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AUDITION GUIDELINES &  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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*Junior Members*



*Explore Your Potential  
and Realize Your Dream*

Patricia Lavoie, Artistic Director

Southern  
new Hampshire  
**YOUTH  
BALLET**

SCHOOL & PERFORMING COMPANY



## ABOUT SOUTHERN NH YOUTH BALLET

Welcome to Southern NH Youth Ballet's Junior Company (SNHYB), the official performing company of Southern NH Dance Theater for ages 8 to 11.

The Youth Ballet has been educating dancers and inspiring audiences throughout New Hampshire since 1998. For more than twenty years the Youth Ballet has also been the resident Nutcracker Performing Company at the historic Palace Theatre in Manchester, NH. By providing young dancers with unique performance opportunities, intensive dance training and individual coaching, the Youth Ballet continues to inspire the youth in our community by fostering their artistic growth and enriching their lives.

## WHAT IS A JUNIOR COMPANY MEMBER?

A junior company member is for young dancers ages 8 to 11. This introductory level to the Youth Ballet provides:

- Several performing opportunities
- Opportunity to perform with a live orchestra in The Nutcracker, at the Palace Theatre in downtown Manchester
- Work with some of the industry's leading choreographers
- Exposure to the dance community on a broader, regional level.

## HOW DO I BECOME A JUNIOR COMPANY MEMBER?

- Attend the junior company auditions held in the late summer of each year.
- Be enrolled in one ballet class levels 2 through 4 at Southern NH Dance Theater (age 8-11)
- Be enrolled in a second discipline such as jazz, contemporary or tap at Southern NH Dance Theater

Participation is a full year's commitment September through June. If you are involved in other activities that meet regularly on Fridays, Saturdays and/or Sundays, you may need to reconsider auditioning for the Youth Ballet, as the potential for conflict may exist. From time-to-time, students may be invited by the Artistic Director to join the company without an audition.

## VOLUNTEERS & FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

As a non-profit organization, the Youth Ballet relies heavily on fundraising events to support its endeavors. Parents and or guardians of all junior company members are asked to help as volunteers and to participate in Youth Ballet annual fundraising activities. Areas where help is needed along with information about all fundraising events will be made available to families throughout the year.

## CLASS ATTENDANCE, PERFORMANCE AND SUMMER DANCE REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for junior company members are as follows:

- **Attend one ballet technique class and one other discipline such as modern, jazz, tap or hip-hop every week September through June.**
- Participate in all performances of The Nutcracker, the Youth Ballet's Spring Production and the School's Year-End Performance.





## PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

### THE NUTCRACKER

Since 2001, Southern NH Youth Ballet has been and continues to be the official Nutcracker performing company at the historic Palace Theatre in downtown Manchester, NH. Accompanied by a professional live Orchestra, the Youth Ballet traditionally presents six performances each holiday season.

### SPRING PERFORMANCE

Since 2001 Southern New Hampshire Youth Ballet has celebrated the coming of Spring with a wide array of productions. From our original **Spring-Fling** to **The New Hampshire Choreographer's Showcase** to our most recent children's storybook series at the Palace Theatre in Manchester, Junior Company members have the opportunity to perform classic and original ballets.

## ABSENTEE POLICY

Dancers and/or parents who are aware of a potential date of conflict are given the opportunity to submit a date of conflict to the director and panel of judges **at the time of company auditions**. Both the dancer and their parent will be informed prior to the audition class if this date of conflict is **declined** or **accepted** as an excused absence. If declined, the dancer must then decide **at the time of the audition** if they will be able to participate (if chosen) in the Youth Ballet's season.

Please note that family vacations that conflict with the Youth Ballet calendar are viewed as a date of conflict. Dancers will be replaced if an absence from rehearsal due to illness or other emergency is viewed as hindering them from participating in a given production.

## CASTING PROCEDURES

Casting is at the sole discretion of the artistic director and/or choreographers and any judges present at auditions. Dancers and their families are not permitted to make suggestions or question the director regarding casting decisions. All dancers are required to learn and dance the parts they are cast in.

## WHEN ARE REHEARSALS HELD?

All rehearsals for junior company members are held outside of regular class time. These rehearsals are held Friday afternoons or evenings, Saturday afternoons and occasionally on Sundays. Junior company members must attend all rehearsals and performances outlined in the Youth Ballet calendar. Rehearsals for various roles are held on the same day at the same time from week to week. However, all junior company members must be flexible to schedule changes, whether it is a change in day or time.

It is the responsibility of the dancers to check the studio bulletin board regularly for any schedule changes. Schedule revisions are always clearly marked, posted and emailed to families on Mondays or Tuesdays prior to the rehearsal weekend.

