



Summary of Volunteer Opportunities for *The Nutcracker*

Milwaukee Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* involves 163 children. These children bring worlds of joy to the performance. To coordinate all these children in the performance, extensive assistance is needed from parent volunteers. We hope you will consider giving time to this year's production. **When the sign-up opens, you may sign up for one of each opportunity available for your dancer. After a week has passed, all available opportunities will open up to anyone to fill any openings.** Descriptions of the available opportunities are below.

Backstage Volunteers – All Roles

Backstage volunteers work with the children's cast at the theatre. This is an exciting way to see the performance from a unique point of view and get a glimpse of the behind-the-scenes action. Volunteers are responsible for assisting children with costumes and "crowd control" while children are in their dressing rooms. Student dancers must adhere to posted guidelines and these guidelines are to be enforced by volunteers. Volunteers are able to watch their group perform, from backstage. Female backstage volunteers are needed for all roles. A male volunteer is needed for each show when boys are scheduled to perform.

Backstage volunteers arrive 15 minutes prior to the arrival time of the role for which they are volunteering and depart when the children in their group are dismissed.

Lounge – All Roles

The lounge volunteer supervises the lower level student lounge during Act II of the show. Students who dance in Act I but must wait at the theatre until the show ends (due to carpools, family in the audience, etc), report to the lounge to watch the show on a screen and relax while they wait.

The Lounge volunteer arrive at the start of the show to pick up a ticket at the stage door, report to the lounge at intermission and escort the students to the stage door when the show ends before leaving. May be male or female.

Check-out – All Roles

While the staff is running the show backstage, a volunteer is needed to check students out at the stage door as they are dismissed after dancing. This is a quiet place to sit and get personal work done between waves of students leaving. The staff will take over for the rush after the show.

The Check-out volunteer arrives to the stage door at the start of the performance and remains until the staff member arrives as the show ends.

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Boutique Volunteers – All roles

Milwaukee Ballet offers a wonderful Boutique where patrons can shop for Ballet and other holiday merchandise. A large team of volunteers is needed for this effort. Help is needed with set-up, selling at shows and tear down. Boutique volunteers arrive 60 minutes before the show, work before the show, during intermission and for about 30 minutes after the show. Boutique volunteers can view the show from house seats in the back of the theatre, free of charge, when seating availability allows.

Pre-Show Greeters – Friend, Party Kid, Soldier, Mice

Before each performance, 2 groups of 3 students from the Party or Battle Scenes may sign-up to greet, in costume, audience members in the lobby of the theatre. A male or female parent volunteer accompanies the students while they are in the lobby before the show.

Pre-Show Greeters arrive 75 minutes before show time, regardless of role. Parent supervisors for the Greeters are finished with their duties just before the show begins and can attend as an audience member with a purchased ticket, if interested.

Post-Show Photos – Mice, Angels, Mother Ginger

Following each performance, Mice, Angels and Mother Ginger Children participate, with Company members, in a photo session with patrons in the theatre lobby. A parent/guardian for each student assist with moving the crowd through this photo session. This is a parent/child sign-up. A child may not participate in photos without their adult present. A Lead Volunteer will be at each show to coordinate the details with the performance-specific volunteers

Parents must arrive at the end of the show (2 hours after the show begins) and report to the photo area. Parent volunteers could be in the audience for the full show and then help after the show ends. One parent will be the designated “cast member gatherer” and will not go to the photo area but will meet the children volunteering in photos at the stage door and take them to the photo area. Photos usually last about 30 minutes after the show ends.

Promotional Outreach – varies based on event

During November and December several promotional opportunities will be available to market *The Nutcracker* through the Milwaukee-metro area such as the Whitefish Bay Holiday Parade, Holiday Tree Lightings, etc. As the details are available for each of these events, roles eligible to participate will be contacted. Everyone in the role needed will be eligible to participate on a first-come, first-served basis until all spots are filled.