



acb ATLANTIC
CITY
BALLET

40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY 1982-2022

The Nutcracker 2025

Welcome to the Atlantic City Ballet's 43rd season of The Nutcracker Ballet. The Atlantic City Ballet is a 501 ©(3) non profit professional ballet company.

Every year we invite area dance students to perform with our professional ballet company. The Nutcracker performance is very different from a school recital. A recital is geared to showcase the child's improvement throughout the year. The casting for this professional production is done to maximize the integrity of our company and to make Atlantic City Ballet's Nutcracker the best it can be.

If your child is chosen to perform, he or she is a junior member of the company and must be committed and available from Sept to Dec. and for the mandatory Nutcracker camp in August. Each cast member is required to attend all rehearsals. Roll is taken at each rehearsal. If your child is absent from rehearsal, unless sick with a doctors note, dismissal from the production will follow. Even if your child feels confident and has learned their part, it is vital for them to keep improving and practicing in preparation for the performance.

The Atlantic City Ballet could not produce this production without its volunteers, parents and staff. Your courtesy, patience, understanding, and humor will be greatly appreciated. Although we have done our best to make this production exciting and worthwhile, we need your help and assistance to succeed.

Ticket sales make up a small portion of the actual expense of producing Nutcracker. Each child will pay a production fee. Production fees are necessary to offset the costs of the production. Children will be able to get sponsors to offset their production fee. The children in The Nutcracker will benefit by having ACB's Nutcracker on their resume, gaining ballet training and technique during rehearsals and the experience of working with a professional ballet company.

Rehearsals will take place at the Atlantic City Ballet studio in Boardwalk Hall unless otherwise indicated. Rehearsal schedules are listed on the last page of this packet and actual rehearsal times will be posted on our web site at www.acballet.org.

ALL INFORMATION REGARDING THE NUTCRACKER CAN BE FOUND ON THE COMPANY WEB SITE. ALWAYS CHECK THE WEB SITE FOR UP TO DATE REHEARSAL INFORMATION.

In the event of an **emergency** change in schedule, you will be notified by email. Please reconsider auditioning if your child will not be available for all of the rehearsal and performance dates. Missed rehearsals will result in not being able to perform.

PLEASE NOTE

**The Atlantic City Ballet is performing at a variety of venues.
ALL CHILDREN WILL BE EXPECTED TO PERFORM
AT ALL PERFORMANCES**

Except Dec 29 Performance at the Scottish Rite theater, there will not be Party, mice, Little Angels and Pulchinelle performing.

I. AUDITION AND PRODUCTION FEE

A \$40.00 audition/registration fee is due on the day of audition. The production fee is \$400.00. You may recover either part or all of the production fee by soliciting sponsors for The Nutcracker. All fees are non-refundable. Production fee due dates are on the last page of this packet should you decide **not** to solicit sponsors.

II. SPONSOR SOLICITATION

Attached in this booklet is a copy of the form to use to solicit sponsors. The form may be reproduced as needed. Patrons will be listed in The Nutcracker Ballet program which is given to each person attending the performance. Any amount that you solicit over and above the production fee is **not refundable**. Sponsor forms may be mailed to the Atlantic City Ballet office or may be handed in at rehearsal. If they are mailed they must be all in one envelope and be in our office by the deadline.

THE DEADLINE FOR SPONSORSHIPS IS OCTOBER 15th.

Please make sure that all checks are made out to the Atlantic City Ballet and are clearly marked as Nutcracker Sponsorships. Sponsor forms must be accompanied by payment or the patron will not be listed in the program. For your child's safety, please accompany your child when soliciting sponsors. Please also make sure you follow up on any sponsorships forms or requests.

Parents will be responsible for any portion of the production fee that is not subsidized by sponsors by the due date.

III. COSTUMES AND FITTINGS

The Atlantic City Ballet will supply the costume(s) needed for the performance. However, you are required to supply your own ballet shoes, tights, and leotards. A fitting date will be posted. Some dancers will be measured prior to that date and others will be notified ahead of schedule if the costume is an especially difficult one to fit. All are required to report on the fitting date that is posted. Because The Nutcracker Ballet costumes are irreplaceable, certain rules must apply regarding the use and care of them. If necessary, fines will be assessed.

1. While in costume eating, drinking, and/or sitting on the floor is not permitted.
2. Because the tutus can easily be crushed, while wearing a tutu you may not sit.
3. If any part of a costume is lost or damaged, it must be replaced by the dancer.
4. Dancers may not leave the theater until the costumes are properly inventoried and placed on hangers.

IV. REHEARSALS, TECHNICAL AND DRESS REHEARSALS

During rehearsals, your patience and understanding is appreciated. We will try our best to adhere to the schedule, but occasionally there may be technical delays. Please make sure your child keeps something with them to occupy any spare time they may have. Please pack a small, clean snack that can be consumed if there are delays when not in costume. The children are expected to behave in an orderly fashion. Please make sure your child arrives in the building safely.

