



New Haven Ballet: 2025 *The Nutcracker*

What to Bring & How to Prepare

Quick Checklist

Welcome to Nutcracker!

Here's a quick checklist of everything you need to know to arrive ready and confident.

Arrival & Backstage

- **Parents are not permitted backstage.** Drop-off at the **theater stage door**.
- Hair and makeup should be **performance-ready**. Shubert staff applies specialty makeup for select roles.
- **Bring all hair supplies:** brushes, bobby pins, hair nets, gel, non-aerosol spray, etc.
- **Label all items** (shoes, tights, leotards, accessories) with permanent ink.

Clothing & Shoes

- Arrive in your **class uniform** or costume undergarments.
- Children's Division: **No skirts attached to leotards.**
- **Tights & shoes:** Bring a **clean pair of tights** (plus a backup) and **ballet shoes with sewn elastics.**
- Level 6-8: Bring **warm-up clothing.**

Hair

- Female students: **high ballet bun** or role-specific style.
- Gentlemen: Hair **slicked back and out of the face**, low ponytail if long.
- **Party Girls & Clara:** Ringlets - see Page 2 for instructions.

Makeup

- Apply **basic stage makeup** unless Shubert staff will do specialty makeup.
- **Reindeer:** arrive with **clean faces, no makeup.**

Essentials to Bring

- Hair supplies & sewing kit
- Water bottle
- Homework, books, coloring or quiet games
- No food or markers (per Shubert policy)

HAIR BREAKDOWN BY CHARACTER

Clara, Party Girls	Ringlets (see below for instructions)
Party Mothers, Mrs. von Stahlbaum, Maids	Soft, loose high bun with soft curls around face; or, wig/hairpiece. Maids hair under headpiece.
Columbine and Female Soldier Doll, Female Soldiers, Reindeer Doll, Mice (including Baby Mice)	High Bun
Coffee Principal (Female)	High Ponytail
All other female performers	High Bun
Male performers	Hair should be combed down (no “spikes”) while damp with hair gel, neat, away from face, and sprayed so as not to fall into face. Longer hair should be secured in a ponytail with hair pins and elastic band.

RINGLET INSTRUCTIONS for Party Girls and Clara:

There are many hair tutorials on YouTube. If you need help finding one please contact the office. The front half of the hair should be pulled up away from the face and secured with a barrette that matches the hair color in a “half-up, half-down” style. Small to medium sponge rollers are suggested.

- Begin with clean, dry hair.
- Divide hair into sections: top, bottom, left, and right. Secure each section on which you are not working with clips.
- Roll the underneath layers first.
- Comb out and lightly spray a small vertical section of hair with water or spray gel, wrap the ends of hair with wrapping paper or 1 square of toilet paper, and roll the section of hair up vertically to the scalp.
- On each side, roll at least two (2) curlers closest to the face towards the face.
- If you are curling longer or thicker hair, use small sections of hair.
- Rollers should lie vertically on the head so that curls release nicely when the rollers are removed.
- Carefully remove the barrette and sleep on hair rollers, or sit under a hair dryer and leave the hair in rollers for as long as possible.
- Upon waking, brush the back front of the hair and place the barrette to secure the front half of the hair away from the face.
- Remove the rollers gently so you do not distort the curls. **DO NOT BRUSH OUT THE CURLS.**
- Use hair spray on the curls until stiff.



Should you have any questions regarding *Nutcracker*, please contact Ruth Barker
administrator@newhavenballet.org
 NHB office: 203-782-9038
 NHB Cell: 203-605-2843

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IMPORTANT Keep curls loosely wrapped in hair net or scarf to keep gravity from causing them to droop.

MAKEUP BY ROLE:

- **Reindeer** please do not wear makeup to the theater. Shubert Theatre personnel will apply makeup.
- **Angels, Baby Mouse, Soldiers, Bunny Soldiers, Lambs, and Bon Bons** should arrive at the theater with light basic stage makeup applied to a freshly washed face: foundation (entire face including under jaw bone), loose face powder, light blush to apples of cheeks, lipstick slightly darker than natural lip color, and brows slightly darkened with brown eye shadow if they are very fair. Shubert personnel will apply red circles to the cheeks and lipstick on top of the light basic makeup of **Soldiers and Bon Bons**. Shubert personnel will apply a nose with makeup pencil on top of the **Lambs** light basic makeup.
- **Party Girls, Hot Chocolate Corps, Trepak Corps, and Tea Corps** should arrive at the theater with basic stage makeup applied to a freshly washed face: foundation, face powder, black eyeliner, neutral eye shadow, and brows slightly darkened with brown eye shadow if brows are fair, black mascara, blush applied to apples of cheeks, lipstick (rose to reddish wine in color). No lip gloss
- **Level 6 through 8 dancers performing pointe roles:** Please bring basic (heavy street) makeup to the theater: foundation, face powder, black eyeliner, neutral eye shadow, and brows slightly darkened with eye shadow, black mascara, blush, lipstick (rose to reddish wine in color)—no lip gloss. Please also bring eyelash glue and black false eyelashes to the theater.
- **CB2 through Level 8 Gentlemen:** No makeup is required, but basic stage makeup for male roles is encouraged, including foundation, light blush, natural eyeliner, mascara, and natural matte lip color. Hair should be neatly combed out of the face and secured with hair spray. Long hair must be slicked back with gel, secured in a low ponytail, and secured with bobby pins and hair spray.
- The Shubert Theatre and NHB personnel will do specialty makeup for the following roles: **Mother Ginger, Soldiers, Bunny Soldiers, Dolls, Bon Bons, Lambs, and Reindeer, and Baby Mice.**

