



2026- 2027

DANCER HANDBOOK



OUR MISSION

The New Albany Children's Ballet Theatre (NACBT) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to create an inclusive environment where children can grow and connect with the community through classical ballet performances, wellness education and student-led philanthropy.

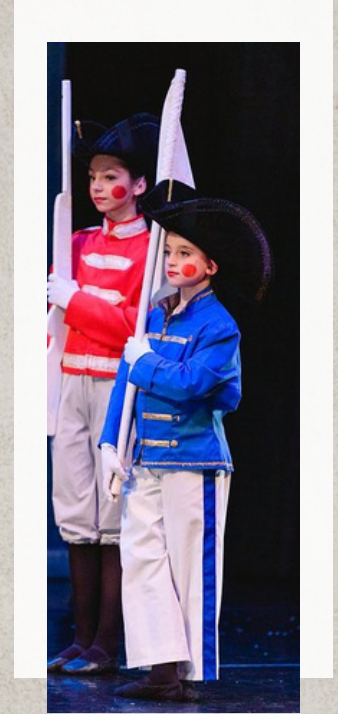
ABOUT US

New Albany Children's Ballet Theatre (NACBT) is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 2003 to create a youth performing company that would stage professional repertoire and ballet performances while minimizing the financial burdens of costuming and production costs to dancer families. Now, over 20 years later, we have broadened our mission to support the changing needs of today's dancers. In addition to bringing people together for shared performing arts experiences, NACBT supports the individual needs of students through mentorship programs, mental health and wellness education and tuition assistance. We focus on providing a nurturing and inclusive environment where children can gain performance and audition skills while building their self confidence and making lifelong friendships.

NACBT is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors who oversee and manage all operations of the organization. Together with the NACBT faculty, the Board seeks to provide positive youth programming that allows each child to reach his/her personal and performance goals while minimizing the financial barriers associated with large scale, professional performances. Our efforts are designed to both diversify the traditional art form while simultaneously preserving and passing on the appreciation and wisdom of classical ballet.

we welcome

2026–2027 CALENDAR



8/21-8/23 Nutcracker Auditions

8/25 Casting announced by 8/25

9/23 Father Daughter Ball Tickets on Sale

10/14 Nutcracker Tickets on Sale

11/13 Father Daughter Ball

12/11 7pm Performance (Cast A)

12/12 11am Performance (Cast A)

12/12 3pm Performance (Cast B)

12/12 7pm Performance (Cast B)

12/13 1pm Performance (Cast C)

12/13 5pm Performance (Cast C)

Additional dates, updates and rehearsal schedules will be posted on
www.newalbanycbt.org

THE NUTCRACKER

Each year NACBT produces Peter Tchaikovsky's classic ballet. These highly anticipated performances are a cherished holiday tradition for thousands of families across Ohio and feature all NACBT dancers aged 5-18. There are typically 3 separate *Nutcracker* casts.



PRODUCTIONS

Periodically NACBT produces classical and contemporary ballets to give dancers additional performance opportunities. These productions typically feature older progressive and pre-professional dancers and depend largely on the NACBT yearly budget. This year NACBT will not have a spring production.

CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

NACBT collaborates with the New Albany School system to produce this performance opportunity for all first grade students in the District. NACBT students do not perform in this community outreach production.





DANCER POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

New Albany Children's Ballet Theatre (NACBT) productions are known for their quality, talent, professionalism and positive youth experiences. Dancer adherence to policies and procedures is essential to maintaining the reputation of the organization. Failure to adhere to the policies and procedures set forth in this handbook is grounds for dismissal from the production(s) and/or the organization.

Participation Requirements

- Dancers must be 5 years old or older by September 1, 2026.
- Registration must be completed and fees must be paid by **Saturday, August 15, 2026.**
- Dancers must be currently enrolled in a formal ballet training program at New Albany Ballet Company (NABC), and must have attended formal ballet training the season prior to the performance. An exception is made for 5 year old primary level dancers.
- Dancers in levels 3A/B and up must participate in auditions. Younger students have the option to participate in auditions and/or are automatically cast based on class level.
- Dancers/families must complete the following agreements:
 - a. Acknowledgement of Handbook and Rehearsal Attendance Policy
 - b. Emergency Medical Release
 - c. Release of Liability Waiver
 - d. Photo Release and Social Media Agreement

