



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the *Mother Goose* Production?

The Children's Series production performed annually by Springfield Ballet

When and where are performances held?

Theater performances are **scheduled for Saturday, March 17th** at Landers Theatre.

Who is eligible to audition and participate?

Any dancer 4-12 years of age is eligible to audition for the Children's Series production. The audition is open to both Springfield Ballet students and non-Springfield Ballet students. Students are expected to maintain an appropriate training schedule for their level and to continue attending their regular dance classes as scheduled during the rehearsal period.

What is the cost to participate in the production?

The audition is free of charge. If cast, all cast members must pay a non-refundable production fee of \$85.00 for Springfield Ballet students enrolled in the Spring 2012 semester and \$130.00 for non-students. **All production fees are due by 5:00 pm on February 15.** Failure to do so may result in a late fee assessment of \$15.00 or dismissal from the production. Springfield Ballet is a not for profit organization. The production fee helps to cover the cost of the costumes and rehearsal time. Other costs associated with the production are tickets to the performances and personal costume items (see below).

How do I know if my child is ready for this experience?

Ask your child's teacher if you are unsure. Dance instructors see sides of a child in the studio that may not be apparent in their home or academic settings. Just make sure you can meet all of the rehearsal and volunteer commitments before signing on.

How does the audition process work?

1. The dancer will fill out and turn in the Audition and Consent Form. It is **mandatory** that a parent attend one of the information meetings with their dancer(s) if the dancer is under 18 years of age.
2. Then, students will be put into small groups and asked to perform various steps and combinations as directed by the artistic staff. Consideration will be given to technical and artistic skills, as well as height and size. Feedback may not be given at the audition itself.
3. A casting sheet will be posted and emailed by Monday, January 9th. Please do not call the office for casting information.
4. Rehearsals begin. A dancer's attitude and participation in rehearsals will be taken into account for casting in a specific role.

What is appropriate attire for the audition?

Ladies—Black or pink leotard, pink tights, pink ballet slippers, hair slicked back to a bun

Gentlemen—White t-shirt, black tights or pants, black or white ballet shoes or socks (if shoes are not available)

What if my child doesn't get a part or doesn't get the part she or he wanted?

Please talk with your child about this possibility in advance and emphasize that as long as something is learned from the experience, it is worthwhile. Children (and their parents!) must be prepared to accept the role and cast as assigned by the choreographer without question. Please wait until your child has attended at least two rehearsals before asking questions regarding casting.

What can dancers expect to get out of the Children's Series production experience?

Children will:

- Learn how to work among several levels of dancers
- Handle their emotions constructively
- Increase their self-sufficiency
- Watch the development of choreography
- Learn and practice dance etiquette in rehearsals, backstage, and on-stage
- Observe many aspects of staging a theater production

Do I have to buy, rent, or clean costumes?

A portion of the production fees will go towards providing the dancers with a costume that they will be able to keep once the production is complete. Dancers will need to provide their own tights, footwear, leotards, hair accessories, jewelry and makeup. A detailed makeup list will be provided.

What are the rehearsal commitments?

Performing artists **must** be at every rehearsal, on time, for the complete duration of the rehearsal.

- Weekly rehearsals will begin on Thursday, January 12th. Please see Detailed Schedule.
- Rehearsals will be held Thursdays 4:30 pm-6:00 pm and Saturdays 9:30-10:45 and 11:30 pm-5:00 pm. Dancers must be available to rehearse during these times but may not be needed for all times listed.
- All rehearsals will be posted on the board no later than the Saturday of the week prior to the next rehearsal week. Please be patient and open to rehearsal times.
- Other times all cast members will need to be at the studio or theater include: costume fittings, stage makeup and performance case supply inventory check, studio run-through, technical and blocking rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and all performances. Please check the detailed schedule.

What are blocking, technical, and dress rehearsals?

Technical rehearsals are done on the performance stage so that the technical crew can set up and design lighting, scenery, props, and sound for the actual performances. Blocking rehearsals (usually combined with technical rehearsals) involve placing dancers on stage so that they understand where to go and what to do during the performances. Even though the dancers have been rehearsing for weeks, it looks and feels different on the real stage. Technical and blocking rehearsals are generally long and tedious because the dancers don't do a lot of "dancing" during them, but they are absolutely essential to successful performances. Dress rehearsals (both in the studio and at the theater) include costumes and makeup, and usually run through the entire performance. All blocking, technical, and dress rehearsals are **mandatory** for all performers.

Can parents sit in on rehearsals, especially for their young children?

No. Parents are not allowed in any rehearsals at any time. If a child isn't ready for the rehearsal process, she or he is not ready for the challenges of performance.

If my child misses a rehearsal due to illness, will she or he be dismissed from the production?

No, as long as Springfield Ballet is called before the rehearsal begins. If Springfield Ballet is not called before rehearsal begins, dismissal may result. Short-term illness (1-3 days) may be excused. It is the responsibility of the dancer to remain healthy. Long-term illness or injury may result in dismissal.

What if our family has an important, pre-planned obligation that would necessitate missing only one or part of one rehearsal?

Make the artistic staff aware of the conflict at the Informational Meeting or on the Consent Form, but as a rule, no excused absences will be granted. If you cannot make the entire time commitment (and this includes every part of every rehearsal), please do not plan on participating. The staff makes the same commitment to offer your child this opportunity.

What volunteer opportunities are available for the production?

The Springfield Ballet Guild organizes all production and backstage volunteers. Volunteer positions available include but are not limited to the following: volunteer coordinator, costume assistant, backstage helper, dancer check-in, help with cast party, flower shop, boutique helper. If a parent has a skill or talent that could be put to good use for the production, please let us know.