Chicago Festival Ballet's Nutcracker

Cast Information 2025

Von Heidecke's Chicago Festival Ballet will present "The Nutcracker," choreographed by Kenneth von Heidecke at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet on 12/1/24 at 2pm. Call time is 1pm. Dress Rehearsal is Saturday, November 30th, 10:30am – 4:00 pm. Call time 9:30am

Select dancers will also perform in Danville, IL with the Danville Symphony Orchestra on 12/07/25. Dress rehearsal 12/06/25. Transportation will be provided, (leaving Friday, 12/06/24), as well as hotel & food for dancers and chaperones. There will be a tour fee for all dancers & chaperones, to cover the cost of the tour. (TBD) Chaperones will also be asked to serve as backstage volunteers in Tiffin. Local dancers in Danville will fill the roles of Angel, Mouse & Soldier, so dancers who do not have roles other than those will not be performing in Danville.

Cast member participation fee (for those selected):

Cast as Mouse & Angel/Page or Fairy: $180

Cast as Mouse, Party child & Angel or Fairy: $205

Other roles: Cast in two roles: $215

Cast in three or more roles, or a main role: $225

Chicago Festival Ballet Studio Company Members do not pay a participation fee.

For dancers selected to perform in Danville, there will be an extra fee to cover transportation, hotel and food. Chaperones will be needed, and will pay a discounted fee.

• All costumes are property of VH Ballet, and the participation fee covers costume rental, as well as other production costs, and includes a digital download of the performance, professional photos of the Rialto performance and a Nutcracker cast shirt for the dancer.

• Cast members are responsible for providing their own tights and dance shoes. Unless otherwise noted, tights and ballet shoes should be pink.

Exceptions:

Mice: Black ballet shoes. We will have a group order of white tights, which we will dye grey for the mice.

Principal mice wear black tights.

Soldiers: Need a white camisole leotard with pink tights and pink ballet shoes Party parents and maids: black character shoes

Party parents and all party children: need a curly hair piece to wear over their bun.

• All female dancers must wear a nude-colored camisole leotard under their costumes.

• Selected dancers are encouraged to enroll in classes appropriate for their level, to learn the technique required for the performances.

• Rehearsals are held on Monday evenings, 7:30- 9, Wednesdays 7- 8:30 and Saturdays 2:30 4:30. Not every role is rehearsed every day. Roles for younger cast members (angel, mouse or fairy) normally only have 4-6 rehearsals before dress rehearsal, usually on Saturdays. A rehearsal schedule will be emailed monthly to cast members.

Scheduled rehearsals are always subject to change, depending on the needs of the production

• Cast members learn choreography and technique from our directors and instructors during rehearsal time, so tuition is charged for rehearsal time at regular class rates for all cast members high school age and younger and other non-professional cast members. (Regular rate $17.00/hour. Students enrolled in classes at VH Dance Center are given a discounted rate for rehearsal tuition of $16.00/hour. Students enrolled in a tuition package are charged at the discounted package rate) Invoices for rehearsal tuition will be sent at the end of each month and are due by the 10th of the following month…

• Invoices for cast participation fee will be sent in September, and are due October 1st • School year rehearsals begin the first week of fall classes, 8/18/25.

• Tickets are sold only by the theaters. For the Rialto Square Theatre, tickets are available directly through their box office at 815-726-6600, or on their website at www.rialtosquare.com. For the Danville performance, ticket information is available at Tickets — DSO

• Parent volunteers are needed backstage at the performance & dress rehearsal as well as to help with costume alterations. Please let us know if you can help! (backstage volunteers do not need tickets)