



HILTON HEAD DANCE THEATRE

Nutcracker 2023 Backstage Guidelines

Welcome to our annual production of *The Nutcracker* at the Seahawk Cultural Center (SCC) on the campus of Hilton Head Island High School! In an effort to make this production flow as smoothly as possible, we have established the following rules and procedures. It is important that all dancers conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the Hilton Head Dance Theatre. Please acquaint yourself with the guidelines below as they are essential to a successful production.

Thank you!

Check-in/check-out is required for all levels – Pink through Intermediate I and II.

Dancers should arrive ½ hour before curtain (2:00 for a 2:30 show, 7:00 for a 7:30 show)

The stagedoor (located outside – to the right of the lobby) is the only entrance to the backstage area. Please do not attempt to enter from the lobby or the auditorium. Upon entering the stagedoor, there will be a check-in table with a list of the performers and Backstage Volunteers. For the safety and comfort of our dancers, only people whose names appear on that list will be permitted beyond the check-in table. Volunteers will be given a nametag identifying them as such. Please know that every adult working backstage age 18 and over will have passed a background check.

Only Apprentices and Company Members will be allowed backstage without signing in at the check-in table!

Dressing Rooms and Backstage Hallways

Dancers will dress with the help of a Backstage Volunteer. Please note that if you are attending the performance and your child is in Act I, your child must have a ticket of their own to join you in the theater for Act II. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you are uncertain whether they are in Act I or Act II. Please be sure to go to the check-in desk and sign them out during the intermission and not before. They will not be released to go to the lobby to meet you.

Hair and make-up should be done prior to arrival for levels Pink through Intermediate I and II.

All dancers are to remain in their designated dressing room until called to the stage.

No food or drink (except water) is allowed anywhere backstage. This includes volunteers and dancers. Also, no markers, pens, or any other materials that could damage or stain costumes are to be brought into the dressing rooms. Please do not leave make-up with any dancer in levels Pink through Burgundy. Books, electronic games with headphones, and quiet board games are all good activities to occupy your child until his/her turn on stage.

For those dancers that have cell phones, they must be silent at all times in the theater. Teachers and volunteers reserve the right to ask any dancer to put his/her phone in their dance bag at any time.

Dancers, teachers and volunteers must help to create and sustain an inclusive environment where all dancers are supported and respected while attending or participating in a Hilton Head Dance Theatre event. Dancers must be aware of others around them backstage and in the dressing rooms and respect moments of necessary privacy. Dancers are instructed to inform an adult backstage if they feel uncomfortable in any way.

Onstage

No one is permitted on the stage or in the wings except as directed by the Artistic Directors or the Stage Manager. Once in the wings, the littlest dancers will be directed to rows of chairs where they are to quietly wait until their turn to perform. Quiet is essential as sound travels easily into the house.

There is to be no photography or videography from the wings without prior approval from the Artistic Directors.

Miscellaneous

Please come with your own bobby pins. The sharing of hair accessories and cosmetics is unsanitary.

All female performers are to wear pink/flesh colored footed tights, a flesh colored leotard, and pink/flesh colored ballet shoes with elastics. Underwear is not to be worn under tights.

Male performers should have black dance pants or white tights and black ballet shoes with elastics.

Costumes are not to leave the backstage area of the SCC. Dancers may not be in the lobby in costume. In addition, dancers may not be in the lobby in just tights and leotards. Costumes are shared by multiple casts and need to be prepared for the next performance.

Everyone must pay attention to all posted signs. As renters, we are guests of the SCC and need to collectively and individually respect the space.

Listen to and follow all of the Stage Manager's announcements.

Listen to and show respect to all Backstage Volunteers.

Please be certain that you AND your child are familiar with and understand these guidelines before arrival at the Seahawk Cultural Center.

A successful production requires that everyone work together!!

ACCEPTED AND AGREED / PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN TO THE STUDIO

Student Signature

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

Printed Name of Student

Printed Name of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

Date