



# Dance Dialogue



## Welcome Back!

It's the beginning of another great year here at ABA! We are so glad to have our families from last year back, and to say a big welcome to our new students! Please be sure to greet any new dancers and families you may see; let's show everyone why we love ABA!

We are so happy to have a thriving studio, full of dancers who are eager to learn! As is often the case, you may come to your first day of class, and discover that it is very full. We want to remind everyone that sometimes classes are big at the beginning of the year, but they generally balance out as dancers shift around. So we would greatly appreciate your patience as we all settle into a new year. Please also

note that if you would like to transfer to a smaller class, it is likely that may be an option; just send us an email and we will see what we can do!

If you have not already, please be sure to double check your ABA Profile. It is important that you make sure you are actually signed up for the classes that you are wanting to take. It would also be great if you could check that your contact information is up to date. Please also be aware that if you are wanting to sign up for Automatic Payments, there is a form we need signed from you and returned to us. If you want this form, please email us at: [americanballetacademy@gmail.com](mailto:americanballetacademy@gmail.com)

### **ABA Nutcracker, Parent Meetings, and Costume Fittings**

Of course with fall comes Nutcracker! **Please check the calendar on page two for important Nutcracker dates.**

As with past performances, we will be having our Nutcracker parent meetings and costume fittings for Ballet II and under, Boys Ballet I and II, and Jazz, during your child's class time during the week of October 9-14. For Ballet II, the meeting will be during your child's second class of the week. Please plan on attending, as this meeting is when costume fittings occur, and all important performance information is discussed. If it is absolutely necessary that you miss the meeting, we will need you to bring your dancer into the store during store hours, to have them sized for costumes.

We will be passing around the volunteer signup sheet soon, and coming around looking for volunteers again! We know it can get old being asked over and over to please sign up, and that it can feel we are rushing you. We hope everyone will remember that we just want to get the help we need to make the performance a great experience for all the dancers! And of course, thank you so much for volunteering!

Nutcracker is an exciting time & everyone has a role they would like to get. Unfortunately, that means you could find yourself with a disappointed dancer. Please do your best to be proud about whatever role they are given; they are all so much fun! It helps a lot when they see

### **Eugene Nutcracker Auditions at ABA**

ABA will once again be hosting the Eugene Ballet Nutcracker Auditions on Sunday, October 22. The shows are a few days after our show, a few days before Christmas. We will have exact dates in the October newsletter. The auditions will be as follows:

Waltz of the Flowers  
1:00-2:00 (3 years  
pointe experience)

Party Children – 2:00-  
3:30 (ages 11-15)

Bon Bons – 3:30-4:30  
(ages 9-11)

Angels – 4:30-5:00  
(ages 7-9)

Baby Mice – 5:00-5:30  
(ages 5-7)



that you are excited for them; it is contagious! It can be especially hard with the more advanced dancers who have solos or small group dances. It's hard not to feel compared, or that we are valuing one dancer above another. Please keep in mind that with casting we take into account strengths, what we want each dancer to improve on, and what part will best showcase each and every person! So cheer up! You are all truly great dancers! ☺

Of course younger dancers can also be disappointed, especially if they have been

the same part for many years. Please help them to keep in mind that we try our best to mix things up, but we can't always accommodate the wishes of everyone. And remember that the dances are different each year, even if your dancer is the same role again.

### **ABA Updated Dress Code: Please Read!**

At ABA, we want everyone to get everything out of classes as possible. This dress code is designed to limit distractions, and to help teachers be able to clearly see the dancer's alignment. Girls should wear a solid colored leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet slippers. Ballet I-IV are not allowed to wear skirts.

We have decided to update the dress code to not include black shorts any more for any of our dance levels. We know this may be a challenging transition for some of our dancers. The decision is based on a desire to help our students succeed. Black shorts are not a part of the normal dress code for ballet dancers. We want our dancers to be absolutely comfortable in just a leotard and tights, as this is what they will be expected to wear to auditions or intensives. It is considered very unprofessional to wear shorts or skirts at an audition, and we want our dancers to present themselves in their best light. Please know that we desire to be reasonable and understanding, so if a dancer in Ballet III- V has extenuating circumstances, they may ask the teacher permission to wear shorts.

Girls Ballet I and up need to have hair pulled back in a proper ballet bun. This is both traditional and functional. If you need help with this, it's alright to ask another parent to help you!

We know many of you will come to the studio and find your dance attire is no longer fitting, or has been misplaced over the summer! Don't forget we have a small store that provides basic attire for your dance classes including shoes, tights and leotards. Normal hours are Tuesday from 4:30-5:30 and Saturday from 10:15-11:45.

We'd also like to say a few words about ballet etiquette. These niceties are universal in the ballet world, and are good for dancers of all ages to know and practice. It is important for your dancer to be at class on time, in proper attire. Hands should be raised to ask or answer questions, and talking should be kept to an absolute minimum in class. Your dancer should always thank the teacher at the end of class. Please keep absences to a minimum, and be sure to let your teacher know when you have to miss. Dancers should never lean on walls or the barre. Please go over these rules with your dancer!



## Calendar

September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

First Day of 2017-2018 Classes.

October 9<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Nutcracker Parent Meetings & Costume Fittings.

October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

Eugene Nutcracker Audition at ABA.

October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017

Halloween. No Classes.

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Mandatory All Cast Rehearsal at ABA.

November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

No class today. Happy Thanksgiving!

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

Mandatory All Cast Rehearsal at ABA.

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Spacing Rehearsals after school Pre-Ballet II & up only. At the Elsinore Theatre.

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

Nutcracker Dress Rehearsal. At the Elsinore Theatre.

December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The Children's Nutcracker!

## CONTACT

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

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Like us on Facebook!

Store Hours:

Tuesday 4:30-5:30pm

Saturday 10:15-11:45am

By appointment