

Tahoe Nutcracker at Lake Tahoe Dance Collective

Frequently Asked Questions

These questions have all been asked by dancers and parents just like you. Some families have been participating in LTDC performances for years and still have lots of questions! LTDC occasionally changes policies and procedures to ensure we both keep our dancers safe AND that we put on performances of a professional caliber. This is not a dance recital. Our audiences have become accustomed to a very high level of professionalism. Our dancers work hard to meet this standard and they deserve to be showcased as such. This is a theatrical presentation and it runs quite differently than what you might be used to at your home studio's annual dance recitals. Keep this document bookmarked.

ABOUT LAKE TAHOE DANCE COLLECTIVE

- **What is LTDC?**

We are a 501c3 nonprofit organization with the mission to promote classical, modern and contemporary dance of the finest quality in the Lake Tahoe area through performance, education and outreach, enriching the community as a whole and as a cultural destination. The organization was founded in 2008, then known as Tahoe Youth Ballet, and has presented over 35 performances featuring over 100 works featuring our company of local dancers and guests from around the world, including dancers from New York City Ballet, Martha Graham Dance Company, Dresden/Frankfurt Dance, and Theatre of Harlem to name just a few. Our students have been accepted into the finest dance schools and colleges in the country.

- **Who is in charge?**

We are a non-profit organization that is run by a Board of Directors and our founder and Artistic Director, Christin Hanna. The remaining coordinators are all volunteers who have made our performances and programs so successful.

AUDITIONS

- **When and where will auditions take place?**

Auditions will be held at LTDC. Date and time will be announced on our website, via email, and social media.

- **What roles are available?**

A complete [LIST OF AVAILABLE ROLES](#) can be found is available on our website.

- **I know I already have a scheduling conflict for one of the rehearsals or one of the shows. Can I still audition?**

Yes! However, please let us know the dates of your conflicts up front. We are willing to work around conflicts as best we can, but only if we know about it up front. You will find a section of your audition form for this information.

- **What does my dancer need to wear for auditions?**

Girls need to wear tights, a leotard, and ballet shoes (or pointe shoes if applicable) and hair in a bun. Boys need to wear tights or pants, t-shirts and ballet shoes.

- **Are there adult roles available?**

There are often adult roles available. These roles are not offered during the audition, please email info@laketahoedancecollective.org for more information.

- **When will I hear about audition results?**

Audition results will be made available on the posted time and date given within the audition notice.

COMMUNICATIONS

- **How will you communicate information to me?**

We primarily use email to communicate information, and our website is regularly updated. We will also use online services for volunteer scheduling.

- **What if I have questions?**

Please ask! We try to cover everything we can, but we know there are lots of questions out there! The primary email address for any questions is info@laketahoedancecollective.org.

MAKEUP/HAIR

- **What type of makeup is required? What if my dancer has an allergy?**

A list of recommended products will be emailed to the cast, along with useful YouTube Links on how to apply makeup for stage lighting. There are a number of products available that are free of allergens.

- **I have a male dancer in the show - does he need to wear makeup?**

Yes! All roles need to wear makeup for features to be seen in stage lighting. A separate YouTube video that describes men's makeup will be emailed to the cast.

- **What hairstyles are required?**

For all rehearsals, please have hair in a bun or neatly pulled back if too short. Specific hairstyles for specific roles will be emailed to the cast.

- **Can I have brightly dyed hair and still be in the performance?**

As it can distract from the performance, brightly colored dyed hair is not allowed. Please email individually with any questions.

- **May a dancer wear jewelry or nail polish during the shows?**

All jewelry should be left at home and all nail polish must be removed. Please remember, in order for this performance to look as professional as possible, all dancers need to look the part.

COSTUMES

- **Do I keep the costume my dancer uses?**

No. All our costumes, leotards, tights and accessories are borrowed by the dancers. They are the property of Lake Tahoe Dance Collective and we take great care in our costumes!

- **How do I obtain the costume? Do I take it with me?**

All costumes will stay in possession of ITDC. Costume fittings will be done during rehearsals and costumes will be adjusted for each dancer as needed. Costumes will remain in the dressing rooms, organized by roles and names. They are never taken outside of the studio or dressing rooms, unless they are on stage!

- **Does my dancer need to wear underwear?**

Your child will be given their own tights and a borrowed, freshly laundered leotard. No other undergarments are worn.

- **Do I need to provide shoes for my dancer?**

Yes. Shoes will be available to be borrowed or purchased for a nominal amount.

REHEARSALS

- **When will rehearsals be?**

The rehearsal schedule will be posted on our website prior to auditions. Please be aware that rehearsal times may need to be adjusted for a variety of reasons, but we will do our best to make everyone aware of adjustments in a timely manner, and is updated in real time on google docs. When viewing the rehearsal schedule, it is always wise to “refresh” your browser to make sure you are not viewing an older version of the schedule.

- **Do I need to stay with my dancer at rehearsals?**

Your dancer will not be supervised before or after their rehearsal time. We cannot have dancers running around the studio or being disruptive. You are welcome to wait for your dancer in the hallway at LTDC or Fairway Community Center. If you arrive early, please wait with your dancer until they are called into the studio.