Absences from a rehearsal or costume fitting, leaving early or arriving late are all grounds for dismissal from the Youth Ballet. The school and Youth Ballet staff reserves the right to dismiss and replace any company member at any time.



## WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED?

All families are responsible for a non-refundable audition fee and annual production fee. Families will be directed to set up a Go Motion Account upon signing up for auditions. These fees will automatically be billed to the credit card provided when setting up your Go Motion Account. The non-refundable audition fee will be processed one week prior to the audition. A portion of the production fee will be processed once casting is announced and the remaining portion will be billed in installments as outlined under Production Fees. The cost of a company leotard is included in the annual production fee.

## READY TO AUDITION? HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

- Familiarize yourself with all Junior Company audition guidelines, requirements, important dates, and fees.
- Sign up for auditions ONLINE. Once you have completed the online sign up form you will be directed to Go Motion, where you will set up your Youth Ballet Go Motion Account. All audition and production fees will automatically be billed to the credit card provided. See Listing of audition and production fees and dates due at the end of this document.
- Once you have set up your SNHYB Go Motion Account you will be assigned an audition date and time along with a pre-audition meeting.
- Be sure one parent or guardian is available to attend your assigned pre-audition meeting.



## REGIONAL DANCE AMERICA

Southern New Hampshire Youth Ballet is a **Performing Company** with **Regional Dance America Northeast**.

**Regional Dance America (RDA)** is a national organization of pre-professional dance companies divided into five geographic regions. Its purpose is to encourage and develop young companies with high artistic standards and to offer dancers additional performing opportunities. In the spring of each season, dancers from the Youth Ballet travel to participate in a festival with other member companies where they attend master classes during the day and participate in performances in the evenings. Although Junior Company members do not meet the age requirements to participate in the RDA Northeast Festivals, all Junior Company members do become RDA Associates and are invited to participate in all online / virtual activities.

### ----- AUDITION & PRODUCTION FEES -----

**\$550 Annual Production Fee processed thru your SNHYB Go Motion Account as follows:**

- **\$50 Non refundable Audition Fee** will be billed to your account one week prior to the audition.
- **\$250 paid upon acceptance to the Youth Ballet** - once casting has been announced.
- **\$50 paid in 5 installments** via your SNHYB Go Motion Account - the 1<sup>st</sup> Oct, Nov, Dec & Jan

\*\* Production Fee Includes Company Leotard

### ----- IMPORTANT DATES -----

<b>Fall Classes Begin</b>	Tuesday, September 3, 2024
<b>Company and Nutcracker Auditions to be combined</b>	Friday, August 23 and Saturday, August 24. <i>Students will be assigned to an audition date, time and pre-audition meeting time.</i>
<b>Nutcracker Rehearsals Begin</b>	Friday, September 6, 2024
<b>Nutcracker Production Week</b>	<b>November 18-24, 2024</b>
<b>New England Inspirational Dance Festival</b>	<b>April 2025 - TBA</b>
<b>Spring Performance</b>	Sunday, March 30, 2025
<b>Southern NH Dance Theater's Year End Performance</b>	Sunday, June 8, 2025



## RECOGNITION OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

On more than one occasion, Southern NH Youth Ballet has been recommended by repetiteurs of the George Balanchine Trust (including Darla Hoover and Deborah Wingert, both formerly of New York City Ballet) to be granted permission to perform Mr. Balanchine's ballet "Valse-Fantaisie." Dancers from the Youth Ballet had the distinct honor of performing this renowned ballet in 2001, 2002 and 2007.

Dancers from Southern NH Youth Ballet have also garnered the interest of several renowned choreographers who have staged original and classic works for the Youth Ballet. Among them are: Ashley Pabst, former dancer with Atlanta Ballet & Dayton Ballet; Benjamin Briones, Artistic Director of Briones Ballet; Bafana Matea, former dancer of Battery Dance Theatre; Mary LeGere, Artistic Director of Raleigh Dance Theatre; Jeremy Collins, former principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre; Peter Pawlyshyn, Former Director of Kansas City Ballet School; and Kitty Seale, Artistic Director of Alabama Dance Theatre.

Youth Ballet dancers have participated in many prestigious programs across the country, including Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, School of American Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Miami City Ballet, Houston Ballet, Harid Dance Conservatory, Ellison Ballet, Boston Ballet, Ballet Academy East, and more.

Graduates of the Youth Ballet have been contracted with professional companies including The Joffrey Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Richmond Ballet, Ballet Austin, Nashville Ballet, Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago, Phantom of the Opera Touring Company, Nevada Ballet Theatre and The Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular.