

Frequently Asked Questions & Contact Information

Parent Night Payment Website: ballet-midwest.square.site →



Keep in Touch

- **EMAIL:** Please add the following email address to your email address book to ensure that you receive all emails: assistantdirector@gmail.com. All schedules and communications will come from this email.
- **ABSENCES:** Our conflict/absence coordinator is Sydney Frantz. Please notify her by 5pm the Friday before rehearsals if your dancer cannot attend. Contact her at (785) 221-6055 or email assistantdirector@balletmidwest.net.
- **CAST/PARENT WEBSITE:** Almost every document shared tonight is and throughout the season will be accessible on a special cast website. It is a “hidden” page, so you will need to type in the address and bookmark it: balletmidwest.net/resources Please note: last minute rehearsal changes that are sent via email will not show up online unless a new rehearsal schedule is sent out. Always defer to emails from the assistant director email.
- **FACEBOOK:** Please ask to join the private group “Ballet Midwest Nutcracker Cast Updates.” Be sure to like Ballet Midwest on Facebook and follow us on Instagram!
- **TEXT MESSAGES:** If you would like to receive text message reminders & updates, text @bmi2023 to 81010.

Artistic Directors/Staff for 2023 Nutcracker: Lacey Sandgren is the Artistic Director. She will be teaching several lead roles and lead corps groups and directing scene and stage rehearsals. We have three assistant directors who will teach some lead roles and auxiliary cast roles. The assistant directors also manage conflicts, create the rehearsal schedule, and manage email communications. Send all communications to assistantdirector@balletmidwest.net.

What’s the difference between Auxiliary Cast and Company/Junior Company? Company and Junior Company includes dancers 11 years old or in 5th grade and up who auditioned and were accepted into junior company or company this past winter. All other dancers are considered “auxiliary dancers,” including our younger children and most party scene adults.

What are Scrip Orders? Scrip cards are simply gift cards. You can purchase gift cards at face value and a portion of each card is donated to Ballet Midwest! Stock up on easy Christmas or holiday presents or purchase cards for stores where you regularly shop. Cards are available for pick up a couple of weeks after the date orders are due.

What are Dancer Salutes, Program Advertisements and Memberships? How are these different?

- **Dancer Salutes** are ads families can purchase to honor their dancer, available in a variety of sizes and prices. Please note that the order form, payment AND pictures are all due by **October 15th**. These are optional, a fun opportunity to celebrate your dancer while helping to make our beautiful programs possible!
- **Program Advertisements** are opportunities for businesses to advertise in our programs. The proceeds raised from these sales helps to offset production expenses, including our beautiful keepsake programs. You can help by taking these contracts to your place of employment and to establishments that you visit regularly. Business Advertisements are due **October 15th**. (We can accept ads up to October 31st.)
- **Memberships** are a wonderful way to show you support Ballet Midwest! All memberships include at least one season ticket. Company & Junior Company dancers are required to purchase or sell one membership prior to auditions. Memberships must be purchased by **October 15th** if you wish to be listed in the Nutcracker program.

What about costumes? Watch your emails for costume fitting information as we get further into rehearsals. Fitting schedules are usually shared on Thursday or Friday of each week, so plan to check your email every week on Friday night or Saturday morning.

The bulk of October will focus on lead roles so that costumes are ready for program pictures. Auxiliary cast costume fittings may not begin until November. Fittings are usually scheduled for before or after your dancer's rehearsal. Costumes remain at the studio and will be taken by a team over to TPAC. Dancers should plan to have a clean/new pair of tights for performances and ballet shoes in good condition.

PLEASE CONTACT THE COSTUME MISTRESS IF YOUR DANCER CANNOT MAKE IT TO FITTINGS!

Even if you have submitted an absence to Sydney, please contact the costume team separately to schedule a time to make up fittings. Costume fitting emails are typically sent by the assistant directors. Please do not reply to these. Instead, text or email Josie at (785) 633-1379, matrix10311974@yahoo.com

How will I need to do my dancer's hair?

