

2010 – 2011 DANCE PRODUCTION AUDITIONS

Open to male & female dancers ages 7-18

Please read the audition process and production commitment information below

The Canadian Ballet Youth Ensemble (CBYE) would like to invite all talented students to audition for our 2010- 2011 dance season productions of *Nutcracker* and *Hansel & Gretel*. Students can select to audition for one or both productions. These productions offer a wonderful opportunity for talented young dancers to work with professional artists, dancers, choreographers, and musicians. This year we are pleased to announce that dancers will once again share the stage with The National Ballet of Cuba at Hamilton Place Theatre and in Havana, Cuba.

NATIONAL BALLET OF CUBA & CBYE PRODUCTIONS

For the first time in 37 years, the National Ballet of Cuba (BNC) performed on a Canadian stage at Hamilton Place Theatre in 2007. Ballet lovers from Canada and the United States flocked to witness these performances. Since then, BNC has returned to perform *Giselle*, *Hansel & Gretel*, and *The Nutcracker* with youth from CBYE.

The National Ballet of Cuba (BNC) is one of the top 5 dance companies of the world. The artistic-technical severity of the dancers and the wide diversity in the aesthetic conception of the choreographers, have granted this company a prominent place in the contemporary Hispano-American culture. Since its inception, BNC's performances have simply exploded in the world's theatres in over 58 countries.

Choreography for both *Nutcracker* and *Hansel & Gretel* is in line with the Cuban style of ballet which follows the classical Russian system with a unique expressive flare that stems from Ibero-America, Caribbean cultural roots. **Dancers part of CBYE's productions will be taught choreography by professional ballet instructors from BNC and instructed in key stage techniques part of the Cuban style of ballet.**

The ***Nutcracker* choreography**, which successful dancers will perform, was staged by Prima Ballerina Assoluta and founder of BNC, Alicia Alonso. Alicia Alonso is considered one of the most outstanding ballerinas of the 20th century and most famous for her dance role of *Giselle*. ***Hansel & Gretel*** is choreographed by Eduardo Blanco an international award winning choreographer with BNC. Since 2001, Blanco has established an enviable reputation for his large choreographic works for student dancers.

WHY TAKE PART?

- **Rare opportunity to share the stage with professional dancers** and experience the life of a professional dancer from the audition to the grand finale performance
- **Enhance your dance training** by learning key stage performance techniques
- **Build your dance resume.** Many senior students who have participated in our productions have gone on to attend the York and Ryerson University dance programs and dance professionally with companies such as the National Ballet School of Canada, Kirov Ballet, and the New York City Ballet.
- **Showcase your talents** to world-renowned choreographers and teachers for future dance opportunities such as international dance exchange programs



**Ballet
Nacional
de Cuba**
**Cátedra
de Danza**

STUDENT AUDITION PROCESS

Step 1 - Pre- Audition Check In

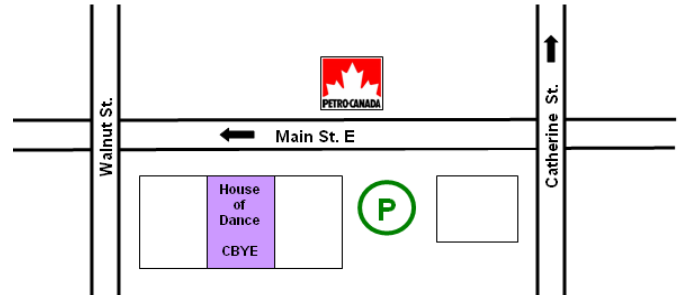
Registration begins 30 minutes prior to the start of the audition. Students will be required to complete the Student Audition Form and submit their \$15.00 audition fee prior to entering the audition room. Payment methods accepted include exact cash or cheque made payable to CBYE.

To speed up the registration process on the day of the audition, you may fill out the registration form attached to this package and bring it with you to the audition. On the audition day, each dancer will be assigned an individual audition number that is to be pinned on the front and back of your bodysuit.

Audition Location & Parking

All auditions are held at
145 Main Street East, Hamilton ON

Metered parking is available on Main Street and down Walnut Street. Paid parking lots are located in the vicinity. Metered parking is free on weekdays after 6pm and on Sundays as are many of the parking lots.



