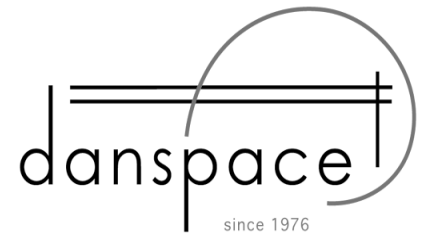


Sharing our Philosophy on Selecting Dancers for the Nutcracker



Danspace students have been invited to participate in Oakland Ballet School's production of the Nutcracker for the past several years. Children enrolled in Ballet 1 and up are considered to participate in the production. Decisions on who is cast in the Nutcracker are dependent on age, height, ability, attendance and commitment to class and the rehearsal process. Because we have a limited number of rehearsals, students must commit to attending all scheduled rehearsals. We understand that illness does occur and trust the integrity of our parents to determine if absence is necessary.

Casting takes place within the classroom during the first two weeks of the fall semester and we attempt to invite as many dancers as we can; we try to offer children who have not participated before, the opportunity to be a part of the performance. Danspace does not audition children. We understand that students have school and family responsibilities as well as other outside curricular commitments and we take this into consideration so as to avoid over scheduling students. Dancers who are performing with Oakland Ballet Company's Nutcracker may not be cast in order to avoid over scheduling.

Each of the dances, choreographed originally by Ronn Guidi, requires a set number of dancers in stair-stepped height. More challenging steps and patterns are required of the taller dancers; this means that casting is based primarily on height and ability. There are a specific number of dancers for each group dance.