



# The Final Stretch!



Nutcracker is just around the corner! All the dancers are working so hard, and the hard work is paying off! It's looking like it's going to be another great show. We are very proud of all of our dancers, and encourage our parents to be too, even if their dancer does not do their best on performance day. It is so hard to get up on the stage, and even harder to then try to perform! We know this is not only an exciting time, but also a

potentially confusing time, especially for our newer families. We hope to answer as many questions as possible in this newsletter, so please read carefully.

We do still have some jobs that we need to be filled, many of which are not during the show. If you are able to help, please take a look at the volunteer sheet at the studio, or email us at [americanballetacademy@gmail.com](mailto:americanballetacademy@gmail.com).

## Make Up, Hair, Costumes, & Pictures

Here are some general guidelines for hair and makeup. If you need a more detailed refresher, look at the ABA Handbook on our website.

For make up, you want powder foundation about a shade darker than your child's normal skin tone, blush that is not too neutral, purple and brown eye shadows, eyeliner, mascara, and red lip stick. **Note:** Bon Bons get red circles on their cheeks. Annie has a saying that you should put on a little more than you think is necessary, add even more, and then you will be getting close to how much they need. © A lot of makeup is necessary in such a large theatre so that we can see everyone's facial features!

For hair everyone (**Except** Bon Bons, Boys, Party Girls, Christmas Dolls, and modern classes), should have their hair in a straight back, slicked back bun. Be sure to use a hair color hair net (not one made of yarn), lots of pins, and gel/hairspray. Please pin back bangs, as they create a shadow on the dancer's face. Be sure to slick back any wispsies too! **Bon Bons:** Your hair should be in piggy braids with just a hair tie at the bottom. Ideally they will start behind the dancer's ears. **Party Girls:** Your hair should be in ringlets. **Baby Dolls:** Your hair should be in curls. **Modern Dancers:** Hair in a style

of your choosing, as long as it is pulled back from your face.

You will pick up anything Annie bought for you for costumes or that you are borrowing, at the theatre on Saturday. Please remember to bring anything that the costume list (on the bulletin board downstairs) shows as "you provide". At the end of the show, you will take anything you bought home with you. Please leave anything you borrowed in your bag with your class coordinator. Remember that Costume fees are due on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

This is a good place to remind everyone to not wear undergarments with your costume. Pre-Ballet II and up will of course have their nude leotard under their costume, but that should be it; panty lines under a costume are very tacky and unprofessional. If your dancer is unaccustomed to this ( ideally, dancers do not normally wear undergarments to class), it would be a good idea to practice at home, and in class before the show. Tell them it is just like wearing a swimsuit.

There is the option to have professional pictures taken of your dancer(s) at the Elsinore. If you are interested in doing this, then please sign up at the studio. Pictures will occur Saturday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 3:45-5:45pm.

## *Theatre Etiquette*

We want to take a moment to remind everyone of some guidelines while watching the performances. While we want our families to enjoy watching their dancers perform, we also want to be respectful of the theatre space, and everyone attending the performance. We also don't want to distract the dancers performing. Please keep these points in mind while watching the shows:

- Please refrain from talking during the show.
- If you need to leave or enter the auditorium during the course of the performance, please wait until applause is occurring.
- If you have a little one who is making noise, please take them out to the lobby, when it is appropriate.
- There is no photography or videoing allowed during the performances, and please turn off cell phones and other electronic devices. These are traditional theatre etiquette rules, which help ensure everyone has a positive experience, which is exactly what we want these shows to be! Thank you!