- Curls: angels (including angels, seraphim, Drosselmeyer's Angel), girl child, friend, Party Clara. NOTE: The right style of curls is difficult to purchase and no longer available locally. Look into this early and ask other Nutcracker parents for help if you wish to purchase curls!
- French braid: mini mice, mice, rabbit, mouse queen attendants.
- Low bun: any role wearing a hat (some battle scene roles – costume mistress will notify at costume fittings)
- Standard bun: all other roles, unless otherwise notified by costume mistress

What make-up should my dancer wear for performances? Dancers in company and junior company should follow those guidelines. Auxiliary cast is asked to wear make-up to keep from looking washed-out, including blush & lipstick, and foundation if needed. Mouse nose & whiskers, doll cheeks, and soldier/army cheeks will be applied at TPAC.

Early Notes About Production Week:

- We will have a professional photographer available to take pictures of dancers in costumes **December 6 & 7 at TPAC**. Watch your emails in Nov./early Dec. for details.
- Flowers will be available to purchase in the TPAC lobby during performances. Proceeds help Ballet Midwest!

How can I help make this amazing opportunity for my dancer possible? Volunteer! There are many ways to help, especially production week. Keep an eye out for emails with additional info!

WHO DO I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

- **Absences/Conflicts (must be reported by 5pm Friday evening):** Sydney Frantz (785) 221-6055 or assistantdirector@balletmidwest.net. Questions about the rehearsal schedule should be emailed to assistantdirector@balletmidwest.net.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** volunteer@balletmidwest.net
- **T-shirts:** Becky Ericson (785) 250-9729, apparel@balletmidwest.net
- **Dancer Salutes:** Kim Patton (785) 969-0098, salutes@balletmidwest.net
- **Program Ads:** Becky Ericson (785) 250-9729, ads@balletmidwest.net
- **Memberships:** Shahira Stafford, memberships@balletmidwest.net
- **Ticket Sales Questions:** Randi McCurry (785) 845-2255, re350z@yahoo.com
- **Costumes:** Josie Marchant (785) 633-1379, matrix10311974@yahoo.com
- **Fundraisers:** Hollie Gabriel (785) 554-1328, holliegabriel@gmail.com

HELP GET THE WORD OUT!!

Ballet Midwest's success depends on you! There are so many ways people can choose to spend their money during the holiday season and our ballets rely heavily on ticket sales. Help promote our performances and get the community excited for Northeast Kansas' longest running Nutcracker!

EASY WAYS YOU CAN HELP!

- Like all of Ballet Midwest's Instagram and Facebook posts.
- Share some of Ballet Midwest's Facebook posts & invite people to our events.
- Invite friends and family to the performances – sell tickets!
- Ask your dentist, hair dresser, other businesses that you visit frequently to purchase an ad in our program(s).
- Hang Nutcracker posters in places of high visibility at your work, church, school, etc.
- See if your school will include a blurb in their newsletter sharing/celebrating dancers performing in the Nutcracker along with performance dates.
- Encourage your school & homeschools to attend our benefit performance (we specifically target 4th grade students and homeschool is limited to students ages 8-10 years, like many national professional ballet companies like Kansas City Ballet). Post or email to homeschool networks and public school advertising boards.
- Purchase a Nutcracker t-shirt/sweatshirt tonight and wear it at public appearances, community events, any place with lots of people!

Additional Creative Ideas:

- Going to a trunk or treat? Decorate your trunk in a Nutcracker theme and hang our poster! Invite people as they ask questions!
- If you own a business or live in an area where people are frequently walking, use sidewalk chalk a few times this fall to advertise our performances.
- Out of ideas or don't want to buy another toy/gift card for a birthday this fall? Consider giving ticket(s) for a birthday present! Purchase tickets as early Christmas presents!



← Parent & Dancer Resource Site
balletmidwest.net/resources
(site not listed on our website menu)