

2024 Nutcracker Guide

Saturday, December 14, 5:00pm

Sunday, December 15, 3:00pm

North River Ballet & Star Academy Present



December 14 & 15, 2024 | Sarasota Opera House

Sarasota Opera House

61 N. Pineapple Ave.

Sarasota, FL 34236

We are ecstatic to produce our second Nutcracker performance - and can't believe we will have almost 100 performers!! This show has a bit of everything, with ballet, pointe, acting, magic, aerial, acrobatics, jazz, tap, and more. Please read through this entire show guide for details on everything regarding the performance, and let us know if you have any questions! All links & a copy of the guide are available at StarAcademyFL.com/nutcracker2024

History of the Nutcracker:

The story for the Nutcracker Ballet was adapted from the book *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* written by E.T.A. Hoffman in 1816. In 1892 in Russia, the first performance of the Nutcracker was presented, with musical scores composed by Pyotr Tchaikovsky and routines choreographed by Marius Petipa. The first American performance of *The Nutcracker* was performed a few years later by the San Francisco Ballet on December 24th, 1944. The beginning of *The Nutcracker* as an American tradition is usually credited back to George Balanchine's 1954 production with the New York City Ballet. Balanchine adapted the ballet to fit the times in America and it began to find success. Just a few years later it became even more widely known to where it is now a beloved part of the American Christmas tradition.

Story of the Nutcracker:

The Party Scene: It is Christmas Eve at the Stahlbaum house. The Stahlbaums are hosting their annual Christmas party, welcoming the arrival of their family and friends. The children, Clara, Louise, and Fritz, are dancing and playing as they welcome their friends too. The party grows festive with music and dance as their Uncle Drosselmeyer arrives. He is a skilled toy maker and always full of surprises.

Drosselmeyer draws everyone's attention as he presents life-size dolls which dance throughout the party. The children begin to open gifts from him when Drosselmeyer presents a beautiful Nutcracker to Clara.

Fritz becomes jealous and, having a bit more spunk than a boy should have, grabs the nutcracker from Clara and promptly breaks it. Clara is heartbroken looking on as Drosselmeyer quickly repairs the Nutcracker with a handkerchief. As the evening grows late, the guests depart and the Stahlbaum family retires for the evening. Clara, worried about her beloved Nutcracker, sneaks back to the tree to check on him, falling asleep with him in her arms.

The Battle Scene: As the clock strikes midnight strange things begin to happen. Clara begins shrinking as her beautiful Christmas tree grows high above her. The toys around the tree come to life while the room fills with an army of mice, led by the fierce Mouse King. As the Nutcracker awakens, he leads his army of toy soldiers into battle with the mice. The Mouse King corners the Nutcracker and battles him one-on-one. The Nutcracker seems to be no match for the Mouse King. The Nutcracker and his army can go on no longer and are captured by the mice and their King. Clara makes a final daring charge throwing her slipper at the Mouse King, hitting him square on the head.

The Mouse King drops to the floor and the mice run away.

The Land of Snow: The Nutcracker turns into a Prince and takes Clara on a journey to the Land of Snow, an enchanted forest wonderland where they are welcomed by dancing snowflakes.

The Land of Sweets: The Prince escorts Clara to the Land of Sweets where they are greeted by the Sugar Plum Fairy. The Prince tells her about their daring battle with the army of mice and she rewards them with a celebration of dances including Mirlitons, Spanish Chocolate, Mother Ginger's Children, Russian Candy Canes, Arabian Coffee, Chinese Tea, Italian Pie, and Waltz of the Flowers.

As a finale, the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Cavalier dance a beautiful Pas De Deux.

The Dream Ends: Clara awakens from her dream and finds herself by her Christmas tree with her beloved Nutcracker.

Thank you for supporting our dancers, studio, & performance!

Important Dates & Schedules:

Subject to Change

December 7: Mandatory In-Studio Rehearsal

- Please wear black leotards, pink tights, & hair pulled back into a tight ballet bun
- 1:00-1:30 - Level 7/8/9 Warm-Up
- 1:30-2:30 - Party Scene
- 2:30-3:30 - Battle Scene
- 3:30-4:15 - Finale (all performers)
- 4:15-4:45 - Kingdom of Snow
- 4:45-5:45 - Kingdom of Sweets
- 5:45-6:15 - Sugar Plum & Waltz of the Flowers

December 14: Show Day!

