REHEARSALS

* It is very important that students attend ***ALL*** rehearsals. Students are *not* allowed to miss *first* rehearsals, no exceptions. If a student misses a first rehearsal, he or she will be replaced.
* Only one rehearsal can be missed for older students, and only due to illness. If a student misses more than one rehearsal, he or she will be replaced. Notify the studio if your child is ill and unable to attend a rehearsal.
* If an upper level student cannot learn or perform the choreography for his or her respective role(s), he or she may be removed from the role(s) and made an understudy as deemed necessary by the Artistic Director, Mr. Cem Catbas.
* It is very important that students arrive ***early*** and are fully prepared to begin rehearsals ***on time***.
* *Basic Dance through Level 2* students will begin learning their dances at the end of class each week beginning in October. The younger children's groups will require minimal Sunday rehearsals – one to two.
* *Level 3 through 6 students* will have Sunday rehearsals, as well as additional rehearsal days as deemed necessary by the Artistic Director, Mr. Cem Catbas.
* A rehearsal schedule will be posted at **www.baltimoreballet.com/rehearsal.htm** Please check the website often for any updates to the schedule. ***Rehearsals are subject to change***.
* There will be a ***mandatory*** full run-through *at Baltimore Ballet* the first full weekend before the December performances. Load-in is on Friday before the show.
* There will be a ***mandatory*** Dress Rehearsal on stage at *Goucher College Kraushaar Auditorium* on performance weekend. Students participating in the ***Sunday performance only*** will have a *separate Sunday Dress Rehearsal;* therefore, they do not need to attend the Saturday Dress Rehearsal. Students participating in both days attend the Saturday Dress Rehearsal unless instructed otherwise.
* Any student missing a mandatory rehearsal will NOT be allowed to participate in the performance(s).
* ***DRESS REHEARSAL at the auditorium will be a CLOSED rehearsal, NO EXCEPTIONS.*** The auditorium will be closed to all audiences during rehearsal; NO parents or friends are allowed to sit or stand in the auditorium during Dress Rehearsal.

VOLUNTEERS

* Please consider volunteering as an usher or chaperone. Let the office know if you are available to volunteer. Volunteers receive a free ticket.
* Only authorized volunteers are allowed in the backstage area. Any person not authorized to be in the backstage area will be asked to leave that area.

BALTIMORE Ballet

Cem Catbas, Director

Nutcracker Policies

We are thrilled to begin preparations for Baltimore Ballet's 26th annual production of The Nutcracker! One of the wonderful benefits of attending Baltimore Ballet is the opportunity to participate in the magical tradition of the holiday classic, The Nutcracker. Students perform in this full-length, fully staged performance alongside professional dancers in front of sold out audiences of 900 people from around the greater metropolitan area.

In the following policies, you will find detailed and very *important* information regarding the performances, tickets, casting, rehearsals, costumes, and much more for your convenient reference. New items this year are noted in **BLUE**. We look forward to working with your children to create a memorable Nutcracker experience. Thank you!

PERFORMANCE DATES AND TIMES

Saturday, December 12, 2026 at 6:30p.m.
Sunday, December 13, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.
Goucher College Kraushaar Auditorium
1021 Dulaney Valley Road in Towson, MD
(near Towson Town Center.)

Everyone who purchased Nutcracker tickets is invited to "***Tea with Clara***" at ***2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 13*** before the 4:00 p.m. performance. For an additional **$25**, your child will meet the Nutcracker characters, share a drink and snack with Clara and receive a goodie bag! Limited seats are available, so reserve your spot today! Arrive early and remember to bring your camera and autograph book.

PARTICIPATION DETAILS

Ballet students enrolled in Baltimore Ballet *Basic Dance through Level 6* are able to perform in The Nutcracker. In order to participate, please carefully read these **Baltimore Ballet Nutcracker Policies**, complete the **Baltimore Ballet Nutcracker Participation Form**, and return the form to the office along with a **Performance fee of $120 before October 1st**.

