western Arkansas
BALLET

November 9, 2026

Dear Parents and Volunteers,

We truly appreciate your help and support. It would be impossible to create this wonderful production without you! **Please read through this entire packet.** We will have a mandatory **Pre-Production Parent meeting for ALL volunteers and parents of first-time Nutcracker dancers on Saturday, December 12 at 12:15 p.m.** The meeting will cover important information for those fulfilling their Helping Hands requirements during theatre week and important information, including theatre schedule, hair, and make-up.

Enclosed you will find the following: a Production Week rehearsal schedule, Helpful Hints, Hair Requirements, at home Makeup Requirements, and the **Digital Download** order form. The Backstage Rules and Etiquette is to be filled out through this link **https://forms.gle/8eV2PxaSU88jL2LZ7.** and MUST be "signed" by both a parent/guardian and the dancer and returned to Western Arkansas Ballet by Saturday, December 12.

We will begin rehearsals at the ArcBest Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, December 15, and there is a chain of command set up to allow for a safe environment, and smooth-running rehearsals and performances. Please notice the **Tuesday rehearsal begins with Act II and is followed by Act I rehearsal** and **Wednesday is in show order**. Thursday is dress rehearsal FULL CAST.

The Backstage Coordinator (Amber Bryant), in addition to the wonderful volunteers at the security desks, know what Western Arkansas Ballet Staff expects and have the authority to maintain these expectations. These rules and guidelines are for the safety of your child, and we expect you and your child to follow them.

We do realize that this can be a time of high anxiety. Please work together and remember to respect others as you would like to be respected. Thank you to each and every performer, parent, and volunteer for your cooperation and your immense dedication of time and talent.

Happy Nutcracker!
Respectfully,
Mr. Jared Mesa & Mrs. Brianna Mesa

western Arkansas BALLET

The Nutcracker Schedule for December 14-20, 2026

Thank you so very much for all of the long hours and hard work that you devote to these rehearsals and performances. It is the hard work and dedication of you and our volunteers that makes our annual production of *The Nutcracker* such a success.

All rehearsals are closed. We do encourage you to order a **Digital Download** the performance — Order forms are available online and at the front desk of the studio. Deadline is December 20.

All of the following rehearsals will take place at the ArcBest Corporation Performing Arts Center. Please know that end times are approximate, but we will do everything possible to end by the scheduled time.

Monday, December 14

No rehearsals. Volunteers will load-in sets, props, and wardrobe to the theatre. Please contact the studio by Thursday, December 10, if you are available to help with Load-in.

Tuesday, December 15

Act II		***Party Scene***		***Dream Scene***	
5:30 pm	Call Time	6:30 pm	Call Time	7:30 pm	Call Time
6:30-7:30 pm	Go	7:30-8:15 pm	Go	8:00-9:30 pm	Go

Wednesday, December 16

Party Scene		***Dream Scene***		***Act II***	
5:30 pm	Call Time	6:00 pm	Call Time	7:00 pm	Call Time
6:30-7:30 pm	Go	7:00-8:00 pm	Go	8:00-9:30 pm	Go

Thursday, December 17
School Performances—To Be Announced
(Dress Rehearsal-Full Hair and Makeup)

Party Scene		***Dream Scene***		***Act II***	
5:30 pm	Call Time	6:00 pm	Call Time	7:00 pm	Call Time
6:20 pm	Costume	6:50 pm	Costume	7:50 pm	Costume
6:30-7:30 pm	Go	7:00-8:00 pm	Go	8:00-9:30 pm	Go

Friday, December 18
(Dress Rehearsal-Full Hair and Makeup)

Party Scene		***Dream Scene***		***Act II***	
6:00pm	Call Time	6:15 pm	Call Time	7:00 pm	Call Time
6:45 pm	Costume	7:00 pm	Costume	7:50 pm	Costume
7:00-8:30 pm	Go	7:15-8:30 pm	Go	7:30-9:30 pm	Go

Saturday, December 19
(Performance with Full Cast)

Morning Spot Rehearsals—To Be Announced

Party Scene		***Dream Scene***		***Act II***	
5:30 pm	Call Time	6:00 pm	Call Time	6:30 pm	Call Time
6:30 pm	Costume	6:45 pm	Costume	7:15 pm	Costume
7:00-8:30 pm	Go	7:15-8:30 pm	Go	7:45-9:30 pm	Go

Sunday, December 20
(Performance with Full Cast)