Rehearsal Schedules and Attendance

- NACBT faculty will make an effort to inform dancers of the rehearsal expectations for each role at the time of casting. Detailed weekly rehearsal schedules are posted on the website (www.newalbanycbt.org) on Sundays by 2pm.
- Dancers are expected to attend rehearsal for their assigned cast only. Due to differences in casting, choreography, spacing, etc. dancers are not permitted to rehearse or make-up absences with alternative casts unless given permission by NACBT faculty.
- Dancers are permitted to miss a total of two rehearsals per role. Only one absence may be unexcused. An excused absence is when faculty has been contacted about an absence prior to the rehearsal and have excused the cast member.
- Dancers arriving more than 10 minutes late to a rehearsal may be asked to sit out for their own safety due to missing warm-ups.
- Dress rehearsal(s) are mandatory to perform in the production.
- NACBT faculty reserves the right to select a replacement for any cast member who does not adhere to the attendance policies.
- All students level 5A/B and up are required to attend their level class prior to rehearsals. A technique class needs to be taken to properly warm up before all Nutcracker rehearsals.

Dress Code

- Dancers wear their NACB class uniform for all rehearsals.
- Hair is to be in a neat, secure bun with bangs pinned back or sprayed away from the face for all rehearsals.
- Street clothing including tops, bottoms and shoes are required when entering and leaving the dance studio and performance venues.
- Part-specific hairstyle and dress requirements will be communicated for each part/production. Some parts will require parents to purchase additional items such as colored tights and shoes.

Costuming

- NACBT provides costumes for dancers. Costumes are the property of NACBT and must be kept at the studio or performance venue unless otherwise directed by the Artistic Director. NACBT will transport all costumes and props from the studio to performance locations.
- Costume fittings by NACBT faculty and a professional seamstress are required for all casted roles. NACBT faculty will make an effort to schedule fittings during already scheduled classes or rehearsals.
- Dancers are only to wear the costume they are assigned. If the costume is damaged or malfunctioning, please notify the Artistic Director immediately. No alterations, adjustments or physical changes may be made to any costume without the approval of the Artistic Director.
- Dancers may not eat or drink (other than water) while in costume.
- Dancers are not permitted to leave the performance venue while wearing costumes, including hairpieces.
- Dancers are expected to handle costumes with care to reduce damage and extend the longevity of the costume. Families may be responsible for replacement costs for damage to costumes that results from careless behavior.



Parent/Guardian Volunteer Requirement

- Many NACBT productions require parent volunteers to help reduce costs associated with rental facilities, marketing and production. The NACBT Secretary will notify parents of volunteer expectations via email and sign-up software throughout the season.
- All families are expected to volunteer at least once per production for every dancer in the family. Failure to fulfill your volunteer requirement can affect your dancer's eligibility for the following season.
- If a volunteer is unable to fulfill his/her volunteer commitment, he/she is responsible for finding a replacement prior to the commencement of the volunteer task.

Communication

- Parents and dancers are expected to use the the NACBT website (www.newalbanycbt.org) to access information including, but not limited to, registration, cast lists, rehearsal schedules and ticketing information.
- Additional information about our mission, faculty, performances, fundraising and community initiatives is available on the website.
- Email is the preferred method of communication for all NACBT faculty and Board members.
 - General Board Inquiries: info@newalbanycbt.org
 - Treasurer, Siobhan Twomey: treasurer@newalbanycbt.org
 - Secretary, Ellen Selegue: ellen@newalbanyballet.com
 - Artistic Director, Tara Miller: tara@newalbanyballet.com
 - Faculty, Susan Dromisky: susan@newalbanyballet.com
 - Faculty, Bethany Lee: bethany@newalabnyballet.com
 - Faculty, Kelli Mitchell, kelli@newalbanyballet.com
 - Faculty, Jimmy Orrante, jimmy@newalbanyballet.com
 - Faculty, Sonia Orrante, sonia@newalbanyballet.com
 - Faculty, Stephanie Sestak, stephanie@newalbanyballet.com
 - Faculty, Amy Tremante, amy@newalbanyballet.com
 - Faculty, Madeline Miller, madeline@newalbanyballet.com

Casting

- NACBT casting is a professional process and incorporates many factors such as the dancer's class level, age, skill, height, performance quality, fit for a given role, costuming available in the dancer's size and musicality.
- Auditions are judged by a minimum of three NACBT trained faculty members. The Board may also approve additional professional guest judges at the discretion of the Artistic Director.
- Parents are prohibited from participating in or watching casting auditions, with the exception of NACBT audition judges who are also parents of auditioning dancers.
- If parents have casting questions, they may email the Artistic Director only after the cast list has been posted for 48 hours. No emails are permitted to NACBT faculty.