Step 2 – The Audition

The audition is set up much like a regular ballet class where students will be stepped through various ballet exercises. In addition, there will be a choreography component in which the students will be taught a short piece from the Nutcracker and asked to perform. Students **do not** have to come prepared with any dance routines.

Students are required to wear proper ballet attire. For students capable of dancing on pointe, please bring pointe shoes into the audition room and place them at the side of the room.

Step 3 – Notification

All students will be contacted informing them of the results of the audition within one week from the time that they audition. Some students who do not make the initial selection may be placed on a waiting list and will be invited to take part in the production in the event a casting opportunity becomes available. Students who are on a waiting list may be contacted at any point up until the start of rehearsals. Casting of roles for the production will take place during the first intensive training session.

Step 4 – Making Your Decision

Responding to your invitation: All students who are invited to be part of the productions must contact the CBYE office by phone or e-mail to inform us of your decision. Your decision must be given to CBYE within three days of being notified.

Registration for the production: A registration package will be sent to successful candidates via email as part of their invitation email. The registration package for the production outlines our rules and regulations policy and production commitment which is highlighted below. Dancers enrolling into the production will be required to send their signed registration forms and payment within one week of being notified of their acceptance into the production.

It is very important that both students and parents understand the commitment of being in the production. Please ensure you are ready to take on this commitment before you make your decision.

Attendance at all rehearsals is MANDATORY. As we recognize that unforeseen situations may arise, such as sickness, any missed rehearsals can jeopardize your involvement in the production. Dancers who are selected to be in this year's production are requested to communicate with their dance studios their commitment to the production. As with any professional production situations arise that can cause changes to the schedule to which dancers must also be flexible to adhere to. Additional practices may be required or times may need to change. We try our best to minimize changes as much as possible, however dancers must be prepared to adhere to the changes when needed.

NUTCRACKER ~ PRODUCTION COMMITMENT

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

The total cost to participate in The Nutcracker production is **\$425.00**. **This fee is NON-REFUNDABLE.** This fee can be claimed towards the Children's Fitness Tax Credit.

One week after being notified that you have been invited to be part of The Nutcracker, you will be required to send in the completed registration form along with 3 post dated cheques dated for:

- Due at time of registration → \$150
- May 30th → \$150
- June 30th → \$125

REHEARSAL COMMITMENT

Rehearsals will start in September and run until December. The tentative start date is Sun. Sept 11. Rehearsals are typically 1-2 hours in length depending on the role the dancer is assigned.

- A.) **Casting Day:** There will be one day in September for which all students will be required to attend a 1-2 hr evaluation. During this session, dancers will be cast for their role in the production.
- B.) **Weekly Sunday Rehearsals:** Students will be required to come for their designated time depending on the role that they are given. Rehearsals may run from 9am- 6pm on Sundays.
- C.) **Intensive Training Periods:** Students will come daily for their designated times. Rehearsals will begin at 5:00pm. Dancers are asked to reserve 2 weeks for each training period. Based on the progress of rehearsals, only 1 week per training session may be required.
 - Intensive Training 1: September 7 – 11/ 13-18 (dates to be confirmed)
 - Intensive Training 2: November 22 – 27 /Nov 29 – Dec 4 (dates to be confirmed)
- D.) **Performance Week:** Starting Mon December 6, dancers are asked to reserve the week of the performances for rehearsals with professional dancers from BNC and dress rehearsals.
- E.) **Holidays:** There will be no rehearsals on Thanksgiving weekend.

2010 PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE ~ Hamilton Place Theatre

Thursday, December 9

10:30 am School Performance

Friday, December 10

10:30 am School Performance (to be confirmed)

7:30 pm Evening Public Performance

Saturday, December 11

2:00 pm Matinee Public Performance

7:30 pm Evening Public Performance

Sunday, December 12

2:00 pm Matinee Public Performance

Nutcracker in Cuba

Students selected for the 2010 Hamilton Nutcracker cast are also invited to travel to Havana, Cuba to take part in the Nutcracker at the National Ballet of Cuba's home theatre, the Gran Teatro. Tentative travel dates are December 31, 2010- January 9, 2011. Further details will be provided to successful students.

HANSEL & GRETEL ~ PRODUCTION COMMITMENT

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

The total cost to participate in Hansel & Gretel is **\$295.00**. **This fee is NON-REFUNDABLE**. This fee can be claimed towards the Children's Fitness Tax Credit.

