2026 Nutcracker — THEATER TECH WEEK and PERFORMANCE NOTES

(11.11.26 - subject to change)

Prologue: Drosselmeyer, Drosselmeyer's Assistant, Musician Dolls, Ballerina Doll, Toy Soldier Doll, Harlequin Doll, Fritz, Clara, Governess

ACT ONE

Opening Scene: Courier, Mistletoe Vendors, Carolers, Ice Skaters, Drosselmeyer, Drosselmeyer's Assistant, Families #1 and #2

Party Scene: Drosselmeyer, Drosselmeyer's Assistant, Butler, Maid, Clara, Fritz, Governess, Mother, Father, Grandmother, Grandfather, Clara's Friends, Party Girls and Boys, Adult Party Guests, Toy Soldier Doll, Ballerina Doll, Harlequin Doll

Fight Scene: Drosselmeyer, Rat King, Hench Mice, Lead Mice, Little Mice, Soldier General, Soldier Captains, Soldier Corps, Ornaments, Clara and Nutcracker Prince

Snow Scene: Clara and Prince, Snow King and Queen, Demi-soloists, Snowflakes

ACT TWO

Moonflower Fairy and Angels
Plus: Clara and Prince

Welcome Garden: Butterflies, Royal Attendants, Bluebells, and Violets
Plus: Clara and Prince, Chocolate soloist, Shepherdesses, Tea soloist, Coffee soloists, Trepak soloist, and Rose Queen

Order of Variations:
Chocolate from Spain
Marzipan from Denmark (Shepherdesses/Sheep)
Tea from China
Coffee from Arabia
Mother Ginger and Gingersnaps
Trepak from Russia

Waltz of the Flowers: Rose Queen, Demi-soloists, Flower Corps, Rosebuds

Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier: Nicole Assaad and Brian Gonzalez

Finale: Clara and Prince, Ballerina Doll, Snow King and Queen, Moonflower Fairy, Butterflies, Chocolate soloist, Shepherdesses, Tea soloist, Coffee soloists, Trepak, Rose Queen, Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier (Drosselmeyer as needed)

Saturday, Dec 12	Ballet Arts Academy	Notes
All cast members should arrive in full performance hair (pass/fail) including Party adults. Plan to be at the studio (15) min early so we can start on time.		
12:00 – 12:30 pm	Run Prologue	Studio 1
12:45 – 2:30 pm	Run Act One	Studio 1 – All dancers in Act One
2:45 – 3:30 pm	Set Bows	Studio 1 - Full Cast – ALL performers!
3:30 – 3:45 pm	TBD	Studio 2
3:30 – 3:45 pm	Angels	Studio 1 – with Michele
3:45 – 5:15 pm	Run Act Two	Studio 1 – All dancers in Act Two
5:15 – 5:45 pm	Required Meeting	Studio 1 - For all "pointe" dancers
6:30 – 7:00 pm	Montana Theatre Tour	New families and dancers – meet in lobby

All rehearsals will now move to the Montana Theatre (PARTV Building, UM campus).

1) Dancers always enter/exit PARTV building through the *single* glass door on 6th Ave. Head downstairs towards the dressing rooms, then upstairs into the audience.
2) Dancers in high school (and older) will check in/out on own using list at 6th Ave door.
3) Dancers should arrive 15 minutes early, sit in rows near stage, and wait to be called.
4) Wear ballet attire (but not nude leotard until Wed) and hair in nice ballet bun ("performance quality" required Wednesday Dress, Thursday Dress, and all shows).
5) Understudies, please attend all rehearsals as you are able.
6) No food (or drink other than water) allowed in audience or carpeted theater stairs. Label food sacks/items and leave them on designated table in basement hallway (where you may eat). No eating while in costume (this includes Party Scene adults).
7) A dancer has a severe nut allergy — please do not bring anything with nuts!
8) There will be chaperones to monitor younger dancers and escort to/from bathroom.
9) Parking on campus Mon-Fri (7:00am-5:00pm) requires paying.
10) All times are approximate. Thank you for being kind and patient if rehearsals run late.

Sunday, Dec 13	Montana Theatre	Notes
Parents must check in/out their dancer *inside the theater audience*. (Only dancers in high school and older will check themselves in/out at 6th Ave door.)		
9:45 am – 10:30 am	Prologue A and B	
10:30 am – 11:15 am	Opening Scene	
11:15 am – 1:15 pm	Party Scene	
1:15 pm – 2:00 pm	Marzipan from Denmark	Shepherdesses/Sheep
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	ALL Cast - Theater Meeting	Dancers sit in first (4) rows.
3:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Parent Volunteers - Committee Meetings	Ushers (landing top of stairs), Flowers (lobby elevator), Dressing Room (basement), Backstage (after bows). Merchandise and Concessions will orient before each shift.
3:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Practice Final Bows	Need (4) veterans to help Virginia
4:00 pm – 6:15 pm	Fight Scene	
6:15 pm – 7:15 pm 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm	Welcome Garden Add Act Two Soloists	
7:15 pm – 8:30 pm	Snow Scene	

Monday, Dec 14	Montana Theatre	Notes
Parents must check in/out their dancer *inside the theater audience*. (Only dancers in high school and older will check themselves in/out at 6th Ave door.)		
4:15 pm – 5:00 pm	Mother G. and Gingersnaps	Pay for parking.
5:00 pm – 6:15 pm	Waltz of the Flowers	
6:15 pm – 6:45 pm	Trepak from Russia	
6:45 pm – 8:45 pm	Run Prologue and Act One (approx. 45 min, and will run everything twice) *dancers warm up on own – especially Snow!	During second run, dancers may go home immediately after their part. Dismissal times are uncertain, so parents may wait in audience or return to audience by 7:30pm.

