



Welcome to the 2026/27 Performance Season

Registration Information Packet

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for Princeton Youth Ballet's 2026/27 performance season! **Please read the below information carefully.**

How to Audition

Auditions for PYB's full performance season will be held on **Saturday, September 26th**. Dancers may choose to audition for the Fall production only, the Spring production only, or both.

Follow these five steps.

1. Read this document **in full**. Direct questions to princetonyouthballet@gmail.com.
2. Fill out the *PYB Audition Registration Response Form* via Google Forms.
3. Print and fill out the *PYB Participation Fees and Payment Form* and bring it with you to audition along with your form of payment (credit card, cash, or check made out to **Princeton Youth Ballet**; we appreciate cash and checks to help minimize our fees.)
4. Dancers must attend the audition at **Princeton Dance and Theater Studio** (116 Rockingham Row, Princeton) on Saturday, September 26th at the designated time **accompanied by a parent/guardian**.
5. A parent/guardian **must** attend a mandatory parent meeting during each group's audition.

Are dancers enrolled at any dance school eligible to audition?

- Yes, PYB auditions are open to all dancers (ages 7-22) actively involved in ballet training.
- Dancers ages 13 and over in this category must take an advanced ballet class on September 26th at 11:45 am.

Should dancers expect to dance during the entire designated audition time?

- No. Dancers will be asked to perform segments of choreography in small groups.
- Those dancers auditioning for the Spring production **ONLY** may be dismissed with minimal dancing. Audition attendance is required for dancer groupings and costume purposes.
- Spring production dancers may be asked to return for a casting session on **February 6, 2027**.

Performance Location and Dates

All performances will take place at **Princeton High School Performing Arts Center**.

- **The Nutcracker** – Saturday, December 5, 2026 (4:00 pm) and Sunday, December 6, 2026 (12:00 pm and 4:00 pm)
- **The Secret Garden** (*updated production*) – Saturday, May 8, 2027 (4:00 pm) and Sunday, May 9, 2027 (4:00 pm)
- A mandatory technical rehearsal will be held at the theater on the Friday evening of each performance weekend.
- Mandatory in-theater dress rehearsals will be held on the Saturday morning of each performance weekend.

Registration Fees

Fees are payable by check, cash, or credit card (check preferred).

- **What do registration fees cover?** Registration fees cover the cost of paying our staff for choreography, rehearsal instruction and coaching, administrative work, wardrobe management, costume rentals/purchases, costume dry cleaning and repair, venue rentals, music licensing fees, insurance premiums, graphic design, prop and set rentals, photography and videography, storage unit fees, our professional stage and technical crew, truck rentals and transportation fees, season t-shirts, and general operations. In addition to registration fee income, PYB is able to fulfill its mission thanks to generous donors and seasonal ticket sales income. We do our best to keep costs as low as possible for our families while operating at our highest capacity.
- **Fees are non-refundable unless the dancer is not cast.** If a dancer is not cast, fees will be refunded less a \$20 audition fee. **There will be no refunds issued for dancers who withdraw after casting is posted.**
- Dancers auditioning for both Winter and Spring productions must pay the Winter registration fee at the time of the audition. The Spring registration fee will be processed in February 2027.
- **For payments made with a check (preferred), a second, post-dated check will be collected at the audition, but will not be deposited before February 1, 2027.**
- **Credit card payments will include a 3.5% handling fee per transaction.**
- All payments must be provided at the time of the audition. Dancers whose fees are unpaid will not be cast.
- **Scholarships:** Need-based scholarships may be available; please e-mail info@princetonyouthballet.org to apply.

Rehearsals

Dancer rehearsal schedules and call times **will vary** from week to week. Each week's rehearsal schedule is created and distributed to families by **Tuesday** of the upcoming rehearsal weekend. Rehearsal schedules are not written more than one week in advance. Schedules will also be posted at www.princetonyouthballet.org under the *Your Documents* tab. Company members will receive a weekly e-mail with rehearsal schedules and information. **If you do not receive the weekly rehearsal email, please contact us.**

Dancers must be available for rehearsals as outlined below.

