

Backstage Access

The following issues contribute to GCB's policy on backstage access during *The Nutcracker*:

- 1) The backstage area and wings are confined, poorly lit areas. Props, extension cords, large scenery pieces, backdrops, hot lights, and dancers moving on and off stage create potentially dangerous situations. GCB must prioritize the safety of performers, production crew, backstage volunteers, professional photographers, and others who are working on the show. This is a liability issue for the organization.
- 2) Traffic and congestion in the wings makes it more difficult for dancers to move quickly and safely on and off stage. It also increases noise levels and causes distractions for performers who are concentrating and preparing to dance.
- 3) Allowing friends and family to watch the show from the wings (instead of purchasing a ticket to sit in the audience) creates inequity and confrontation. If one cast member, choreographer, or parent volunteer invites someone to watch from the wings, what is to stop the entire cast from doing the same?
- 4) Parents often will come backstage to photograph their children during the production (and sometimes they forget to turn off the flash). Amateur photography is then circulated electronically and may not represent the standards of the production. GCB uses a professional photographer for marketing purposes.

Policy - Backstage Access

It is the policy of GCB that backstage access during the production is limited solely to: performers of the actual show, production crew, artistic staff, stage managers, photographers / videographers sanctioned by GCB, and assigned backstage volunteers. On a case by case basis, special guests may be allowed pending approval of the Artistic Director and Board. Parents, including backstage volunteers, may not photograph from the wings during any performance.