

# **PDM Productions, Inc, “The Nutcracker Sweet” FAQ’s**

## **1. WHO IS PDM PRODUCTIONS, INC?**

PDM Productions, Inc. is a non-profit organization created and founded by Tristi and Norvell Robinson, former principal dancers of Richmond Ballet. PDM’s mission is to provide educational experiences in the performing and fine arts to children and adults in every community, regardless of age, skill, experience or income level.

Although we offer workshops and scholarships, our flagship production is our annual performance called “The Nutcracker Sweet”. Our cast and stage crew members have ranged from 4 to 60 years young and have a variety of skill levels and backgrounds. They represented the areas of Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, Louisa, Petersburg, Powhatan, Prince George and the City of Richmond. Unlike most Nutcracker productions, “The Nutcracker Sweet” participants do not need to be affiliated with a dance school to perform. In 2019, PDM Productions welcomed dancers from 12 Richmond area dance studios.

While we are proud of our many participants, we were especially delighted to have a dancer from Miracles in Motion, a dance program for people with special needs, perform with “The Nutcracker Sweet”. Manchester High School’s Theater Department (our venue sponsor) partnered with PDM Productions. These theater students offer their talents behind the scenes, from working as stage managers, building sets, setting up scenery and props and operating lights and sound boards. For several seasons, PDM Productions welcomed principal dancers from Virginia National Ballet and Richmond Ballet as guest artists in “The Nutcracker Sweet”. Not only have they shared their amazing talents but they’ve connected with the performers with their advice and anecdotes.

## **2. WHERE AND WHEN ARE THE 2021 AUDITIONS/ REHEARSALS/ PERFORMANCES?**

The auditions will take place at 6915 Chital Drive, Midlothian, on Saturdays, September 11th and 18th : Ages 4-7, 2-2:45pm ; Ages 8-11, 2:45-4pm ; Ages 12-adult, 4:15-5:45pm; and

Sunday, September 19th; Ages 4-7, 12:30-1:15pm ; Ages 8-11, 1:15-2:30pm ; Ages 12-adult, 2:45-4:15pm.

Call Backs are Sunday, September 19th, 4:30-5:30pm, by invitation only.

Weekend studio rehearsals will take place at 6915 Chital Drive, Midlothian, beginning Saturday, September 25th.

Manchester High School, 12601 Bailey Bridge Road, Midlothian, will host theater rehearsals (Tuesday thru Thursday, December 14th thru 16th) and 4 performances (Friday thru Sunday, December 17th thru 19th).

## **3. WHO CAN AUDITION?**

Please note that these auditions are open to anyone who has ever had a desire or dream to perform in a production such as “*The Nutcracker Sweet*”. The auditions are for dancers, non-dancers, actors, non-actors ... the experienced and the novice. Everyone within the ages of 4 to adult are welcome. Performers are not auditioning for a “specific role.” Performers will be cast for role(s) according to the following: age group, skill and experience.

#### **4. WHAT ROLES/PARTS ARE AVAILABLE?**

##### Possible Roles for Ages 4-10:

Marie, Fritz, Party Children, Little Mice, Small Soldiers, Angels and Polichinelles

##### Possible Roles for Ages 9-Adult:

Clara, Fritz, Party Child, Party Parent, Maid, Harlequin Doll, Soldier, Ribbon Doll, Little Mouse, Big Mouse (or Rat), Rat Queen, The Nutcracker Prince, Snow Queen, Snow King, Angel, Angel Lead, Spanish, Spanish Lead, Arabian, Arabian Lead, Chinese, Russian, Russian Lead, Mirliton, Flower, Violet, Dew Drop, Polichinelle, Chef, Jester, Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier

##### Possible Roles for Actors, Non-Dancers and The Novice for Ages 9-Adult:

Party Child, Party Parent, Maid, Soldier, Mother, Father, Drosselmeyer, Mother Gigogne, and Chef

#### **5. WHEN SHOULD WE ARRIVE FOR THE AUDITION?**

Arrive at least **30 minutes** prior to audition time. This will allow time to register, complete all forms and to warm-up. Arrive dressed in proper dance or movement attire. Bring appropriate footwear. Hair (males and females) must be pulled back, away from the face. Wear a face mask. Once the doors are closed to the audition, no one will be admitted. **VERY IMPORTANT:** *Application, all paperwork and \$20 audition fee must be received prior to audition. Bring a 4x6" headshot, face mask and pointe shoes (if applicable)..*

#### **6. WHEN ARE AUDITION RESULTS POSTED AND HOW ARE WE NOTIFIED?**

Results will be posted on Wednesday, September 22nd, by midnight. These results and other communication will arrive via email. To ACCEPT or DECLINE role(s), please indicate electronically on Cast Release Announcement by Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 5pm.