- **Fridays** | 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm (ONLY Blue Group/Group A advanced pointe dancers and boys including PDT Levels 4, 5 and CP; rehearsals will begin after Friday classes.)
- **Saturdays** | 1:45 pm to 6:45 pm (all ages and levels)
- **Sundays** | 11:00 am to 4:30 pm (all ages and levels)
- **Dancers ages 7 - 9 or in Primary B, C and Level 1 will likely begin rehearsing in Week 3.**

IMPORTANT | Dancers must be available during ALL of the above time frames for the entire duration rehearsal period. The weekly rehearsal schedule will specify which dancers/roles are called and at which times each weekend. Please check the posted schedule each Tuesday to find out the upcoming weekend's rehearsal times for your dancer's role(s). **Read the schedule carefully.** If a dancer misses a rehearsal, they may be dismissed from the production without a refund.

How many hours per week will my dancer rehearse?

Approximate hours of commitment per weekend are as follows:

- **Dancers ages 11+:** 3 or more hours/weekend depending on role(s) with up to 10 hours for the most advanced dancers.
- **Most younger dancers*:** 1-2 hours/weekend (until we get closer to the performances)

*Exceptions may occur based on casting.

Rehearsal Policies

- **ALL REHEARSALS ARE MANDATORY.** Dancers are required to be available for and attend every rehearsal for which they are scheduled. Absences will only be excused in the case of the severe illness or death of an immediate family member (including grandparents) or the hospitalization of the dancer. No dancer may leave rehearsal early without prior approval by the artistic staff. **Any dancer who misses a rehearsal under this policy will be removed from the production without a refund of fees.** Dancers who are injured may be asked to attend rehearsals to “mark” or observe. Dancers must arrive 5 minutes before their scheduled start time, should be inside the designated studio, dressed in dance attire, and ready to dance no later than the scheduled start time.
- **REHEARSAL ATTIRE** Dancers must attend rehearsal and fittings in ballet class attire. Longer hair is to be pulled back in a bun. Sweatshirts, sweatpants, t-shirts, leg warmers, etc. are not to be worn while dancing.
- **DANCER SCHEDULE CONFLICTS** If your dancer would like to participate in PYB, but has an important life event scheduled during the rehearsal period which cannot be moved to another date, please indicate the date/time and nature of the conflict on the online Audition Registration Form. Conflicts cannot be accommodated in every case, but a limited number may be allowed based on timings and circumstance. Decisions will depend on the impact of the conflict on overall rehearsal time needed for the role(s), when in the production cycle the conflict occurs, and the nature of the conflict. The Artistic Director will determine if the conflict is approved *before* the 10-week rehearsal period begins. Please proceed with integrity and check your dancer’s schedule carefully. **Once rehearsals begin, additional or undisclosed will NOT be considered.** We appreciate your understanding that every dancer and family must be accountable for their commitment/attendance in order to make it possible for us to mount a full-length ballet in just 10 weeks.
- **ILLNESSES** If your dancer is ill, please contact us immediately. Your dancer may be asked to observe rehearsals depending on the nature of the illness. Absences due to illness must be accompanied by a doctor’s note. PYB will follow CDC guidelines to determine health and safety practices around contagious illnesses/infections.
- **EMERGENCIES** In the case of dancer illness or emergency, please 1) leave a voicemail at (609) 608-2566 AND 2) email both talinyb@gmail.com and princetonyouthballet@gmail.com as soon as possible. If you do not receive an immediate response, please text Talin at (609) 608-2566. Out of respect for the demands of the director’s schedule, please refrain from texting Talin for non-emergent matters.
- If there is a change to the published rehearsal schedule due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstance, updates will be posted on the website and an email/text notification will be sent.

Schedules and Documents

Company forms, schedules, and documents will be posted under a password-protected tab on our website: www.princetonyouthballet.org. The email address you provide on your registration form will be used to create your “PYB Company Member” account. New members will receive a temporary password to gain access.

Cast List

An email with a link to the cast list will be sent to company members prior to the first rehearsal. If you do not receive this email by the Thursday before, please email princetonyouthballet@gmail.com.

Alternates

If a dancer is unable to commit to the no-miss policy, but would still like to benefit from the learning process, he/she/they may audition for a position as an alternate. Dancers who routinely take part in PYB productions gain more hours of practice and experience than those who do not. Alternates may have the opportunity to perform if an additional dancer is needed or if the dancer originally cast in a role is unable to perform. Alternates may also be eligible to learn multiple parts and assist (ages 12+) with the production as backstage helpers.

***Policies and casting are subject to change at the discretion of the Artistic Director**

Family Volunteering

Running a professional-level production is costly. To ensure that PYB will be able to meet the costs of mounting high-quality productions, we require PYB families to volunteer their time before/during the production period and performance.