COSTUMES

Costumes and rehearsal tutus must be handled with the utmost care. New Haven Ballet requires students performing corps, soloist, demi-soloist, and principal roles to be responsible for their costumes and headpieces. Costumes must be hung in their proper place after each wearing. Costumes returned with stains or other damage or failure to hang up costumes may result in being charged a fee and loss of performing privileges. Students must keep their hands clean when wearing costumes and not eat, drink, apply makeup, or sit on the floor while in costume or rehearsal tutus to prevent damage or stains.

COSTUME BREAKDOWN BY CHARACTER

Party Girls	Classical pink tights, nude colored camisole leotard, black leather ballet shoes with long black elastic sewn on. NHB will supply long black elastic.
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Clara	Act I: Classical pink tights, nude colored camisole leotard, black leather ballet shoes with long black elastic sewn on. NHB will supply long black elastic. Act II: Same as above, except pink ballet slippers. Please bring spare pair of pink ballet shoes.
Nutcracker Prince	Black tights, black ballet shoes with black elastic and white tights with white ballet shoes, dance belt, white fitted tee shirt.
Fritz, Party Boys/Male Soloists	Black tights, black ballet shoes with black elastic, dance belt, white fitted tee shirt.
Party Ladies, Mrs. von Stahlbaum, Maids	Black opaque tights, black character shoes, black undergarments.
Party Men, Mr. von Stahlbaum, Drosselmeyer, Wolf	Black socks, black dress pants, black dress or character shoes, white dress shirt.
Female Soldier Doll, Columbine Doll	Classical pink tights with matching pointe shoes or flesh toned tights with matching pointe shoes, flesh toned colored camisole leotard.
Reindeer Doll	Classical pink tights with black ballet shoes or flesh toned tights with black ballet shoes, flesh toned colored camisole leotard. Elastics on black ballet shoes should match tights.
Snow King/Cavalier	White tights, dance belt, white ballet shoes with white elastic.
Soldiers	Fitted black tee shirt, black tights, black ballet slippers with black elastic.
Bunny Soldier	White tights, white ballet slippers, white fitted tee shirt.
Mice	Class leotard or tee, black tights, black ballet shoes with black elastic.
Mouse King	Black fitted tee shirt, black tights, dance belt, black ballet shoes.
Snow Queen, Snow Demis, Snowflakes	Classical pink tights with matching pointe shoes or flesh toned tights with matching pointe shoes, flesh toned camisole leotard.
Angels, Bon Bons	Class leotard, pink tights with matching pink ballet shoes or flesh toned tights with matching flesh toned ballet shoes. No attached skirts allowed.
Lambs	Class leotard, black tights, black ballet slippers.
Reindeer, Baby Mice	Girls: Class leotard (plain – No Skirt), Pink tights with matching pink ballet shoes and pink elastics. Boys: Black fitted tee shirt, White tights with matching white ballet shoes with white elastics.
Fairies, Marzipan, Dew Drop, Demi Flowers, Flowers, Sugar Plum Fairy	Classical pink tights with matching pink pointe shoes or flesh toned tights with matching flesh toned pointe shoes, flesh toned camisole leotard
Coffee Principal Male	Flesh toned ballet shoes, dance belt

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Coffee Principal Female	Flesh toned tights with matching flesh toned pointe shoes, Over/Under (nude camisole)
Coffee Corps	Classical pink tights with matching pink pointe shoes or flesh toned tights with matching flesh toned pointe shoes, nude colored camisole leotard
Female Trepak Corps	Flesh toned Over/Under (nude camisole), Pink tights, black leather ballet shoes with long black elastic sewn on. New Haven Ballet will supply long black elastic.
Trepak Principal Male	Red dance boots (supplied by New Haven Ballet), dance belt, white fitted tee.
Trepak Principal Female	Nude colored camisole leotard, dyed pointe shoes, red tights will be supplied.
Hot Chocolate Corps	Pink or flesh toned ballet tights, nude colored Over/Under camisole, black ballet slippers with long black elastics. Elastic is supplied by New Haven Ballet.
Hot Chocolate Male Principal	Black tights, black ballet shoes, dance belt, black fitted tee
Hot Chocolate Female Principal	Pink tights with matching pointe shoes or flesh toned tights with matching pointe shoes, nude colored camisole leotard
Tea Male	Black tights, black ballet shoes, dance belt, black fitted tee
Tea Principal	Black tights, black camisole leotard, black pointe shoes
Tea Corps	Black tights, black camisole leotard, black ballet shoes

Shoes & Tights

- Ensure clean shoes, elastics sewn, backup pair of tights, pointe shoes properly secured.

Important Policies

- **Head lice:** No live lice or nits. Must be lice-free before return.
- **Food & Drink:** Bottled water only; no other food.

Contacts

- **Ruth Barker:** administrator@newhavenballet.org
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- **NHB Cell:** 203-605-2843
- **Shubert Box Office:** 203-562-5666

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