#### **7. WHAT ARE THE FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PERFORMANCES?**

Yes. All fees include production costs, costume and accessory rentals and volunteer background checks. Forms of payment include cash, check or Venmo (@Tristi-Robinson).

Participation Fee/Performer = \$385.00\* (\$32/Week Value)  
(Checks made to PDM PRODUCTIONS, INC.)  
(Multi Sibling Discounts Available)

All costumes and accessories must be returned in the original condition, or an additional \$90.00 fee will be charged. Costume fees include the creation or purchase of costumes & accessories, alterations, repairs, replacement and cleaning of existing pieces. Depending on the role, the performer is responsible for providing his/her dance shoes, tights, socks and undergarments.

\*Participation Fee is non-refundable. Exception: Compliance with Covid Mitigation Protocols. If a lockdown is issued between October 16th thru 31st, 50% of the Participation Fee will be refunded; if a lockdown is issued between November 6th thru 14th, 25% will be refunded. Afterwards, zero refund.

**8. IS THERE FINANCIAL AID OR SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE?**

Yes. There are both opportunities available. Financial aid is by request. Performer will need to complete the required form. (Maximum amount of this aid is 50% for tuition). We also offer the opportunity to file for a “Need” scholarship. (Maximum is up to 100%.) An individual may be awarded a “Merit” scholarship. Forms and necessary paperwork are due Friday, September 24th, at the Welcome Meeting.

**9. IS THERE AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING?**

There will be a mandatory informational meeting on Friday, September 24th, 6:30-8:30pm, at Lakeside Presbyterian Church, 7343 Hermitage Rd, Richmond. All forms and payments are due for ACCEPTED role(s).

**10. WHAT DO REHEARSAL SCHEDULES LOOK LIKE?**

Weekend rehearsals vary each week, depending on role(s). Our window of possible rehearsal times fall between 12:30pm-8:30pm, on Saturdays, and 9am-8pm, on Sundays. During theater week rehearsals, the window of rehearsal is from 3:30-9:30pm. For example, MICE might rehearse from 2-3pm, on Saturday, during Week #1. During Week #2, MICE may rehearse from 4-5 on Sunday. On Week #3, MICE may rehearse from 3-4pm on Saturday AND Sunday. Depending on progress, schedules will vary each week. Schedules will be released on the Wednesday (by midnight) prior to each weekend.

**11. DO YOU HAVE COVID SAFETY MEASURES?**

Only performers, staff and volunteers (who are performing tasks) will be allowed in the buildings at all times. While in the buildings, face masks will be required, at all times. Performers, staff and volunteers will be asked to sanitize their hands when entering and exiting the buildings and at any other times as needed. Covid Mitigation Protocol is subject to change. If our state issues a lockdown and stay-at-home orders in response to Covid between October 16th thru 31st, 50% of the Participation Fee will be refunded. If a lockdown is issued between November 6th thru 14th, 25% will be refunded. Afterwards, zero will be refunded.

**12. WHAT IS THE PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF PROCEDURE?**

During weekend rehearsals, performers will be dropped off and picked up in front of the studio. Due to Covid safety measures, the studio lobby will be closed. Only performers, staff and volunteers (who are performing tasks) will be permitted in the studio. During Theater Week, performers MUST be escorted to/from the Sign-In/Sign-Out table. Further discussion in the parent/guardian informational meeting on Friday, September 24th.

**13. HOW WILL PARTICIPANTS BE MONITORED WHILE IN (OR OUT) OF REHEARSALS?**

During each rehearsal and performance, each performer will be required to sign in and out. There will be adult volunteers in the studio. Once a performer leaves the building, PDM PRODUCTIONS is no longer responsible for him/her. More information about this in the parent/guardian meeting on Friday, September 24th.

**14. ARE PARENTS PERMITTED TO WATCH THE AUDITIONS OR REHEARSALS?**

Only parents and others who are assisting as volunteers will be permitted into the audition. Due to Covid safety measures, the studio lobby will be closed. Volunteers (who are performing tasks) will be permitted in the studio.

**15. ARE PARENTS REQUIRED TO VOLUNTEER?**

Yes. Our volunteers are the backbone of “The Nutcracker Sweet”. It’s only with our precious volunteers that we can produce amazing performances of this size and caliber. It is required that a parent (or family member) share time, skills and effort. If you are unable to volunteer, you have the option of paying our “Volunteer Fee” = \$200.00. *We prefer to have your time and talents!!*

**16. WHAT IS THE PROTOCOL FOR QUESTIONS OR AN EMERGENCY?**

Any questions, please contact us at [info@pdmproductionsva.com](mailto:info@pdmproductionsva.com). For emergencies: Tristi at (804) 874-2196 or Norvell at (804) 924-6220.