General rules:

1. Children must be dropped off at the time of their rehearsal
2. Children must be picked up promptly (there is no babysitting service available)
3. No parents are allowed backstage unless they are a designated dresser
4. No dancers are permitted in the audience during performances
5. No dancer is permitted in the wings or backstage until they are instructed to be there
6. Dancers/Parents may be permitted to watch rehearsal when approved by Ms. Papa
7. Dressers must wear black attire
8. There will be no trash left from snacks or water bottles. What you bring in must go out with you.

V. DRESS CODE FOR REHEARSALS

Girls: Please wear a solid color leotard, elastic waistband, and pink or black tights. Leg warmers and wrap around dance sweaters are also acceptable. Hair must be away from face pulled back in a bun.

Boys: White T-Shirt and socks, black bicycle shorts or tights. Hair must be neat and away from face.

REMEMBER: Missed rehearsals will result in not being able to perform!

VI. TICKETS

Tickets for all our Nutcracker performances are available for sale through our web site and at each of the theaters. Please note: Tickets sell out frequently for this production so we encourage family and friends to purchase their tickets early.

VII. QUESTIONS

Inevitably, questions and concerns will arise during the season. We ask you to address your questions to the people designated to help in the following specific areas:

E-mail: ballerina@acballet.org

Phyllis Papa Casting, rehearsals, performances, sponsorship (609) 335-4926

Paola Amadio Costumes (917) 370-1596

Mia Jones Questions (609) 234-6197

Notice IF AUDITIONING FOR THE NUTCRACKER, PLEASE DO NOT SIGN THE REGISTRATION FORM UNLESS YOU CAN ABIDE BY ALL OF THESE CONDITIONS:

1. There is a \$40.00 per child registration fee due today.
2. There is a production fee associated with being in this production.
 - 2a. Production Fee may be offset by Sponsorships or paid outright
 - 2b. Sponsorships are due by October 15th. If paying outright, the first \$200.00 of your production fee is due on the first rehearsal.
4. Costumes are provided by the Atlantic City Ballet. You are required to supply your own tights, shoes, leos, and dance belts. Some of these items may be available at the school boutique.
5. Dancers are expected to be prompt to rehearsals. Please allow 15 minutes arrival prior to rehearsal call time so that you can be taken through Boardwalk Hall security at the lobby. Remember to check posted schedules for any changes in the rehearsal schedule.
6. Dancers that are having problems may be called in for extra rehearsals. Although we do not anticipate extra rehearsals at this time, please keep in mind that they are a possibility.

Event Information

Nutcracker Rehearsal & Performance Incidentals

Participation in any of the following is strictly voluntary. This list is provided for your awareness and financial planning purposes.

Nutcracker Sweatshirts

Each year, ACB offers Nutcracker participants and their families the opportunity to purchase themed sweatshirts. These make wonderful holiday gifts and serve as lasting mementos of the Nutcracker experience.

Nutcracker Gift Shop

A variety of beautiful items will be available at the Nutcracker Gift Shop and Ballet Boutique during performances. Items include dance-related merchandise, Nutcrackers, and other holiday gifts suitable for all ages.

Performance Video Recording

A professional video recording of the Nutcracker performance will be available for purchase. Please note: Due to venue regulations, personal recording or photography of any portion of the rehearsals or performances is strictly prohibited.

Nutcracker Cast Party & Fundraiser

This year's Nutcracker celebration will be held at the Great Bay Country Club on **Wednesday, November 5, 2025**. The event will include a round of golf for golf lovers, delicious food, music, and an auction. We encourage everyone to take part—it's a fun and memorable way for the children to celebrate with their friends.

General costume & makeup guidelines

To assist in preparing for performances, listed below is information regarding hair, makeup, tights, etc.

MAKEUP

Females: Foundation, translucent powder, brown eye shadow, red lipstick, light pink blush, black mascara, and eyeliner. Snow, Flowers, and Big Angels must wear false eyelashes.

Males: Pancake makeup, small amount of blush, burgundy lipstick.

Children must come to dress rehearsals & performances with their make up already applied.

HAIR, TIGHTS, ETC.

Mice: Hair is to be pulled into a bun. No bangs. Makeup consists of black nose and three black whiskers on each side of the face. Please send a black eyeliner pencil with your child and the chaperone will apply it on your child. Pink ballet slippers and pink tights and nude leotard.

Soldiers: Hair is to be worn in a low bun to fit under hat. No bangs. Pink tights, pink ballet slippers, or pointe shoes (depending on directors call), and nude spaghetti strap leotard.

Party Boys : Black ballet slippers and black tights.

Party Girls: Nude leotard, pink tights, pink ballet slippers unless pointe shoes (artistic director's decision) hair in rag curls, curly hairpiece may be used for girls changing into additional roles, see director for approval.

Prince: White tights and white ballet slippers.

Rats: White tights and white ballet slippers, see additional instruction for party boys who change into rats.

Pulcinelles: Hair in a bun with cheer hair piece attached. Pointe shoes, nude spaghetti strap leotard, pink tights, and doll tears drawn on in black and white., this will be done backstage by makeup artist.

Big Angels: Nude spaghetti strap leotard, hair in bun, pink tights and pointe shoes.

Little Angels: Hair in bun, pink ballet slippers, pink tights, and white long sleeve leotard.