Families are asked to please assist with ALL of the below:

- solicit one local business for a program ad
- contribute boutique, raffle basket, and/or concession items to be sold during the performances
- participate in one of the activities listed on the **Parent Volunteer Form** (page 8)

Every parent/guardian will be able to enjoy at least one performance from the audience.

Families may choose to pay a \$100 opt-out fee (per performance) in lieu of volunteering.

Technology

- **PHOTO POLICY:** The taking of photos or videos in the studios, theater, dressing rooms, in the immediate backstage area, in the wings, from the audience, and/or onstage are strictly prohibited, except as permitted by designated PYB Staff.
- PYB video downloads are for personal use only. Reproduction or sharing of PYB videos or video clips must be approved by the Artistic Director. Allowable usage includes college or professional auditions, scholarship applications, etc.

Costume Guidelines

- Costumes are the property of PYB and must be handled with care.
- All costumes must be properly hung on designated hangers when not in use.
- Costumes and headpieces may not be left on the floor.
- Dancers must not eat, drink (except water), or apply make-up while in costume.
- Dancers are responsible for following posted rules. Families may be charged for costume cleaning, repair, and/or replacement for willful mishandling that leads to damage and/or abnormal staining.

Contagious Disease Policy

PYB follows Princeton Dance and Theater Studio's contagious disease policies. Policies for audience members on performance days will be determined as the dates approach. In the event that mounting a live performance becomes unsafe or impossible due to worsening public health conditions or any other unforeseen circumstance, PYB will make every effort to offer another meaningful presentation of the dancers' work.

Contagious Disease WAIVER: A risk of exposure to contagious disease exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and people with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable to illness. By coming to Princeton Youth Ballet/Princeton Dance and Theater Studio, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19 and other contagious diseases/infections.



COMPANY NO-MISS POLICY

Dancers are **REQUIRED** to be available for and attend **every** rehearsal in person for which their roles are scheduled, except in the case of the death of an immediate family member (including grandparents) or the severe illness of the dancer. Absences due to illness must be accompanied by a doctor's note.

This policy supports and preserves the work of the individual, group, and staff. All dancers must be present to learn choreography and spacing. Mandatory attendance keeps the rehearsal period condensed and respects the commitments of everyone involved.

ALTERNATES: If a dancer cannot commit to the no-miss policy but would still like to attend rehearsals and participate in the production, they may audition for a position as an alternate at the discretion of the Artistic Director. Alternates may have the opportunity to perform if necessary (for example, if another dancer or understudy is unable to perform), or may assist the artistic staff or with the production as part of the backstage helpers (ages 12+).

SEASON CALENDAR

PERFORMANCES will take place at Princeton High School Performing Arts Center

The Nutcracker | **December 5** (4:00 pm) and **December 6** (12:00 and 4:00 pm)

Cinderella | **May 8** (4:00 pm) and **May 9** (4:00 pm)

- A technical rehearsal will be held at Princeton High School Performing Arts Center on the Friday evening of each performance weekend.
- In-theater dress rehearsals will be held on the Saturday morning of each performance weekend.
- In-studio dress rehearsals will be held at the studio 1-2 weeks before each performance weekend.

Rehearsals for *The Nutcracker* begin the weekend of Friday, October 2nd.

- **Fridays** | 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm (ONLY Blue Group/Group A dancers: Upper division pointe dancers and boys age 13+ including PDT Levels 4, 5 and CP; rehearsals will begin after Friday class.)
- **Saturdays** | 1:45 pm to 6:45 pm (all ages and levels)
- **Sundays** | 11:00 am to 4:30 pm (all ages and levels)

*There *will* be rehearsals over teacher convention weekend (November 6-8)

***Thanksgiving weekend**, rehearsals will be held on **Sunday, November 29**

Rehearsals for *the Spring Show* begin Friday, February 19.

- **Fridays** | 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm (ONLY Blue Group/Group A dancers: Upper division pointe dancers and boys age 13+ including PDT Levels 4, 5 and CP; rehearsals will begin after Friday classes.)
- **Saturdays** | 1:45 pm to 6:45 pm (all ages and levels)
- **Sundays** | 11:00 am to 4:30 pm (all ages and levels)

*No rehearsals on **Spring Break weekend** (March 27-28) However older dancers may be called (if available) on Friday, March 26.

Any dancer who misses a rehearsal under this policy will be removed from the production without a refund of fees. Dancers may be reassigned as alternates at the discretion of the Artistic Director.