Tuesday, Dec 15	Montana Theatre	Notes
Parents must check in/out their dancer *inside the theater audience*. (Only dancers in high school and older will check themselves in/out at 6th Ave door.)		
4:15 pm – 5:30 pm 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Moonflower Fairy and Angels Add Clara and Prince	Pay for parking.
5:30 pm – 6:15 pm	Chocolate from Spain	
6:15 pm – 7:00 pm	Coffee from Arabia	
7:00 pm – 7:45 pm	Tea from China	
7:45 pm – 8:30 pm	Finale	

***Warm-Up Barre is mandatory for these performers — all dancers should arrive to barre with full make-up and performance hair (including curls) with one exception — Snow dancers who are not in Prologue, Opening, or Party can arrive with hair done and do make-up after barre.**

Group 1: Starting on Wednesday Dress Rehearsal

ALL pointe dancers
Robbie
Ben
Mark (when able)

Group 2: Starting Friday Evening — 5:30-6:00pm evenings, 11:30-12:00 matinees

Fritz
Party Girls
Hench Mice
Lead Mice
Soldier Captains
Soldier Corps
Royal Attendants
Violets
Tea Corps
Rosebuds
(no Angels, Sheep, Little Mice, Gingersnaps)

Wed, Dec 16	Montana Theatre	First Dress Rehearsal - Notes
Check in/out for dancers will now be in the basement near the dressing rooms. (Only dancers in high school and older will check themselves in/out at the 6th Ave door.) CALL = The time dancers arrive with full performance hair (including curls) and full make-up. **Parents may watch** – and take non-flash photos and videos - but must stay seated for entire length of Act One and/or Act Two (otherwise it is disruptive to dancers on stage and other people watching). Parents should exit through the lobby and take the sidewalk to the 6th Ave door – then proceed to the check in/out table *in the basement*.		
5:15 pm - 6:00 pm	Group 1 Warm-up (Haley)	
6:00 pm - CALL	Prologue, Opening, Party Scene	
6:30 pm – CALL	Fight Scene	
7:00 pm – CALL	Act Two	
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	First Dress Rehearsal (and practice bows)	Only Party Scene adults may watch Act Two. No dancers in lobby.

Thurs, Dec 17	Montana Theatre	Final Dress Rehearsal - Notes
Depending on whether all shows sell out or not, tonight will either be a final dress rehearsal or a ticketed show (with limited seating) for the public. Certain seats will be roped off for our hired, professional photographers. GCB comps 25 tickets to UM on this night. **IF WE SELL TICKETS** – there will be no photography or videotaping allowed this evening by anyone. Parents may buy a ticket to guarantee a seat, but any unsold or open seats at 7:00pm will be *free* for our Nutcracker families — immediate family members only — first come, first serve. After the show ends, parents may remain in audience for ALL CAST photo and take pictures at this time, but please stay in rows *behind* our photographer.		
5:00 pm - 5:45 pm	Group 1 Warm-up (Ashley)	
6:00 pm - CALL	Prologue, Opening, Party Scene	
6:30 pm - CALL	Fight Scene	
7:00 pm - CALL	Act Two	
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm 9:30 pm (approx.)	Final Dress Rehearsal / or possible ticketed Preview Performance with limited seats sold to public / run bows Posed photo – ALL CAST	No dancers in lobby or audience. Dancers stay on stage after bows for ALL CAST photo.

2026 PERFORMANCES

CALL = arrive at theater with full hair and make-up done / GO = show time

Plan to pick up dancers (2) hours after GO. No performers in lobby or audience at any time.

Friday, December 18: School Show

8:00 am Group 1 Warm-up (Jen)
9:00 am CALL — Prologue/Act One
10:00 am GO / CALL — Act Two
12:00 pm 30-min QA with professionals

Friday Notes: Pay for parking 7:00am-5:00pm. School Show is shorter so plan for 11:45am pick-up.

Friday, December 18: Opening Night (Video)

5:00 pm Group 1 Warm-up (Marie)
5:30 pm Group 2 Warm-up (Michele)
6:00 pm CALL — Prologue/Act One
7:00 pm GO / CALL — Act Two

Saturday, December 19: Matinee

11:00 am Group 1 Warm-up (Haley)
11:30 am Group 2 Warm-up (Marie)
12:00 pm CALL — Prologue/Act One
1:00 pm GO / CALL — Act Two

Sat/Sun Notes: There is no GCB supervision between matinee and evening shows.

Saturday, December 19: Evening (Video, if needed)

5:00 pm Group 1 Warm-up (Michele)
5:30 pm Group 2 Warm-up (Marie)
6:00 pm CALL — Prologue/Act One
7:00 pm GO / CALL — Act Two

Sunday, December 20: Matinee

11:00 am Group 1 Warm-up (Colleen)
11:30 am Group 2 Warm-up (Marie)
12:00 pm CALL — Prologue/Act One
1:00 pm GO / CALL — Act Two

Sunday, December 20: Evening

5:00 pm Group 1 Warm-up (Marie)
5:30 pm Group 2 Warm-up (Michele)
6:00 pm CALL — Prologue/Act One
7:00 pm GO / CALL — Act Two

9:00 pm STRIKE - Mandatory - Please Change Promptly Out of Costume

Older dancers will help Strike — a job list will be posted (on lockers in basement hallway near dressing rooms) — look for your assignment. We are a family of 150 and have one hour to move out of our house — it's fun when everyone works together!