, trunks, black character shoes, hair in a bun, stage make-up
- Mother Gigogne Children: pink tights, white leotard (short or no sleeves), clean, pink ballet shoes with elastic, drawstrings tucked inside shoes, hair in a flat bun with ringlets added (details at parent meeting), make-up to character

Everyone: *Please, NO BANGS or whispies, no jewelry, fingernail polish, tattoos, eyeglasses, runs in tights. NO Glitter! Pointe shoes are to be dulled with Max Factor pancake make-up #1 (unless everyone is wearing Grishko shoes). Please make sure all shoes are clean looking for every performance!*

LOST & FOUND

Dancers are assigned to one of several dressing rooms at the theatre. The rooms are crowded. Each dancer is responsible for his/her belongings. To avoid misplacing items, dancers should keep their gear inside their bag when it is not in use. Make sure all items are labeled. *It is a good idea to ask your dancer to show you BOTH shoes in each pair, prior to leaving the theatre following each rehearsal and performance.*

MEALS & FOOD

A box meal is being planned for the dancers between the Saturday performances. Parents are asked to contribute around \$5 for their dancer's meal. Details will be coming closer to show time. For all other meals, parents should pack food such as sandwiches, pretzels, crackers, and dry cereal. Please do not send greasy or sticky foods. Beverages are limited to water only.

Food is not permitted in the theatre or in the dressing room areas. Dancers may eat in common areas. Food and water must be kept away from *all* costumes. No food or drink (even water) while in costume!

NUTCRACKER RULES & REGULATIONS

Theatre rehearsals are closed to the public. At Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall, only performers, crew, and backstage volunteers with badges are allowed backstage. Parents should escort their dancer to their assigned backstage mom. Dancers are not permitted to leave the building until dismissal. Parents should meet their dancer in the lobby or the common area at the backstage entrance.

Note that the theatre building is part of the William and Mary campus and is open to students with classes in that building. In addition, note that William & Mary Campus Police will have an increased patrol in and around PBK Memorial Hall during our rehearsals and performances to help keep our dancers safe.

PRE-PERFORMANCE PREPARATIONS

Parents should block out the week of December 15th on their calendars. Do not plan on getting much else accomplished during this week other than your normal activities and Nutcracker. What can you do to prepare in advance?

- Stock up on healthy snacks, sandwich supplies, and bottled spring water.
- Shop for dance shoes and supplies early.
- Arrange a car pool with other families with dancers in the same level.
- Volunteering is mandatory. You will feel more a part of the production, and we need parent volunteers to make it happen!

NUTCRACKER T-SHIRT

VRB will offer a long-sleeved Nutcracker t-shirt for sale. The names of the dancers will be listed on the back of the shirt. Order forms are included in The Nutcracker Parent/Dancer Packet. Shirts are expected to arrive by Dec. 1st.