Parent Volunteer Information

To help us produce a professional-quality production, we require that one family member volunteer their time before or during rehearsal/performance weekends. Families who do not wish to volunteer may pay a \$100 volunteer-opt out fee. **Please indicate your preferences on PYB's online audition registration form.**

- Volunteer preferences will be taken into consideration as much as possible; finalized assignments will depend on overall need
- Volunteers may be asked to attend an assignment-specific meeting closer to show time
- Volunteers may be scheduled for the full duration of any one performance (before, during, and after)
- Every volunteer will be able to watch at least one performance from the audience.

We are grateful for your help!

Volunteer Jobs	Time requirements
Backstage Helper - Older Dancer (ages13+) • Quick changes / Props • Minor sewing skills – during the show	Availability on one full show day, either Saturday OR Sunday
Backstage Helper - Younger Dancers (ages 6-12) • Supervise Green Room • Cues (help dancers get to stage on time)	Availability on one full show day, Friday, Saturday, OR Sunday
Costume Helper • Basic sewing and alterations, steaming • Stone gluing • Organizing costumes/props backstage	Throughout the entire production period (rehearsal weekends and show days) *Note: Anyone with basic sewing skills can be of big help to our costuming team!
Load In Team Fall Show: Thurs – Fri, December 3 and 4 Spring Show: Thurs – Fri, May 6 and 7	Approx. 3:45 pm – 7:30 pm on indicated dates to load costumes/props into the theater and help lay out the stage flooring. Task time depends on the number of volunteers. Lifting involved.
Load Out Team Fall Show: Sunday, December 6 Spring Show: Sunday, May 9	Availability after the last Sunday show to move costumes, props, flooring out of the theater and back to the studio/storage. Task time depends on the number of volunteers. Lifting involved. Approx. 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm.
Raffle Baskets Set-up/Coordinator Coordinate and assemble donated items into attractive raffle baskets	Main work occurs during the final week before the performance
Boutique/Concessions Sales Set up the display of various items for sale Conduct sales Replenish displays as sales are made	Before show and during intermission
Hall Monitors Monitor front hallway; Sign dancers in and out;help enforce backstage policies	Before, during, and after show
Usher Checking tickets, directing patrons to their seats. Must be comfortable respectfully enforcing theater policies (no taking of photographs or filming, masking if required, etc.)	Before, during, and after show

Release and Waiver of Liability and Indemnity Agreement
(Read Carefully Before E-Signing on the Audition Registration Online Form)

In consideration of being permitted to participate in any way in the Dance Program indicated below and/or being permitted to enter for any purpose any restricted area (herein defined as any area where in admittance to the general public is prohibited), the parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of the minor participant named below agree(s):

1. The parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) will instruct the minor participant that prior to participating in the below dance activity or event, he or she should inspect the facilities and equipment to be used, and if he or she believes anything is unsafe, the parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of the minor participant should immediately advise the instructor/PYB parent volunteer of such condition and refuse to participate. The participant (dancer) understands and agrees that, if at any time, the participant feels anything to be unsafe; the participant dancer will immediately take all precautions to avoid the unsafe area and refuse to participate further until the issue is resolved by a PYB staff person.
2. I/WE fully understand and acknowledge that:
 - a) There are risks and dangers associated with participating in dance events and activities, which could result in bodily injury, partial and/or total disability, paralysis and death.
 - b) The social and economic losses and/or damages, which could result from these risks and dangers described above, could be severe.
 - c) These risks and dangers may be caused by the action, inaction or negligence of the participant or the action, inaction, or negligence of others, including, but not limited to, the Releasees named below.
 - d) There may be other risks not known to us or that are not reasonably foreseeable at this time.
3. I/WE accept and assume such risks and responsibility for the losses and/or damages following such injury, disability, paralysis or death, however caused and whether caused in whole or part by the negligence of the Releasees named below.
4. I/WE HEREBY RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE either PYB or the dance facility used by the participant, including its owners, managers, directors, board members, promoters, lessees of the premises used to conduct the dance events or program, premises and event inspectors, underwriters, consultants and others who gave recommendations, directions, or instructions to engage in risk evaluation or loss control activities regarding the dance facility or events held at such a facility and each of them, their directors, officers, agents, employees, all for the purposes herein referred to as "Releasee," FROM ALL LIABILITY TO THE UNDERSIGNED, my/our personal representatives, assigns, executors, heirs and next of kin for ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES OR DAMAGES AND ANY CLAIMS OR DEMANDS THEREFORE ON ACCOUNT OF ANY INJURY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE DEATH OF THE PARTICIPANT OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THE EVENT(S) CAUSED OR ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEE OR OTHERWISE.
5. I/WE HEREBY acknowledge that THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EVENT(S) ARE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS and involve the risk of serious injury and/or death and/or property damage. Each of THE UNDERSIGNED also expressly acknowledges that INJURIES RECEIVED MAY BE COMPOUNDED OR INCREASED BY NEGLIGENT RESCUE OPERATIONS OR PROCEDURES OF THE RELEASEES.
6. EACH OF THE UNDERSIGNED further expressly agrees that the foregoing release, waiver, and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the NJ law and that if any portion is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.
7. On behalf of the participant and individually, the undersigned partner(s) and/or legal guardian(s) for the minor participant executes this Waiver and Release. If, despite this release, the participant makes a claim against any of the Releasees, the parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) will reimburse the Releasee for any money, which they have paid to the participant, or on his/her behalf and hold them harmless.
8. The undersigned permits PYB the unrestricted right to utilize the participant's video and/or photograph from both rehearsals and performances.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT, ASSURANCE, OR GUARANTEE BEING MADE AND INTEND MY SIGNATURE TO BE COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.



