

Nutcracker Costume, Hair, and Make-Up Instructions

Costumes

- Label everything you bring to the theater (ballet tights, slippers, leotards, make-up kits, personal clothing, water bottles, lunch boxes, etc.). The lost and found gets quite full.
- Dancers need clean pink tights and ballet slippers. Having an extra pair of tights “just in case” is also a very good idea. Male dancers wear white tights and black slippers.
- All female dancers will need a thin-strap, nude-colored leotard that will not show underneath costumes (except for Gingersnaps, Mice, Soldiers, Sheep, Party Boys, Court Servants because the costume fully covers the dancer).
- Check the Costume List for accessories that some roles will need!
- Soldiers, Dolls, and Gingersnaps should bring clear eyelash glue for felt cheeks.
- Dancers en pointe should have clear band-aids to secure ribbons.

REMEMBER – NO JEWELRY, FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS, HAIR TIES, EARRINGS, ANKLETS, NAIL POLISH, OR WATCHES. (*Please leave them at home.*)

How to Make a Proper Bun

Follow this website: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urVPCuuEYj8&feature=related>
(Note: Soldier hats need to sit level on your head, which means you need a flat, high bun.)

Make-Up Important Notes

The following tips are mostly for the older dancers. Young dancers (i.e. Sheep, Mice, Tea, Angels, Gingersnaps) do not need false eyelashes or elaborate eye make-up. Also, felt cheeks are glued on (using eyelash glue) for Soldiers and Gingersnaps so they do not need blush.

Mice Whiskers

Mice will have a painted nose and whiskers, so won't need blush either. A whisker demonstration (using a felt-tip or crayon type eyeliner like black Revlon Color Stay Eyeliner Crayon, *not liquid*) will be given at the theater meeting, or you can ask a backstage volunteer. If a Mouse also has a second part, parents should send cold cream or make-up remover with make-up removing pads to take off the whiskers. Baby wipes do not take off the eyeliner well enough.

Foundation

Foundation (optional, and not for younger dancers) should be very slightly darker than natural skin color and should extend into hairline and onto neck, without a stopping line. Wash and moisturize face first, then apply foundation and seal with translucent or neutral powder.

Eyebrows

Brows can be slightly darkened with a pencil that is a shade darker than your natural color.

Eye Shadow

These three eye shadow colors are usually fine for most complexions: pearly white, peach or slightly darker than neutral beige, and a medium dark brown. NO BLUE, PURPLE, OR BRIGHT COLORED TONES SHOULD BE USED.

1) Use the pearly white to shadow under the brow and the entire lid; this should extend just to the edge of the eyebrow or eye socket or even a little beyond.

2) Use the peach (or another slightly darker than neutral color) to color the lid from the lashes to the crease; again, extend to eye socket or just beyond.

3) Use the dark brown to trace the crease (this is a thick line of shadow that is in the crease and slightly above); it also extends to the eye socket; make sure that the line you trace goes straight out or very slightly up at the outside eye edge and not down (as the natural eye does).

Eyelashes

Mascara on younger dancers should be applied lightly, and only on upper lashes. Older dancers may use fake eyelashes – again, only upper, not lower. Purchase the big, thick kind that comes in one piece (not the individual lashes). It might be best to use lashes that you cut down a bit, or use demi-lashes; it is best to put a bit of eyelash glue on the back of your hand and gently dip the lash into the glue; let it sit and get tacky for about 1-2 minutes (while you're applying other make-up), then apply to lid, holding the lash on the lid for 30 seconds or so to make sure it is secure; do not let it turn down as the natural eye does, instead let it extend in a more or less straight out line that parallels the crease line you drew with darker brown shadow.

Eye Liner

Use a dark brown or black pencil (which is easier to control than liquid liner). For the top line, begin 1/3 of the way out from the inside corner of your eye; trace the lash edge until the eye starts to turn down. At this point, let the line you are tracing continue straight out. Don't follow the downturn of your eye – this will make your eyes appear smaller, not bigger. For lower line, start about even with the inside edge of the pupil and trace a straight line out; this line should parallel the upper line and stop about equal with the upper line.

Mascara

Once the eye shadow, lashes, and liner are done, apply mascara (dark brown or black) to the upper lashes to blend natural lashes with fake.

Cheeks

Use lots of blush (pinker shades are better than darker) on the “apples” of the cheeks. A good way to find your “apples” is to make a big, wide smile and apply blush on the rounded part of your cheek. Blend up and out to the hairline. The stage lighting washes out your coloring so do not be shy with your blush.

Lips

Lips should be bright and in pink and red tones. Beware of colors that have too much violet or purple – they make lips look black under stage lights. Line from outside edges in; fill in with lip color; use a gloss to moisturize and seal.

Additional resources:

Dance Magazine: <https://www.dancemagazine.com/stage-makeup-2306873717.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqbHpl3C6qo&app=desktop>