Behavior Expectations

- Dancers must conduct themselves in a safe and respectful manner at all times. Keep running and horseplay to a minimum. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.
- Talking, horseplay, socializing and other distractions during rehearsals are not permitted. Please be respectful of the teaching staff and other students while waiting your turn to dance, particularly in large rehearsal settings.

Behavioral Expectations (Continued)

- Personal belongings should be secured in the dancer's bag and left in the locker rooms or out of the common walkways.
- Parents are required to pick up students promptly at the end of rehearsals. Students in levels 6A/B and above are permitted to remain at the studio between rehearsals without a parent. If you are running late please call the NABC office at 614-939-9058.
- Please report all injuries, health and safety hazards or suspicious behavior to NACBT faculty immediately.
- All NACBT rehearsals, productions and events are zero-tolerance weapon free zones. Any individual suspected of carrying a weapon will immediately be reported to local authorities.
- The illegal use of drugs and alcohol is strictly prohibited for all NACBT participants and may result in prohibition from participating in NACBT productions and events.
- NACBT is committed to providing workplaces and learning environments that are free from harassment on the basis of any protected classification including, but not limited to race, sex, gender, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, disability, medical condition, marital status, veteran's status, genetic marker or on any other basis protected by law. Such conduct is unsafe, unprofessional, unproductive, illegal, and generally considered bad for group camaraderie. Consequently, all conduct of this nature is expressly prohibited, regardless of whether it violates any law.



NACBT FACULTY



TARA MILLER
Artistic Director



SUSAN DROMINSKY
Faculty



BETHANY LEE
Faculty



KELLI MITCHELL
Faculty



JIMMY ORRANTE
Faculty



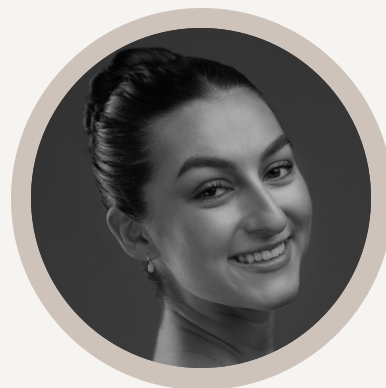
SONIA ORRANTE
Faculty



STEPHANIE SESTAK
Faculty



AMY TREMANTE
Faculty



MADELINE MILLER
Faculty

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do my participation fees pay for?

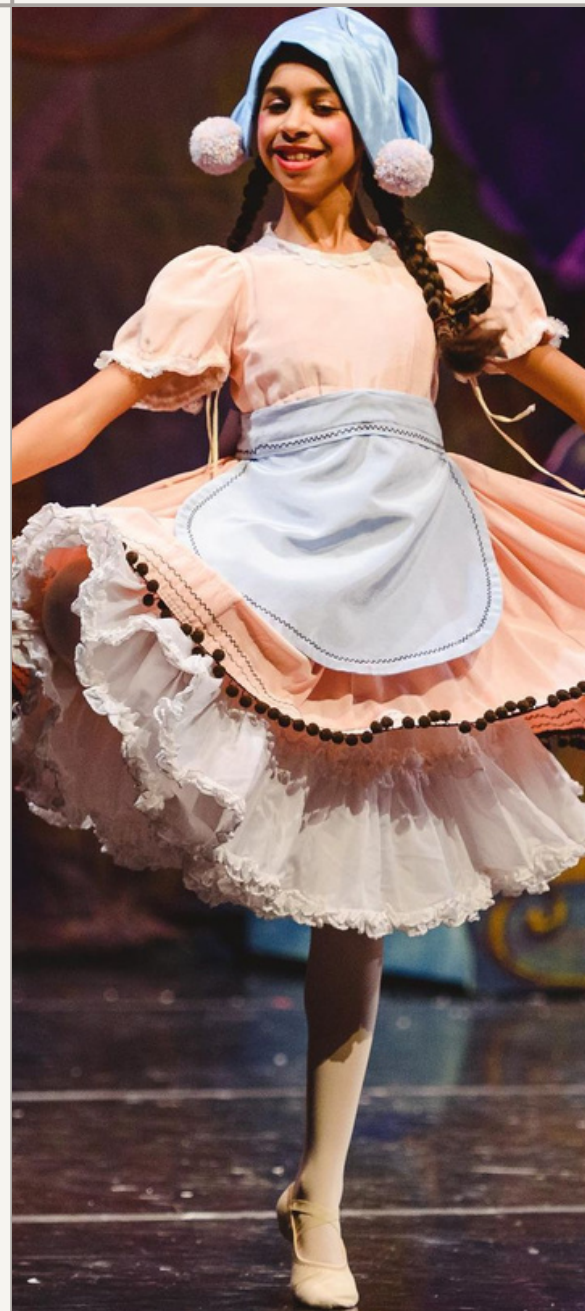
NACBT incurs considerable costs in the production of all NACBT productions, which are not covered by ticket sales alone. Participation fees help cover the staffing and rental costs for performance spaces for all rehearsals and productions; production costs including but not limited to lighting, technology, photography and videography; replacement, alterations, cleaning and storage of all costuming and props; fees for guest performers and musicians; choreography royalties and updates; payroll and administrative costs for NACBT faculty; and costs for cast parties and cast gifts.