One week after being notified that you have been invited to be part of Hansel & Gretel, you will be required to send in the completed registration form along with 2 post dated cheques dated for:

- Due at time of registration → \$150
- September 1st → \$145

REHEARSAL COMMITMENT

Rehearsals will start in January and run through until February's show. The tentative start date is Jan.

14. Rehearsals are approximately 1- 2 hours in length depending on the role the dancer is assigned.

- A.) **Casting Day:** There will be one day in January for which all students will be required to attend a 1-2 hr evaluation. During this session, dancers will be cast for their role in the production.
- B.) **Weekend Rehearsals:** Weekend rehearsals will take place on Saturday and Sunday. Students will come each day for the time designated for their role. Rehearsals may run from 12pm – 8pm on Saturdays and 9am- 6pm on Sundays.
- F.) **Intensive Training Period:** For the weeks of Feb 7-11 & Feb 14-18, students will attend rehearsal on alternating week days (Mon- Fri) according to their role assignment. Rehearsals start at 5pm. Regular weekend rehearsals on Saturday and Sundays will still be taking place. Dates still to be confirmed.
- C.) **Performance Week:** Starting Tuesday Feb 22, students will be required to be available for the entire week to attend for rehearsal with professional dancers from BNC and dress rehearsals.
- D.) **Holidays:** There will be no rehearsals on Family Day – Mon. Feb. 21, 2010.

2011 PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE ~ Hamilton Place Theatre

February 25 – 27

The exact number of performances and show times are still being finalized. There will be at least one public and school matinee performance.

Hansel & Gretel in Cuba

Students selected for the 2011 Hamilton Hansel & Gretel cast are also invited to travel to Havana, Cuba to take part in the Nutcracker at the National Ballet of Cuba's home theatre, the Gran Teatro. Tentative travel dates are March 13- 20, 2011 which coincide with most elementary and high school March Break week. Further details will be provided to successful students.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- You may try to find a **corporate sponsor** for your child. Sponsors will receive recognition in the production program your child is dancing in and a full tax receipt. Please ask CBYE for a sponsorship form if you intend to seek out a sponsor. If you find a sponsor after you have sent in your post dated cheques, your money will be refunded to you once we receive your sponsor's cheque.
- Parents wishing to organize their **own fundraising events** to assist them with their financial commitment are encouraged to do so. Fundraisers have been proven to be successful and an excellent way to raise funds. Parents of Nutcracker Cast members can take place in our program ad fundraiser. For every business card ad that you bring we will reimburse you \$50.00. You can consider approaching various businesses asking if they would like to place a program ad in our Nutcracker brochure which will be seen by an audience in excess of 6,000.

2010 - 2011 DANCE PRODUCTION AUDITIONS REGISTRATION FORM

AUDITION NUMBER : _____ AUDITION DATE: _____

I am auditioning for:

Nutcracker ONLY Hansel & Gretel ONLY Both Nutcracker and Hansel & Gretel

NAME OF DANCER : _____ GENDER: _____

AGE : _____ DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YYYY): _____ HEIGHT: _____

Current Dance School : _____

Number of years of ballet experience: _____

Number of years dancing en pointe: _____

Have you danced in a CBYE production in previous years? Yes___ No___

Are you interested in taking part in the following performances in Havana, Cuba:

▪ Nutcracker tentatively scheduled for Dec 31 – Jan 9 2011 Yes___ No___

▪ Hansel & Gretel tentatively scheduled for March 13-20 2011 Yes___ No___

PARENT/GUARDIAN : _____

ADDRESS : _____

CITY _____ PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____

HOME PHONE : () _____

BUSINESS PHONE: () _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

* This will be our primary mode of communication.

How did you hear about the auditions? (Please check all that apply)

___ CBYE Website

___ Friend

___ My Dance Studio

___ Newspaper: _____ (SPECIFY WHICH PAPER)

___ Radio; _____ (SPECIFY WHICH STATION)

___ Other: _____

A **\$15 audition fee** must be submitted with this form.

___ \$15 paid by cash (exact change required) ___ \$15 paid by cheque payable to CBYE

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

STUDENT RATING: A+ A B+ B

AUDITION COMMENTS:

CASTING ROLE (to be determined during intensive training session): _____