Party Scene		***Dream Scene***		***Act II***	
12:30 pm	Call Time	1:00 pm	Call Time	1:30 pm	Call Time
1:30 pm	Costume	1:45 pm	Costume	2:15 pm	Costume
2:00-3:30 pm	Go	2:15-3:30 pm	Go	2:30 pm-4:30 pm	Go

website: www.waballet.org email: info@waballet.org phone: 479-785-0152

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Hints to Surviving *The Nutcracker*

Dress Rehearsal is on **Thursday (NO MAKEUP)** and **Friday (FULL MAKEUP)** nights. For both Thursday and Friday, every dancer needs full hair & costume for every part, including the correct color and type of shoes, tights, etc. The more the dancers practice in full costume, the better they will feel and look during performances.

Health and Safety For the health of all involved in the production, if you dancer is ill, please stay home.

Hair*Hairnets are excellent to keep buns in place and can be purchased at most retail stores including Dollar General, Walgreens, or Wal-Mart. Be sure to buy an appropriate color for the dancer's hair. Gel or mousse work great for getting those little loose ends up. A hairbrush, bobby pins, hair gel, hair spray, etc. should be sent with the dancer. Please make sure your child does not have any unnatural haircolor.

Makeup
*Please watch the makeup video and have dancer's hair and makeup complete prior to arriving at the theatre. **The make-up video is posted on our website on the productions/cast forms tab.** **https://www.waballet.org/productions/cast-forms/**. *Please use the makeup tutorial on Buffoons for Polichinelles.

*Gel-type baby oil works great to remove the adhesive felt circles used on the dancers' faces.

*The face makeup can be a little harsh on young skin, so you may want to start applying a moisturizer a few days before dress rehearsals begin to condition the skin.

*Dancers should remove all nail polish on fingers and toes before dress rehearsals and performances.

*Please bring your own makeup remover to the theatre. Ponds is a great choice for young skin because it is so moisturizing.

Wardrobe
*Please be sure that your dancer has both dance shoes, right and left, and anything else needed for the costume that must be brought from home. This saves a lot of frantic phone calls and anxiety for everyone!

***Please label EVERYTHING with the dancer's name.**

*Please send a small bag labeled with your dancer's name to the theatre with your child to keep clothing and personal items in while in the dressing room. This will prevent lost clothing and other items.

*No panties under leotards please!

*No jewelry.

Angels *Angels need a very light colored leotard under their white robes. Very light pink, very light blue, or white works best. Please no lavender. The Angel's hair needs to be pulled up as high as possible to accommodate the halo.

Prior to Arrival at the Theater
*Please be sure that your dancer has had a good meal before arriving at the theatre.
*Please arrive with complete hair and makeup (Thurs – Sun)
*Please send a water bottle with your dancer. The theatre is dry and it reduces trips to the drinking fountain.

Backstage
Each scene (i.e. Party Scene) has a specific call time, so please pay close attention to the schedule.

*Act I dancers will be dismissed at the end of their scene's rehearsal. Beginning on Thursday, your dancer must be picked up at intermission if in Act I only, or after the performance if in both Acts, or in Act II only.

*No one is allowed to release dancers from rehearsals except Mr. Mesa. If you must leave a rehearsal at a specific time, it is best to address this with Mr. Mesa prior to arriving at the theatre. The rehearsal schedule will be followed as closely as possible, but please remember that a quality performance takes lots of attention to detail, and things sometimes take a little (or a lot) longer than expected.

*Please be patient when waiting to pick up your child after dress rehearsals and performances. Remember that removing makeup and changing clothes takes some time, especially for younger dancers. Your child will be escorted to the security desk as soon as possible for pick up.

*Sound carries easily in the dressing room, so everyone needs to remember to keep the noise to a minimum in the dressing area and be especially quiet when in the hallways, going back and forth to the stage. Please talk to your child about this before coming to the theatre.

*It is in everyone's best interest to adhere to the following rule if you have a question at the theatre: **Please speak to Mrs. Amber Bryant, Backstage Coordinator,** who will then take the issue to **Stephan Copeland, Stage Manager,** who will take the issue to Mr. Mesa. This saves a lot of time and frustration for everyone.

Gifts
*A gift table will be located at the security desk. Once your child is checked in, please drop off any gifts/ flowers at the security desk. Please make sure their first and last name and part are tagged on the gift/flowers. Your child's gifts/flowers will be put together in a bag/box to be picked up in **meeting room 7** in the theatre lobby when they leave on Sunday.