If my child misses his/her cast's rehearsal, can he/she attend a rehearsal for a different cast? For example, if I miss cast A dress rehearsal, can I come to cast B instead?

No. Spacing and choreography differences require that dancers only rehearse with their assigned cast. Make-ups in other casts are not permitted.

What is the difference between NABC and NACBT?

New Albany Ballet Company is a private business that trains students in ballet, jazz, modern, tap and hip hop. Students at NABC participate in children's, general, progressive and pre-professional dance classes and produce a spring recital. NACBT is a not for profit children's performing arts group that trains children and produces classical and contemporary ballets. NACBT has a mission to connect with the community to promote student wellness, inclusivity in the arts and to keep production costs reasonable for young participants.





2026–2027 SPONSORSHIPS

NACBT offers sponsorship opportunities for families and businesses who would like to further support our mission. Please contact treasurer@newalbanycbt.org for more information.

Nutcracker Title Sponsorship (\$10,000)

- Exclusive Performance Sponsor Signage at the McCoy Center
- Prominent Playbill Feature
- Sponsor Recognition on the Season T-Shirt, McCoy Signage and All Digital and Print Media
- Sponsored Social Media Post
- Speaking Opportunity at Opening Night
- Pre-Sale Ticket Access to NABC Recitals AND All NACBT Productions
- Nutcracker Participation Fees for up to 3 Children in the Immediate Family (if applicable)

Father-Daughter Ball Title Sponsorship (\$10,000)

- Table of 8 at the Father Daughter Ball & Early Admission
- Family listed on ALL printed materials as Title Host and Hostess
- Early Admission to Father Daughter Ball
- Complimentary photo at Father Daughter Ball

Principal Sponsorship (\$5,000)

- Sponsored Social Media Post
- Playbill Feature/Advertisement
- Sponsor Recognition on the Season T-Shirt, McCoy Signage and All Digital and Print Media
- Table of 8 at the Father Daughter Ball & Early Admission
- Pre-Sale Ticket Access to NABC Recitals AND All NACBT Productions
- Nutcracker Participation Fees for up to 3 Children in the Immediate Family (if applicable)

Soloist Sponsorship (\$2,750)

- Pre-Sale Ticket Access to NABC Recitals AND All NACBT Productions
- Nutcracker Participation Fees for up to 3 Children in the Immediate Family
- Father Daughter Ball admission for Father and all NABC students in immediate family
- Family listed on ALL printed materials as Host and Hostess
- Early admission to the Father Daughter Ball
- Complimentary photo at Father Daughter Ball
- Recognition in the Nutcracker playbill

Demi- Soloist Sponsorship (\$2,000)

- Pre-Sale Access to NABC Recitals AND All NACBT Productions
- Nutcracker Participation Fees for up to 2 Children in the Immediate Family
- Recognition in the Nutcracker playbill
- Code to purchase Father Daughter Ball tickets early

Corps Sponsorship (\$1,500)

- Early access to online tickets for The Nutcracker
- Nutcracker Participation Fees for 1 Child in the immediate family
- Recognition in the Nutcracker playbill

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

1

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

We provide mental health and wellness education for dancers and families through a partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital

2

MALE MENTORSHIP

We provide a male mentorship program to support the unique needs of young boys interested in the performing arts

3

STUDENT-LED PHILANTHROPY

Students have opportunities to lead philanthropy initiatives with their fellow dancers

4

TUITION ASSISTANCE

We support the needs of dancer families facing financial hardships and catastrophic events



NACBT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Treasurer, Siobhan Twomey

Secretary, Ellen Selegue

Artistic Director: Tara Miller

WWW.NEWALBANYCBT.ORG