- 10:30-11:00 - Level 7/8/9 dancers arrive
- 11:00-11:30 - All other performers arrive
- 11:00-11:45 - Level 7/8/9 dancers warm-up
- 11:45 - all ACT 1 dancers backstage
- 12:00-3:30 - Dress Rehearsal (performers can eat lunch at this time but may not leave the premises)
- 3:30-4:00 - Group Picture & Awards
- 4:00-4:45 - Meal Break
- 4:45 - ACT 1 dancers backstage, all others in dressing rooms
- 5:00-7:00 - Show Time!
- Please clean up quickly to be off the premises by 7:30.

December 15: Show Day!

- 12:00-12:30 - Level 7/8/9 dancers arrive
- 12:30-1:00 - All other performers arrive
- 12:30-1:15 - Level 7/8/9 dancers warm-up
- 1:30-2:30 - Rehearse anything needed (we will let you know if you are needed to rehearse)
- 2:45 - ACT 1 dancers backstage, all others in dressing rooms
- 3:00-5:00 - Show Time!
- Please clean up quickly to be off the premises by 5:30.

December 16-21: Holiday Fun Week! (classes as normal)

Hair for All Performers:

Tight, mid-level ballet bun with a middle part.

Ballet-Bun Instructional video:

[youtube.com/watch?v=7C9yAiBAuxI&t=3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7C9yAiBAuxI&t=3s)

You will need hair ties, bun pins, bobby pins, hairnet, & hairspray.

If they have a hairpiece, it will go on the right side or top of the bun.

Hats will go right on top on head & need to be securely fastened.

EXCEPTION: Party Girls, Clara, & Louise - Tight curls (do not brush them out) with half of hair up. They can wear their hair like this for the entire rehearsal, but for the show most will need to transition to a bun after the Party Scene. They will have plenty of time to do so! Instructional video: [youtube.com/watch?v=nza-XhAElyg&t=350s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nza-XhAElyg&t=350s)

Make-Up for

All Performers:

Ages 7 and under - Lipgloss & light blush preferred (they are welcome to wear red lipstick & mascara if they would like)

Ages 8 and up - Red lipstick, blush, neutral eyeshadow, black eyeliner, and mascara preferred (they can wear eyelashes if they would like)

Only nude or clear nail polish allowed!

Small earring studs may be worn as long as they match the costuming - otherwise no other jewelry should be worn.

Costume Rentals

Nutcracker costumes are rented from the studio to students for the show only. This fee is included in the all-inclusive tuition. Costumes will be tried on in class and most can take home in the weeks leading up to the show. Anyone with a balance on their account will not be able to take their costumes home. Props are not to be taken home.

Costumes not returned by January 20 will be subject to a \$25 late rental fee.

Costumes not returned by March 1 will be subject to a \$95 replacement fee.

Dancers are highly recommended to wear a skin-color leotard underneath all costumes. Some of the tutus/dresses do not come with bloomers so dancers MUST wear a nude leotard underneath.

Tights & Shoes

Most routines will wear pink convertible tights (handed out with check-in at show) and pink ballet shoes. Please bring an extra pair of pink tights! A few routines may not wear tights as they will be wearing leggings or other full length pants.

Please remember that tights are meant to serve as the undergarments for the costumes - please no underwear or visible bras!

Items to Bring:

Provided at Check-in the Day Of the Show:

- Show T-Shirt
- Tights (if needed)

Costumes:

- Costume for EACH Routine
- Hair Piece (if costume came with one)
- Dance Shoes (if needed)

Additional Items:

- Hair Ties, Bobby Pins, Hairspray, Hairnets
- Make-Up
- Additional Tights
- Jackets/Sweatpants/Cover-Up
- Activities (if needed: books, puzzles, etc)
- Water & Snacks

Ticketing:

Tickets are available now online -

Saturday Show: <https://tickets.sarasotaopera.org/6651/6652>

Sunday Show: <https://tickets.sarasotaopera.org/7515/7517>

Tickets will be available at the door unless the show is sold out.