*Party adults may purchase small gifts for their "children". Often, lead characters also give small gifts to their "group" (i.e., the Angels may give gifts to the Little Angels). These are usually just little candy bags, small ornaments, or some other token. Please understand that this is optional, not required, and not all dancers receive gifts. Please, no homemade food items.

With a little consideration and cooperation, this will be a very memorable and enjoyable event for everyone!

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2026 The Nutcracker Makeup Requirements

All Nutcracker cast members are responsible for applying their own makeup. Please watch the makeup tutorial on how to correctly apply the makeup for all parts before arriving at the theatre.

***Please use the makeup tutorial on Buffoons for Polichinelles.**

The make-up video will be posted on our website on the productions/cast forms tab
https://www.waballet.org/productions/cast-forms/

Thank you for your assistance in making this production a great success!

Makeup Tutorial Here

2026 *The Nutcracker* Wardrobe Requirements

Part	Wardrobe
Party Adults	Ladies: Black character shoes, nude panty hose Gentlemen: Black soft-sole shoes, black dress socks
Party Children	Girls: Black ballet shoes, pink tights, solid color leotard Boys: Black ballet shoes
Maids/ Governess	Black character shoes and pink tights
Butler	Black soft-sole shoes, black dress socks
Clara	Pink pointe shoes, black ballet slippers, pink tights, pink trunks, nude leotard
Ballerina Doll	Red Pointe shoes and pink tights,
Harlequin Girl	Pink Pointe shoes and pink tights, pink trunks
Harlequin Boy	Black ballet shoes
Soldier Doll	Black Jazz shoes
Spirit of Christmas	Pink pointe shoes and pink tight, pink trunks
Christmas Trees	Pink ballet shoes and pink tights, nude leotards
Nutcracker Prince	Black ballet boots or black ballet slippers, black socks
Mouse King	Black ballet shoes, and black tights
Mice	Black ballet shoes, and black tights or black socks
Soldiers	Black ballet shoes, black tights or black socks, girls: solid colored leotard
Little Angels, Angels & Cherubim	Pink ballet shoes, pink tights, light pink, blue, or white leotard
Little Angels Boys	Pink ballet shoes, white tshirt, white athletic shorts
Snow Queen	Pink Pointe shoes and lined (seamed) pink tight, pink trunks
Snow King	White ballet slippers, white tights
Snowflakes	Pink Pointe shoes and lined (seamed) pink tights, pink trunks
Winter Sprites	Pink ballet shoes and pink tights, nude leotards
Sugar Plum Attendant	Pink Pointe shoes and pink tights, pink trunks
Pages	Pink Ballet slippers and pink tights, nude leotard
Peppermints	Pink ballet shoes and pink tights
Gumdrops	Pink ballet shoes and pink tights, leotard color to be determined
Gingerbread	Black Tap Shoes, Black Tights, Black Leotard
Jester	Black ballet shoes, black tights and black leotard
Spanish Pas Girl	Pink Pointe shoes and pink lined(seamed) tights, pink trunks
Spanish Pas Boy	Black tights, black ballet shoes
Spanish Corps	Black character shoes and pink lined(seamed) tights
Arabian Pas Girl	Pink Pointe shoes and lined (seamed) pink tights, pink trunks
Arabian Pas Boy	Nude ballet shoes
British	Pink Pointe Shoes and pink lined(seamed) tights, pink trunks
Chinese Lead	Pink ballet shoes and pink tights, black leotard
Chinese Corps & Demi-Soloists	Black ballet shoes and pink tights, red leotard
Russian	Pink Ballet shoes and pink tights, nude leotard
Little Bo Peep	Pink Pointe shoes and lined (seamed) pink tights, pink trunks, nude leotard
Wolf	Black ballet shoes and black tights
Sheep	Black ballet slippers, black tights, **black sleeveless leotard**
Polichinelles	Black ballet shoes and pink tights, black leotard
Rose	Pink Pointe shoes and pink tights lined (seamed)
Waltz of the Flowers	Pink Pointe shoes and pink tights lined (seamed)
Little Flowers	Pink ballet shoes and pink tights, nude leotard, pink trunks
Seraphim	Pink Pointe shoes and pink tights