The Nutcracker – Fall 2026 Rehearsal Calendar

*Friday rehearsals will ONLY involve Group A dancers (Advanced pointe dancers and boys age 13+ including PDT Levels 4, 5 and CP)

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Company Auditions

Saturday, September 26

Rehearsal #1

(Fri) Sat/Sun, October (2), 3 & 4

Rehearsal #2

(Fri) Sat/Sun, October (9), 10 & 11

Rehearsal #3

(Fri) Sat/Sun, October (16), 17 & 18

Rehearsal #4

(Fri) Sat/Sun, October (23), 24 & 25

Rehearsal #5

(Fri) Sat/Sun, October (30), 31 & November 1

Rehearsal #6

(Fri) Sat/Sun, November (6), 7 & 8

Rehearsal #7

(Fri) Sat/Sun, November (13), 14 & 15

Rehearsal #8

(Fri) Sat/Sun, November (20), 21* & 22

* Sat, November 21 In-Studio Dress Rehearsal

Rehearsal #9

Sun, November 29 (Thanksgiving Sunday)

TECH REHEARSAL

Fri, December 4 Technical rehearsal

SHOW DAY

Sat, December 5 Dress rehearsal & performance

SHOW DAY

Sun, December 7 Performances

COLOR KEY

	Rehearsal days for dancers age 13+
	Rehearsal days for all levels
	ALL Dancers required
	Tech and Show Days

• Rehearsals for The Nutcracker begin Friday, October 2nd

• Rehearsals will proceed during teacher convention weekend (November 6-8)

• Thanksgiving Weekend | ALL dancers are called for mandatory rehearsals on Sunday, November 29th

• Dancers must commit to ALL rehearsal weekends to participate



SPRING SHOW - Spring 2027 Rehearsal Calendar

*Friday rehearsals will ONLY involve Group A dancers (Advanced pointe dancers and boys age 13+ including PDT Levels 4, 5 and CP)

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15

Casting Session	Saturday, February 7
Rehearsal #1	(Fri) Sat/Sun, February (19), 20 & 21
Rehearsal #2	(Fri) Sat/Sun, February (26), 27 & 28
Rehearsal #3	(Fri) Sat/Sun, March (5), 6 & 7
Rehearsal #4	(Fri) Sat/Sun, March (12), 13 & 14
Rehearsal #5	(Fri) Sat/Sun, March (19), 20 & 21
Friday, March 26	Tentative for Older Dancers
Rehearsal #6	(Fri) Sat/Sun, April (2), 3 & 4
Rehearsal #7	(Fri) Sat/Sun, April (9), 10 & 11
Rehearsal #8	(Fri) Sat/Sun, April (16), 17 & 18
Rehearsal #9	(Fri) Sat/Sun, April (23), 24 & 25
Rehearsal #10	(Fri) Sat/Sun, April (30), May 1*, & 2
	* Sat. May 1 In-studio Dress Rehearsal

TECH REHEARSAL	Fri, May 7 Technical rehearsal
SHOW DAY	Sat, May 8 Dress rehearsal & performance
SHOW DAY	Sun, May 9 Performances

COLOR KEY

	Rehearsal days for Group A dancers
	Rehearsal days for all levels
	ALL Dancers required
	Tech and Show Days