**What to Bring & What NOT to Bring**

Performance weekends are exciting, but also long, tiring, especially for young dancers. You can help your dancer greatly by being sure they get plenty of sleep, eat healthy meals before they come, and that they are drinking lots of water! Of course snacks brought to theatre are also a good way to keep up energy, but in order to keep costumes and our space as clean as possible, we have to be very picky about what is allowed. Here is a list of foods that are **excellent** to bring with you: Mozzarella sticks, dye less crackers, apple slices, carrots, pretzels, granola bars (without chocolate or anything that will melt), fruit snacks, almonds, water (The best of all to bring). Snacks **NOT** to bring: Chocolate, greasy or saucy foods (pizza, fried chicken, potato chips, peanut butter, jelly), juicy fruits or vegetables like oranges or tomatoes, anything with food coloring, soda juice or other

colored drinks. We will be sure everyone gets a dinner/nap break, but be sure to bring plenty of snacks and water, as your dancer will probably be at the theatre for several hours before they are released.

We do want to remind everyone not to bring their dinner back to the theatre to be eaten, and that drinks in covered containers will be allowed in the theatre up to two hours before the show. After that time, water only, please!

Besides snacks, other items that would be good to bring are extra tights, extra hair supplies (hair pins in particular for attaching head pieces and hair spray to do touch ups), extra make up for touch ups, and activities. Examples of appropriate activities include books, etch a sketches, card games, cars, and dolls. Activities to leave at home include anything with glitter (this is a theatre policy), markers, and anything noisy. You will also probably want to leave anything valuable at home.

**Performance Weekend Dates**

We do our best to keep things running on time, but with 250 students, we sometimes get a little off track, so we would greatly appreciate your patience, especially at the rehearsals. Here is the schedule for the weekend, with call times:

**Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup>, Elsinore Theatre, Spacing Call Times:** Ballet IV & Ballet V – 3:15pm  
Boys II, Contemporary II, & Contemporary III – 4:15pm  
Afternoon Ballet IIII, Party Scene (Saturday Ballet II, Evening Ballet III, Saturday Ballet I, Party Parents), Monday Ballet II, Thursday Ballet II – 4:30pm  
Jazz I, Mouse Scene (Tuesday Ballet I, Tuesday Ballet II), Wednesday Ballet I, Thursday Ballet I- 5:30pm. Pre-Ballet II: 9:30am on **December 9<sup>th</sup>. Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup>, Elsinore Theatre, Dress Rehearsal Call Times** – All dancers with full makeup,

hair done, and in costume ready to start at 10:00am (Pre-Ballet II 9:30am for spacing). Pre-Ballet I and Creative Movement will be released after the first run through, hopefully around 1:00pm. All others will be released after their second run, either around 3:00pm or 4:00pm, depending on if they are in the first or second act. **Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, Elsinore Theatre, Performance!** – Call time for all dancers 5:45pm (7:00pm show). All dancers are in the final bows. **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, Elsinore Theatre, Performance!** – Call time for all dancers is 1:15pm (2:30pm show). All dancers are in the final bows. Please help us stay on track by arriving on time. Thank you!

**Calendar**

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

Mandatory All Cast Rehearsal at ABA. Act I 12:15<sup>pm</sup>; Act II 2:45<sup>pm</sup>

Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Spacing Rehearsals after school, Ballet I, Boys I, and Jazz I & up. The Elsinore Theatre:

Ballet IV & Ballet V – 3:15pm

Boys II, Contemporary II, & Contemporary III – 4:15pm

Afternoon Ballet IIII, Party Scene (Saturday Ballet II, Evening Ballet III, Saturday Ballet I, Party Parents), Monday Ballet II, Thursday Ballet II – 4:30pm Jazz I, Mouse Scene (Tuesday Ballet I, Tuesday Ballet II), Wednesday Ballet I, Thursday Ballet I – 5:30pm

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Nutcracker Dress Rehearsal. At the Elsinore Theatre, 10:00<sup>am</sup>. Pre-Ballet II 9:30<sup>am</sup>, for spacing.

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm (5:45pm call time)

The Children's Nutcracker!

December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2:30pm (1:15pm call time)

The Children's Nutcracker

December 18<sup>th</sup>-January 1<sup>st</sup>

Winter break. No classes at ABA!

**CONTACT**

Please feel free to contact us at any of the following:

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Store Hours:

Tuesday 4:30-5:30pm

Saturday 10:15-11:45am

By appointment