- **How long are rehearsals?**

They vary in length, depending on the role. As we draw nearer to the performances, you will see that “run throughs” are longer. We do our very best to end in a timely manner, as we know all our dancers need their rest!

- **Where are rehearsals held?**

Most rehearsals are held at the Lake Tahoe Dance Collective studio in Tahoe City, located in the Cobblestone Center next to Bella Vita Salon. We utilize the

Fairway Community Center for additional rehearsals, which is located at 130 Fairway Drive in Tahoe City.

- **What happens if we have to miss a rehearsal?**

Missed rehearsal policy:

- You may miss only 1 rehearsal for a non-illness conflict. Request must be made in writing via the rehearsal conflict form available on the website, at least one week prior to conflict.
- The final three weeks of rehearsal, including dress and tech rehearsals, are mandatory.
- Violating rehearsal conflict rules could result in your dancer being replaced for this performance or not being eligible to audition for future performances.

- **What is a “run-through”? What is a “dress rehearsal”? What is a “tech rehearsal”?**

- A “Run-through” rehearsal is when scenes are practiced back to back, in the order they would be seen in the show. This lets the directors see if any changes need to be made and it lets the dancers get the feel/flow of the show. Although your dancer may be in just one scene, they need to be present for the full rehearsal. No costumes or makeup are worn for “run-through” rehearsals.
- A “Dress Rehearsal” is where the costumes are worn for the scenes. Just like the run-through, each dancer needs to be present for the entire rehearsal. We will hold two dress rehearsals - one in the studio and one on stage. The final dress rehearsal on stage will also require makeup as a practice for the performance.
- A “tech rehearsal” is when we rehearse in the performance space without costumes but with all lighting and props. This helps the technical crew set and practice their lighting cues.

PERFORMANCES

- **Can my dancer be involved with other commitments on show days?**

Unfortunately, it is unlikely. Cast Call in the Theater is usually 1.5-2 hours prior to show time and dancers are not allowed to leave in between performances.

- **What can I do during the performances if I have not purchased a ticket?**

Generally, there are lots of volunteer opportunities to sign up for during the shows - in concessions, retail and dressing rooms for example. You may NOT loiter in the lobby unless you are working in the retail sales area.

- **Where will my dancer be during the performances? Am I required to be with them? May I stay with them?**

Dancers are to meet at the designated entrance for cast call at the time indicated. At that time, they are escorted by a volunteer to their group in their dressing room. They stay in that area for the duration of the show. They are, as a group, escorted from the dressing room to the backstage area for their scenes. There are volunteers that are in charge of these rooms and will ensure that the dancers are safe and stage-ready. Unless you are a volunteer signed up for this

job, you are not allowed backstage or in the dressing rooms. Dancers may pack non-messy activities for backstage time.

- **Can I send my dancer backstage with some snacks?**

There is absolutely no food allowed backstage or in costume. Dancers may be given a water bottle. Volunteers backstage will have emergency snacks should someone need, but as we are masked at all times, we ask that you bring your dancer well-fed and ready to perform.

- **What happens after the show ends? Can we take pictures with our dancer or bring them flowers?**

When the lights/curtain come up after final bows, dancers are to REMAIN ON THE STAGE. You are welcome to take photos with your dancers on stage at this point. Performers will have time to take photos on stage and then will be escorted back to the dressing room with their assigned parent volunteer. Once there, dancers will take their costumes off, hang them up carefully, then be released to their parents.

- **What happens if my dancer becomes ill on show day?**

Unfortunately this does happen. Although we will miss your dancer terribly, you must notify us immediately but keep them home. Please see our COVID protocols for specific guidance and remember that we will be updating these guidelines as we draw closer to the performance date.

TICKETS

- **Do I have to purchase tickets for the performance?**

If you want to see the performance, you will have to purchase tickets. Tickets are offered at reasonable prices and are a part of how we fund our organization and this production, so we appreciate your support. Tickets are available on our website.

- **Can I just “pop in” when my child is on stage to watch?**

No, it is incredibly distracting and very unprofessional. If you want to see your child on stage, purchase a ticket and enjoy the show!

- **How much do tickets cost?**

Tickets start at \$15.

- **Do shows sell out?**

Given our variation of venue, this is quite possible. Don't wait until the last minute, if you want to see the performance, buy a ticket.

COMMITMENTS, EXPECTATIONS & VOLUNTEERISM

- **Other than the obligation of attending rehearsals, what other commitments are expected of my family?**

We ask that everyone involved in the Tahoe Nutcracker be supportive of all the dancers, cast and crew of the production, we are all in this together. This is an incredible feat to put on in any year, let alone this year, so we need everyone's cooperation and appreciation to make it something we can be proud to have participated in. Here are some ways to make sure that happens:

- Clean up after yourself/dancer - both at rehearsals and performances.
 - Make sure your dancer knows the rules backstage as we will be enforcing them - particularly involving COVID procedures - we do not want anyone getting hurt and we do not want anyone running wild backstage.
 - READ the emails, ASK questions, and FOLLOW directions.
 - Be kind and patient to everyone involved. We are all volunteers. None of us are paid for our work. Although we love what we do, we need supportive and helpful individuals by our sides.
- **VOLUNTEER!!!**
We have a multitude of volunteer jobs available - from cleaning costumes, to selling concessions, to public relations! Let us know your talents and we'll help you find the best fit.