Both shows are EXACTLY the same with the SAME cast members. Last year we were very close to selling out so we decided to add an additional show this year so that all friends & family members can see it!

ALL audience members that need a seat will require a ticket, regardless of age. Student tickets are for children ages 0-18 needing a ticket. All tickets & fees are nonrefundable.

Performers may not watch in the audience during the show.

Performer Arrival & Check-In:

Level 7/8/9 performers will need to arrive between 10:30-11:00am on Saturday and 12:00-12:30pm on Sunday.

Level 1-6 and all other performers will need to arrive between 11:00-11:30am on Saturday and 12:30-1:00pm on Sunday.

Everyone will need to arrive with hair & makeup ready to go, but no costumes on just yet.

All performers will need to enter through the side door of the Opera House and check-in with a volunteer. They will receive a bag with their show t-shirt, tights, program, & more and be told where their dressing room is.

Parents of students ages 9 and under will also receive a ticket during check-in with their child's name on it.

Please KEEP this safe. Parents will need this to check their child out of the dressing room at anytime. Kids ages 9 and under cannot leave the dressing room on their own.

Kids 10 and older will receive a ticket that they can use on their own to check-out. They should have a parent with them as they leave as well, but it is not required. Please make a plan with where to meet them during any breaks and after the show.

Warm-Ups will begin a few minutes after the check-in process is complete, so dancers will need to change quickly and go backstage as soon as they are ready. Younger levels will need to stick together with their class leader and only go backstage once they are all ready.

Dressing Room & Backstage Etiquette:

Only parents with children 8 years and under can stay in the dressing rooms. Parents are welcome to assist in checking their kids in before the rehearsal & show, but by warm-up time no other parents will be allowed in the dressing room. **No parents (except for volunteers) will be allowed backstage.** If you would like to be with your child the entire time of the rehearsal and/or show, you will need to volunteer as a class leader.

No food or drinks except water will be allowed backstage or in the dressing rooms. There is an outdoor courtyard which is a perfect spot to eat (there are some covered sections as well). All students will need to cover-up their costume or change before eating or drinking anything!

No pictures are allowed in the dressing rooms!!! If you would like to take pictures, please go just outside of the dressing rooms.

Males are not allowed in any female dressing room.

We can assist in showing your child where to go if needed.

Dress Rehearsal & Show Time:

All performers will need to stay either backstage, in the dressing rooms, or with their class leaders during the entire rehearsal & show. Parents are welcome to sit in the general admission area during the rehearsal.

Please note the rehearsal is not a time to bring guests to see the show - only one person per student is allowed to watch the rehearsal.

Performers may not leave the premises during the show days. You will need to check them out with their class leader before taking them out of the dressing room area to eat (only those over 10 years old may leave on their own).

Finale Fun:

The finale will be required of all performers. We will learn the finale piece all together during the mandatory rehearsal on December 7, and quickly run-through it on December 14.

Performers will need to stay in their last costume unless told otherwise.

Pick-Up Information:

Dancers over 10 years old will be allowed to leave the backstage/dressing room area themselves with their ticket, although parents are still encouraged to pick them up. Please make a plan if you will meet them in the dressing room, auditorium, lobby, or anywhere else after the show or during any breaks.

If your child is under 10 years old, you will need to pick them up from the dressing room with the ticket received when you checked them in.

Performers will need to change out of their costumes (and preferably into nice outfits). Check to make sure they are not leaving any costume or dancewear pieces behind before leaving the dressing room area.

Costume Rental Return:

All costume pieces should be returned to the front desk at the studio by January 20 at the latest. Please do not wash the costumes without approval.

Costumes not returned by January 20 will be subject to a \$25 late rental fee.
Costumes not returned by March 1 will be subject to a \$95 replacement fee.

Show Photos & Videos:

We will have professional photography and videography of our shows - which is included with your all-inclusive tuition! Please refrain from taking any photos or videos during the performance (during the rehearsal is alright). As soon as they are available after the show, we will send out links with digital copies to download & share. :)

Theater Etiquette:

This is a formal show in a beautiful and historic theater. We expect all audience members to represent our studio well. Please no talking during the show. Keep electronic usage to an absolute minimum. Food & drinks are not allowed inside the theater. Clapping after performances is absolutely welcome, but please no yelling until the end of the show. Once the show begins, please try to only leave the theater during intermission, although doors will quickly open in between routines if needed. If the show is in progress and you need to enter the theater, you may not be allowed to sit in your seat - make sure to arrive promptly!