2026 *The Nutcracker* Hair Requirements

Part	Hair Requirement
Party Adults	Ladies: curled up -do Gentlemen: combed and neat
Party Children	Girls: ringlets, front pulled back Boys: combed and neat, out of eyes Girls who are boys: french braid pinned up
Maids/ Governess	High bun
Butler	Combed and neat
Clara	Ringlets, front pulled back
Ballerina Doll	High bun
Harlequin Girl	High bun
Harlequin Boy	Low bun
Soldier Doll	Low bun
Spirit of Christmas	High bun
Christmas Trees	High bun
Nutcracker Prince	Combed and gelled to stay put
Mouse King	Low bun
Mice	Low bun
Soldiers	High bun for girls, combed out of eyes for boys
Little Angels, Angels & Cherubim	High bun for girls, combed out of eyes for boys
Snow Queen	High bun
Snowflakes	High bun
Winter Sprites	High Bun
Sugar Plum Attendant	Low bun
Pages	Low bun
Peppermints	High bun
Gumdrops	High bun
Gingerbread	French braid
Jester	Piggy Buns
Spanish Leads	High Bun for Girl, combed out of eyes for boy
Spanish Corps	Low bun
Arabian Leads	High bun for girl, combed out of eyes for boy
British Lead	High bun
Chinese Lead & Demi-Soloists	High bun
Chinese Corps	High bun
Russian	Two pigtail braids, pinned crossing on top of head
Little Bo Peep	High bun
Wolf	French braid
Sheep	French braid
Polichinelles	Two high piggy buns
Rose	High bun
Waltz of the Flowers	High bun
Little Flowers	High bun
Seraphim	High bun

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Items to bring to the Theatre

- Makeup Removal—Please bring the following items in a Ziploc bag with your child's name and part **clearly labeled**.
    - Makeup remover—cloths, face wash, Ponds, or Nivea cold cream
    - Facial moisturizer
    - Tissues

  Please do not send exfoliating makeup wipes. These damage your child's skin.

- Items such as homework, books, or quiet games to keep your dancer occupied while waiting backstage. Please refrain from sending electronics of value.
- Hair items (bobby pins, hair net, hairspray, brush etc.) for dancers who have a hair change between parts.
- Dance Shoes & Clothes—Please make sure your dancer has all his or her needed dance shoes and wardrobe items.
- A bottle filled with water.

Please make sure to label all belongings with your dancer's name to avoid confusion backstage.

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Order your copy of *The Nutcracker 2026* DIGITAL DOWNLOADS

Cost: $40 each

Available by pre-order only. Deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 20, 2026.
Please make checks payable to **WAB**
Form and payment may be returned to the WAB Studio or mailed to:

Western Arkansas Ballet
Attention: Kortney
4701 Grand Avenue
Fort Smith, AR 72904-7141