IMPORTANT: Please NO BANGS, NAIL POLISH, or JEWELRY (No earrings, rings, bracelets, chains, necklaces, etc. for both male and females-unless otherwise specified.) during dress rehearsals and performances.

Biography of Phyllis Papa

Phyllis Papa, the founding director of the Atlantic City Ballet, has been a professional dancer since the age of fifteen. She began her training at the Royal Ballet Academy, under the direction of her mother, Mary Papa. At the age of thirteen Miss Papa became a charter member of the Princeton Regional Ballet Company. As their ballerina she danced principle roles in productions including *Nutcracker*, *Les Sylphide*, *Nelle Fisher's Mozart*, and *Pas de Quatre*. This relationship continued throughout her career with numerous return performances as a guest artist. Her legacy carries on today through her students, who are now members of the American Repertory Ballet.

Her career as an international ballet star began when she became a member and principal dancer of the Harkness Youth Ballet in New York City. During her years at Harkness Ballet, Miss Papa performed during the summers in Central Park, Miss Papa danced the lead in *Les Patinuers* and Donald Saddler's *Tennis Anyone*. After joining American Ballet Theatre, Harkness Ballet asked Miss Papa to return as guest artist and dance at the White House for President Johnson. The Official dinner was for the Shah of Iran and the ballet was choreographed especially for her by Donald Saddler.

Miss Papa was a guest artist with the Myra Kinch Modern Dance company at Jacob's Pillow and with the Andre Eglevsky Ballet Company in New York.

Miss Papa continued her work with American Ballet Theatre where she toured extensively throughout the United States. Miss Papa was given the opportunity to do solo roles in *Pillar of Fire*, *Giselle*, *Coppelia*, *Billy the Kid*, and others.

Besides dancing for the President of the United States and the Shah of Iran, Miss Papa has danced many Royal Command Performances in Europe. One of her favorite fans was the late King Frederick IX of Denmark. In the 70's, Miss Papa was invited to audition for the Royal Danish Ballet in Copenhagen, Denmark, becoming the first American ever accepted into the company. She was also the only foreigner ever to be offered a life-long contract. Two months after joining the company Miss Papa was chosen to dance the lead role in Flemming Flindt's new ballet *Triumph of Death*, based on the Eugene Ionesco play, for Danish television. It was entered into the Italian Film Festival and was sold to Eurovision and later premiered on the stage. She received rave reviews for her work in this ballet. Miss Papa toured Europe with the Royal Danish Ballet dancing solo and principal parts in *La Sylphide*, *Etudes*, *Swan Lake*, *The Lady and the Fool*, and *Triumph of Death*.

After her work in Europe, Miss Papa continued her career in this country by becoming principal ballerina with Stars of the American Ballet in New York City. Her partners include Peter Martins, Russell Chambers, Fernandez Bujones and Larry Rhodes. While touring with Stars, Miss Papa taught master classes in many major cities in the United States, and assumed significant management responsibilities within the company. Her management prowess led to her becoming Artistic Director of Stars of American Ballet and principle ballerina of the company.

Miss Papa taught in the Philadelphia area for over twelve years. She was a member of the faculty of the Institutes for the Achievement of Human Development, where Miss Papa created and taught a program for the development of neurological brain growth to both neurotypical and brain-injured students. Her students came from many countries including Japan, Poland, Italy and South America.

Miss Papa received the 1998 Brazilian Gold Medal of Honor. Diplomats from Brazil, England, Italy, China, Japan and the United States awarded her with this Gold Medal. Miss Papa is listed in Marquis' Who's Who of American Women, Who's Who of the World, The Social Directory, and the National Biographic Society.

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts has awarded her two fellowship grants for choreography. The first award was for her ballet Concerto *Vivaldi*, the second she received in 1982 for her work *Clear Water*. These ballets are just two among some fifty works she has choreographed that appear in the repertoire of the Atlantic City Ballet. Miss Papa has been a member of the faculty of Dancers' School in New York City, which was supported by Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward.

Miss Papa founded the ACBT Performing Arts Academy, the official school of The Atlantic City Ballet. The Academy housed, the International Performing Arts Camp and the ACBT Academic program. Students travel from throughout the United States and countries such as Japan, Thailand, and others parts of Asia, Europe, and South America to study at ACBT.

In 2006 Miss Papa was elected to the, “Wall of Fame” of the American Repertory Ballet.

Miss Papa is founder and presently directs the Atlantic City Ballet, formerly known as the Atlantic Contemporary Ballet Theatre. She has choreographed over fifty ballets for the company including the full *Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake*. The ACB has performed Miss Papa’s Nutcracker to sold out houses for the past 40 years. Her *Dracula* has become a seasonal “must see” for the month of October. Some of her latest works are *Romeo and Juliet*, full length version of *Carmen*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *Cinderella* as well as ballets for children including *Peter and the Wolf* and *Night on Bald Mountain*.

Miss Papa just premiered *Carmina Burana* at Caesar’s Circus Maximus Theater to kick off the 2023 Spring season.

Miss Papa has been justly acclaimed “One of the finest dancers and teachers on the American scene today.”

For Performance Dates and Times see our website