Parking:

There are plenty of places to park near the Opera House. Please visit sarasotaopera.org/parking for a detailed map of all options!

Volunteers Needed!

We need 25+ volunteers to make the show run smoothly.

Volunteers can be anyone ages 13+ as long as they are responsible & willing to work.
Performers cannot volunteer for this show.

You may request certain roles/days within the volunteer form, but there is no guarantee as we need to make sure all spots are filled and that we don't have too many volunteers in one area.

**All volunteers will be able to receive a comp ticket,
show t-shirt, or meal at the show.**

**Class Leaders & Backstage Runner/Dressing Room Assistant may be
able to watch parts of the show from backstage.**

Types of Volunteers Needed:

- Class Leader (Show 1 needed 10:30am-7:15pm; Show 2 needed 12:00-5:15pm): This volunteer will be in charge of a class or group of classes, and make sure they are ready to perform as well as walk them to the backstage area & back to the dressing room.
- Backstage Runner/Dressing Room Assistant (Show 1 needed 11:30am-7:00pm; Show 2 needed 1:00-5:00pm): This volunteer will assist in anything needed backstage as well as in the dressing room.
- Performer Check-In (Show 1 needed 9:30-11:30am; Show 2 needed 11:00am-1:00pm): This volunteer will check-in all performers.
- Door Security (Show 1 needed 10:00am-7:30pm; Show 2 needed 11:30am-5:15pm): This volunteer will be security for the side door and make sure all performers or parents have their ticket to leave the backstage/dressing room area.
- Performer Pick-Up (Show 1 needed 6:30-7:30pm; Show 2 needed 4:30-5:30pm): This volunteer will assist in the pick-up process in the dressing room and make sure the dressing rooms are clean once everyone has been picked up.
- Flowers & Accessory Sales (Show 1 needed 10:00am-5:00pm & during intermission; Show 2 needed 11:30am-3:00pm & during intermission): This volunteer will hand out all ordered flower & accessories, and sell them as well.

**Visit forms.gle/Lw3rztKb5ukcBbHa7
to Sign-Up to be a Volunteer!**



Performance Flowers

Purchase flowers for your performer & pick them up right at the show!

Single Rose with Ribbon - \$5

3 Rose Bouquet - \$15

6 Rose Bouquet - \$25

12 Rose Bouquet - \$35

Personal Note with Flowers - Additional \$5

Flowers are only sale online through December 7. We will have a few bouquets available at the show, but it is best to purchase ahead!

Visit StarAcademyFL.com/events/nutcrackerflowers to order.



Show Teddy Bears

All performers will want this adorable teddy bear with a matching recital t-shirt!

**Please note unlike in the image, the teddy bear will have a shirt with the matching Nutcracker Show logo on it.*

\$20 each

Teddy Bears will be available to purchase online through December 1.

Purchase yours at staracademyfl.com/events/nutcrackerbear.



Personalized Nutcracker Ornaments



Order your dancer a personalized ornament!

\$20 each

Ornaments will be available to purchase online through November 20.

Order yours at staracademyfl.com/events/nutcrackerornaments.

Additional T-Shirts & Programs

All performers will receive a show t-shirt & program, but we will be selling additional ones if you would like any additional.

Show T-Shirts: \$17 each;

Order at staracademyfl.com/events/nutcrackershirts

Show Programs: \$10 each;

Order at staracademyfl.com/events/nutcrackerprograms

2024 Nutcracker Program Ads

*Give your dancer a special spot
in our show program!*

**Offer a congratulatory message with a picture(s) for
your favorite dancer in our show program.**

Full Page - \$175

Half Page - \$115

Quarter Page - \$85

Shout Out (25 words only) - \$25

Purchase yours at [staracademyfl.com/events/
nutcrackerprogramads](http://staracademyfl.com/events/nutcrackerprogramads)



*Complimentary
ad design
included in price!*

Ad Deadline:
November 15

*Ads designed by
Michele Slaughter
Designs.*