

Welcome to the **West Michigan Youth Ballet (WMYB) 2024 Nutcracker season!** **Please take the time to carefully read this entire agreement as dates and times are outlined thru to the performances.** We want to ensure that participation in the WMYB will be a valuable experience for all our dancers. Success can only be reached when we all work together toward a common goal with a positive attitude.

1) Commitment Period

- Choreography dates: 8/26/24-8/29/24 from 4:30pm – 8pm. A schedule will be emailed by 8/15/24. **Not every dancer will be needed each day and WMYB realizes there may be schedule conflicts with events associated with the beginning of the school year. Please email any conflict to communications@wmyb.org as soon as you can.
- Rehearsals – every Sunday starting 9/8/24 through 12/01/24.
- Super Sundays will be 11/24/24 and 12/01/24. These are mandatory all-day rehearsals.
- Dress Rehearsal (at Forest Hills Fine Arts Center) will be 12/05/24 and 12/06/24. These are also mandatory rehearsals. Times TBD. Professional photography of the rehearsals will be taken at this time. Dancers will need to miss school on these days.
- Performances – Forest Hills Fine Arts Center 12/7/24 & 12/8/24 at 1:00 pm & 4:30 pm.
- Muskegon Frauenthal Center for Performing Arts: WMYB will be performing one final Nutcracker on 12/14/24 at 3:00 pm. This is an amazing experience for your dancer(s). We encourage all dancers to participate. There will be a dress rehearsal at the Frauenthal Theater on performance day and arrival to the theater is usually around 9:00 am. All dancers will receive cast parts in this performance unless you inform WMYB by 7/15/24 that you are unable.
- Promotional Events – dancers may be asked to attend and/or perform at various promotional events. If asked, dancers will make best efforts to attend.

2) Rehearsal Attendance is mandatory!

A commitment to attend all rehearsals and promotional events is very important to the success of the performances.

- In the event of illness, please email communications@wmyb.org & board@wmyb.org
- Should you need to miss a rehearsal for other than illness, you must notify the Artistic Director 48 hours prior to rehearsal at the director's email: board@wmyb.org
- Excessive absences will result in a reduction in your part in the performances including possible recasting or you becoming an understudy at the discretion of the Artistic Director.
- Rehearsals typically are every Sunday between 12:00-5:30 pm. It is possible that additional rehearsal times may be needed and will be scheduled accordingly with as much notice as possible.
- Rehearsal schedules will be emailed to your designated email address(es) with other announcements on a weekly basis. You are responsible for checking these emails and notifying WMYB if you are not receiving them. You may also access all this information on our website and will be given a password to access it prior to the start of the season.

- At the discretion of Artistic Director, a dancer or dancers may need private instruction in addition to the weekly rehearsals. These privates occur on Sundays before or after rehearsal time and would be scheduled in advance. The cost of the privates would be \$25 per 1/2-hour payable at the beginning of the private.

3) **Tuition (non-refundable) and Acceptance – Must be received by July 15, 2024.**

- Payments can be mailed to P.O. Box 725, Ada, MI 49301-0725.
- Checks made payable to WMYB. Credit card payments accepted at www.wmyb.org under the dancer's page tab, "dancers store" or use the link: <https://www.wmyb.org/dancer-tuition>.
- Need based assistance is available for our dancers. Please contact Nicole Bergsma, WMYB Treasurer at finance@wmyb.org. Applications for assistance will be kept confidential by the Treasurer and President of the WMYB.

Tuition payment amount:

- Female dancers: \$365
- Male dancers: \$50
- There is a \$100 sibling discount for each additional dancer in families with multiple dancers enrolled.

4) **Pre-performance Volunteer hours/Fees**

Volunteer hours are 20 pre performance and 5 during performance weekend. Those families not volunteering will be billed \$20 per hour not completed. This fee must be paid by 11/30/24. Fees not received by this date may result in your dancer not performing. Please consult the volunteer contract for further information about the volunteer commitment.

If your family is unable to volunteer during the rehearsal season, please notify WMYB by 7/14/24 at board@wmyb.org.

5) **Conduct and Dress**

Dancers are expected to maintain a positive attitude toward others including other dancers, artistic staff and parents/volunteers, work as a "team player" and mentor younger dancers. Dancers should come prepared for rehearsals in proper dance attire. Girls: colored leotards and pink tights with hair in a neat bun; Boys: black tights or plain bottoms, white t-shirt & ballet shoes. Please refrain from cell phone use during rehearsals.

6) **Home Studio Instruction**

Each dancer is expected to take ballet classes each week at their home studio as outlined below. WMYB reserves the right to recast dancers if home studio technique classes are not being taken by verification of home studio owner/instructor.

- Dancers not performing on pointe (young ladies) and boys ages 8-11 at least one ballet class per week.

- Dancers performing on pointe at least 2 ballet pointe classes per week in addition to ballet technique.
- Young men dancers ages 12 and up at least 2 ballet technique per week.

7) Costuming

Dancers will need to provide their own nude leotard, briefs, shoes, tights, and makeup. For your casting, it may be necessary for you to purchase additional shoes and/or tights specified by the costumer. The costumer will need to take measurements and fit specific items on each dancer.

Dancers will be notified by posting at the rehearsal site or by email when they need to be available for such fittings, and every dancer is expected to be available when requested. If a dancer does not attend the scheduled fitting or notify the WMYB costumer of conflict on the day of the fitting, the dancer may not have an adequate costume to perform in. It will be the parent's responsibility to set up a time convenient for the costumer to fit the dancer.

8) Casting

This process begins with the audition. Casting is created based on the best fit for the dancer's ability as determined by the observations of the artistic staff with combined professional experience of greater than 40 years. To provide the casting staff with a more accurate measurement of where your dancer thinks their ability level is, WMYB asks each dancer to record a personal growth goal "parts desired" on the audition form along with parts danced prior. For new dancers to WMYB this space will be left blank. If a dancer wishes to speak with the artistic staff about their casting, they are welcome to do so with or without a parent after the **family meeting mid-to-late September – date TBA**. No meetings between the artistic director/staff will take place before the parent/guardian has attended this meeting. Any phone calls or emails to the artistic director without following this protocol will be deleted/denied. Dancers who withdraw from the performance season must submit a statement to the WMYB of their intention and can only audition for future performances with WMYB Board approval. All questions can be emailed to board@wmyb.org.

Failure to follow the above guidelines may result in the re-casting of the dancer's part at the discretion of the WMYB Board.