



When are auditions?

Angel Auditions for the 2026 Nutcracker Production are Saturday, October 10th 2026 at 12:00 - 1:00 pm at [The Dance Lab 2625 US - 14 Suite C-D Rochester, MN 55901](#) (Studio 4)

If you are unable to audition at this time, please email RochesterDanceCompanyMN@gmail.com prior to October 10th to make alternate arrangements. All dancers are required to participate in the audition process.

Who should audition to be an Angel in RDC's production of The Nutcracker?

Dancers ages 6-8, who are enrolled in Pre-Ballet or Ballet 1-2 at a dance studio of their choice. Young dancers should audition if they enjoy:

- *learning and practicing choreography with other dancers,*
- *watching and learning from more experienced dancers,*
- *being part of a magical production, and*
- *performing in front of a very receptive audience*

What should dancers wear to the audition?

Dancers should wear a ballet outfit (leotard, tights, ballet slippers, hair in a bun if long enough; or long dark pants, t-shirt, ballet slippers).

When will casting be decided?

Parents will be contacted via email the week following the audition.

What is the time commitment?

Angels typically rehearse for an hour every few weeks on a Saturday morning/early afternoon at The Dance Lab. Due to the limited rehearsal time, it is important that dancers attend rehearsals. If a dancer is ill or has a conflict with a rehearsal, we ask that you submit the absence on our Jackrabbit portal ahead of time.

- 10/24: 11:30am - 1:15pm - Costume Fitting and First Angel Rehearsal - please plan to help with the costume fitting from 11:30am - 12:15pm, each dancer needs help getting into and out of their costumes.
- 11/7: 12:00pm - 1:30pm - Group Picture at 12pm and Rehearsal from 12:15-1:30
- 11/14: 11:45 am - 12:30 pm - Rehearsal
- 11/21: 11:45 am - 12:30 pm - Rehearsal
- 11/30 (evening time TBD) Tech Week Rehearsal at Mayo Civic Center Presentation Hall.
- 12/3: Special Needs Show at 6:30 pm. Angels will dance during this performance, they can leave when they are done performing or stay for bows. They will be done dancing around 7:30 and the show finishes around 8pm.
- 12/5 & 12/6: Cast Picture and Public performances at 2 pm and 6 pm on Saturday and 2pm on Sunday.

What are the fees associated with dancing as an Angel in The Nutcracker?

There is a \$150 performance fee due by the 1st rehearsal for the Angels. This helps cover the cost of rehearsals and performances. There is no costume fee, but dancers are expected to have their own ballet shoes. Parents will be asked to purchase low-cost items such as tights, a nude leotard to wear under the costume, and some personal make-up for their dancers (black eyeliner and mascara).

RDC & Angel Families are required to purchase or sell a minimum of 10 tickets per dancer for The Nutcracker (or 15 per family minimum if multiple RDC dancers are from the same family). Dancer tickets are sold in advance at a discounted rate. The discounted rate is around \$18 per ticket. Dancers do not receive any complimentary tickets.

Other optional costs are cast tshirt, cast pictures, ordering a usb/DVD of performance recording.

What else is expected from parents?

Each family is expected to volunteer for 10 hours before and/or during Tech Week (the week leading up to the performances). The primary volunteer duty of Angel parents is supervising these young dancers backstage during rehearsals and performances. There are other opportunities for those with an interest in costume maintenance, hair & makeup, staffing the check-in table, ushering, etc. An online sign-up for volunteer opportunities during tech week will be emailed in November.

What should dancers wear to rehearsal?

We request that dancers wear a pink or black leotard, pink or skin colored tights, and pink or skin colored ballet shoes, or black bottoms, a black top, and black ballet shoes. Dancers should bring a bottle of water to rehearsal.

What should dancers wear to a performance?

Angels are required to wear Capezio Tights #1915 or 1916 in Ballet Pink, pink leather ballet shoes, and a tan seamless leo under their Angel costume. Dancers can wear warm ups over these items when coming to the dress rehearsal/performances and also should bring a robe to wear over their tights/leo when hair is being done / makeup is being applied, or when they are waiting between their performance and the bows.

Are there behavior expectations?

In order for all to have a positive experience, it is necessary for dancers to be attentive and respectful to RDC staff and other dancers. Any behavior problems will be addressed immediately with a parent. There is no supervision outside scheduled rehearsal times so dancers must be picked up promptly and should not be dropped off more than 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.

If you have additional questions, please contact RDC at RochesterDanceCompanyMN@gmail.com.

We look forward to having your dancer join us as a cast member in our 2026 Nutcracker production!