TICKETS

Tickets go on sale on **October 1st** and can be purchased through the online ticket form at **https://www.baltimoreballet.com/buytickets.htm**, via e-mail, via phone, or in the office. Kraushaar Auditorium seating is reserved; a seating chart of the auditorium is available on the Baltimore Ballet website. Tickets cannot be held without payment. Tickets are non refundable and non transferable once ordered. Prior to ordering tickets, please know the performance date(s) to be attended and the number of tickets to be ordered. Advance purchased tickets will be **$35** for adults and **$25** for children under 12 years of age. Performances sell out early each year. If tickets are available at the door, they will sell for **$40** for Adults and **$30** for children under 12 years of age.

CASTING

Some of the *younger class groups may be* divided into two groups with each group participating in one performance only. Once Baltimore Ballet knows how many students will be performing, parents will be notified if their child is in one performance only, and in which performance he or she will perform. Dividing up dancers makes for a less crowded stage, so each student is more easily seen from the audience. It is also less strenuous on the younger dancers.

***Tentative* Casting List (Subject to Change):**

Basic Dance and Ballet/Tap 1…Angels

Pre Ballet A and Ballet/Tap 2….Little Mice

Pre Ballet B ……..….Gingerbread

Level 1……..……Little Snowflakes

Level 2……..….Lead Angels

Level 3…….Party Scene

Level 4……Various Roles (Big Mice, Soldiers, Party Scene, Lead Gingerbread)

Levels 5 and 6..Various Roles (Clara's friends, Big Mice, Soldiers, Big Snowflakes, Lead Gingerbread, Flowers, Chinese, and lead solos by invitation only.)

FLASH DRIVE ORDERS AND MEDIA

A professional videographer will record the performances and produce a high-quality Flash Drive available for purchase through Baltimore Ballet for $45 each. When ordering, please specify performance date of the FD to be purchased.

Private videography and photography are strictly prohibited during performances.
Flash photography and lit screens from handheld video cameras or cell phones are extremely distracting and present hazards to the performers on stage. If the above policy is violated, cameras will be removed and returned after the performance. Any unauthorized videotaping or photographing will result in a **$2500** fine.

COSTUMES AND APPEARANCE

* ***ALL** costumes are the property of Baltimore Ballet and will remain in Baltimore Ballet's possession. The Nutcracker Performance Fee includes costume rental.* Students will be notified when costume fittings are to be scheduled for their respective roles.
* Students are not allowed to eat, drink, chew gum, or sit on the floor in costume.
* **For sanitary purposes, modesty, and for the ease of quick changes, ALL students are REQUIRED to wear flesh-colored leotards under costumes.**
* During dress rehearsal and the performances, costumes are only to be worn in Merrick Auditorium and on stage. NO one is allowed to be in costume in the audience or lobby. Merrick Auditorium is the lecture hall adjacent to the lobby that is the changing area for female dancers. NO men are allowed in Merrick Auditorium. Do not photograph or videotape students in any changing area.
* **All female performers are REQUIRED to wear BALLET PINK colored, fully footed or convertible seamless tights, unless instructed otherwise.** Tights should be clean and fresh looking. Dancers will not be allowed on stage with holes in tights, so please bring *extra* tights.
* Students should wear pink ballet shoes with ribbons (if required for respective levels).
* **Please see the Baltimore Ballet website home page link "New Easy Online Ordering for Shoes, Tights, and Accessories".**

* **Hair** must be immaculate - clean, tight buns, no wispy or loose hair. Use plenty of hair pins, bobby pins, hair gel, hair spray, and an invisible hair net. Do not use bun snoods of any type. A step-by-step guide on how to create a performance ready bun is available on the Baltimore Ballet website on the "Rehearsals" page.
* **Make-up** - Older dancers should wear full stage makeup; all other dancers should wear light make-up. A step-by-step guide on how to apply full stage makeup is available on the Baltimore Ballet website on the "Rehearsals" page.
* Absolutely **NO NAIL POLISH, NO VISIBLE TATTOOS, NO JEWELRY.** Dancers in levels 4, 5, and 6 may wear performance earrings or single diamond stud type earrings.