Questions? Call the studio at 479-785-0152

Videography provided by Lucidome Studios, Colby Lee

PARENT'S NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER_____

DANCER'S NAME_____

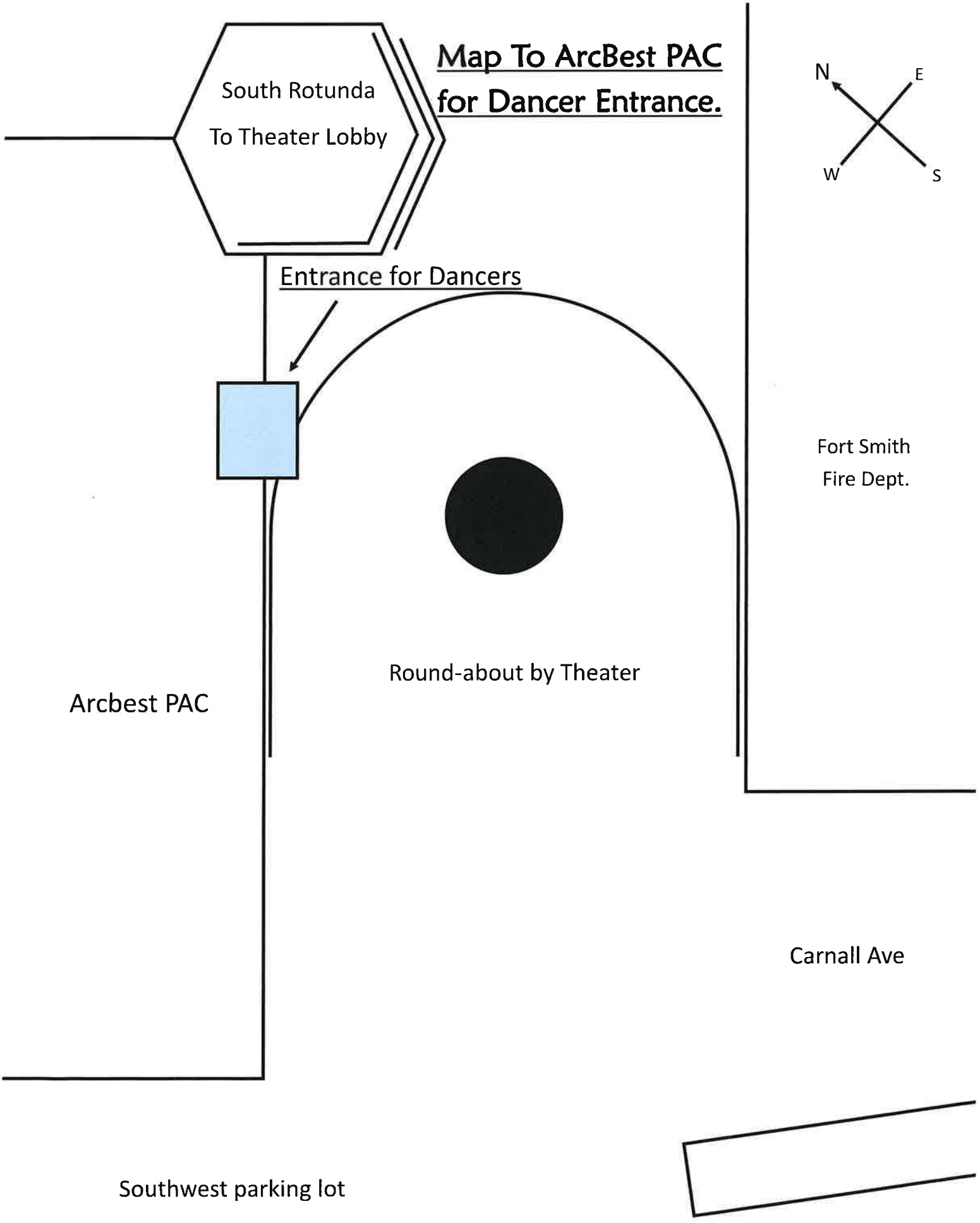
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Map To ArcBest PAC
for Dancer Entrance.
South Rotunda
To Theater Lobby
N
E
W
S
Entrance for Dancers
Fort Smith
Fire Dept.
Round-about by Theater
Arcbest PAC
Carnall Ave
Southwest parking lot

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Nutcracker Picture Day Schedule
Sunday, November 15, 2026

Cast and Parents,

Below is the Picture Day schedule. When you arrive for your "call time" hair and makeup will need to be ready. List of hair and wardrobe requirements are attached to this schedule. Ladies, please wear light makeup and gentlemen no makeup. Children do not need to have makeup on unless you prefer. We will have people assigned to dress everyone, so no need to worry about dressing your child.

Thank you,
WAB Staff and Guild

*12:30 Call Time 1:00 Photo: Arabian, British, Chinese, Russian, Spanish

*1:00 Call Time 1:30 Photo: Bo Peep, Sheep, Wolf, Polichinelles, Mother Ginger

*1:30 Call Time 2:00 Photo: Mice, Soldiers, Mouse King, Nutcracker Prince

*2:00 Call Time 2:30 Photo: Snow Queen, Snowflakes, Winter Sprites

*2:30 Call Time 3:00 Photo: Little Angels, Angels

*3:00 Call Time 3:30 Photo: Flowers, Little Flowers, Rose

*3:30 Call Time 4:00 Photo: Sugar Plum Attendant, Pages, Gumdrops, Peppermints, Gingerbreads, Jester

*4:00 Call Time 4:30 Photo: Harlequin Duet, Ballerina Doll, Soldier Doll, Spirit of Christmas, Christmas Trees

*4:30 Call Time 5:00 Photo: Stahlbaums, Clara, Fritz, Maids, Governess, Party Kids, Party Adults

Please be on time and bring patience and a pleasant attitude. Each Photo session will take 30-45 minutes. Information regarding ordering pictures will be emailed to cast members once pictures are ready.

If you will not be able to attend, please notify the studio ahead of time so we are not waiting for you to arrive.