



2026 COSTUME & MAKE-UP REQUIREMENTS

INDEX

GENERAL INFORMATION (all dancers) p. 2

MAKE-UP & HAIR DETAILS* (all dancers) p. 2-3

*includes supply list!

COSTUME REQUIREMENTS (by role)

P4..... GENERAL BASE WEAR REQUIREMENTS

P4..... PARTY CHILDREN (+CLARA, FRITZ, FRANCINE & SELINE)

P4..... CAVALIER & HARLEQUIN DOLLS (PARTY SCENE)

P5..... NIGHTMARES LEAD & CORPS

P5..... DOLLS (MARCH OF THE TOYS)

P5..... MOUSE GENERAL, BATTLE MICE LEAD & CORPS (BIG BATTLE)

P5..... BATTLE NUTCRACKER & SOLDIERS (BIG BATTLE) & SOLDIER CORPS (MARCH OF THE TOYS)

P6..... GINGERBREAD

P6..... POLICHINELLES

P6..... MAAFE FROM GUINEA

P6..... BASBOUSA FROM EGYPT LEAD & CORPS

P6..... TANGYUAN FROM CHINA

P6..... MARZIPAN FROM SWEDEN CORPS

P6..... ZEFIR FROM RUSSIA

P7..... FLOWER & SNOW CORPS

P7..... SOLOISTS: FEMALE-IDENTIFIED

SUGAR PLUM, DEW DROP, TURRON, MARZIPAN LEAD, SNOW QUEEN

P7..... SOLOISTS: MALE-IDENTIFIED

SNOW KING/NUTCRACKER PRINCE



2026 COSTUME & MAKE-UP REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION (all dancers)

- **Attendance at costume fittings is required.** Missing a costume fitting may result in removal from the show, as costume assignments are determined by how the costumes fit an entire group. As such, a dancer cannot be fit individually.
- Dancers are to provide their own base wear or other as assigned to their part. Specific base wear requirements for each role are outlined below.
- Dancers must wear their role's required base wear to each costume fitting.
- Tights and shoes should be clean and have no holes in them. Ribbons and elastics must be sewn for rehearsals and performances.
- Dancers must provide their own make-up bags and all required contents. Make-up should be applied for all dress rehearsals and performances prior to drop off. Dancers in Ballet 4A and up may bring their labeled make-up bag for touch ups to be applied backstage.

MAKE-UP & HAIR DETAILS (all dancers)

In addition to their role-specific base wear, all dancers must provide their own makeup and hair supplies. Please bring your dancers to dress rehearsals and performance venues with makeup *already* applied and hair *already* prepared. They should carry their supplies in a makeup bag for backstage touch-ups. Listed below are personal care, makeup, and hair care guidelines that apply to all ages and gender-affiliations.

Performance Makeup Bag

Each dancer should have a makeup bag clearly labeled with the dancer's name.

Personal Care

CLEAR, NON-STAINING DEODORANT/ANTIPERSPIRANT

All dancers, regardless of age, are required to wear clear deodorant or antiperspirant to costume fittings and performances. Please choose a product that will not leave residue or stains on costumes.



2026 COSTUME & MAKE-UP REQUIREMENTS

Stage Makeup

All performers are responsible for providing their own makeup and supplies.

1) RED MATTE LIPSTICK OR STAIN THAT COMPLEMENTS YOUR COMPLEXION

No cream-based lipsticks, please, as they rub off and stain costumes.

2) EYE MAKEUP

Earth-tone eyeshadow, black eyeliner, and black mascara.

3) BLUSH THAT COMPLEMENTS YOUR COMPLEXION

All roles are required to wear and bring extra blush.

Hair Supplies

1) BRUSH/COMB

Please provide your dancer with a small hairbrush and/or comb for use backstage.

2) HAIR NETS *(required only for dancers wearing their hair in buns)*

Hair nets should match your dancer's hair color and be used to wrap over the ballet bun. Dancers should arrive wearing one hair net and bring extras for backstage touch-ups.

3) HAIR/BOBBY PINS *(not required for dancers with hair too short to fall into the face)*

Hair and bobby pins should be used to keep hair away from the face, including bangs, and to secure ballet buns. Please ensure the pins match your dancer's hair color. Dancers should arrive at dress rehearsals and performances with their hair properly secured and bring extra pins in their makeup bags for backstage touch-ups.

4) HAIR PRODUCT

Hair spray, gel, or securing cream should be used as necessary to keep hair neat. Please include the product in your dancer's makeup bag for backstage touch-ups.



2026 COSTUME & MAKE-UP REQUIREMENTS

COSTUME REQUIREMENTS (by role)

General Basewear Requirements:

- **General base wear for female-identifying dancers:** flesh-toned spaghetti strap or tank leotard, flesh-toned convertible tights (unless otherwise specified by role), flesh-toned pointe shoes or soft shoes as required for the role. The color should be as closely matched to your dancer's own skin tone as possible.
- **General base wear for male-identifying dancers:** tight-fitting white t-shirt, black opaque boys dance tights, and black ballet shoes.
- **General base wear for non-binary identifying dancers:** your choice of the above that best suits the requirements of your Nutcracker costume.

Resources for where to find skin toned leotards, shoes, and tights listed below. Not all dancers will need these so please check the requirements for your dancer's costume. If your dancer does need to wear skin toned clothes or shoes, we understand that a perfect match is not always possible but try to find something that is as close to your dancer's skin tone as possible. More than anything, **the color of tights and shoes should match each other as closely as possible so as not to interrupt the line of the leg down to the toes.**

- [HPSD's online dancewear store](#)
- **Discount Dance:** [leotards](#), [tights](#), [shoes](#)
- **Dancewear Solutions:** [leotards](#), [tights](#), [shoes](#)
- **Capezio:** [leotards](#), [tights](#), [shoes](#)
- [Allegro Dance Boutique in Evanston, IL](#)

Party Children (includes Clara, Fritz, Francine & Seline):

- **Base wear:** flesh-tone spaghetti strap or tank leotard, flesh-tone convertible tights, flesh-tone shoes for female-identifying people; tight-fitting white t-shirt, black opaque boys dance tights, and black ballet shoes for male-identifying people.
- **Hair requirements:** Dancers with long enough hair should wear it in a LOW bun with no bows or other ornaments. The bun should be placed at the nape of the neck rather than the crown of the head, allowing headpieces to be positioned on the back of the head above the bun. Dancers with short hair should wear it secured out of the face.
- **Make-up requirements:** general stage make-up (see page 3)

Cavalier & Harlequin Dolls (Party Scene):

- **Base wear:** flesh-tone spaghetti strap, flesh-tone convertible tights, flesh-tone pointe or soft shoes as required for the role for female-identifying people.



2026 COSTUME & MAKE-UP REQUIREMENTS

- **Hair requirements:** Dancers with long enough hair should wear it in a LOW bun for Cavalier Doll and a HIGH bun for Harlequin Doll with no bows or other ornaments. Dancers with short hair should wear it secured out of the face.
- **Make-up requirements:** general stage make-up (see page 3)

Nightmares (Lead & Corps):

- **Base wear:** flesh-toned leotard, black footed tights, black jazz shoes.
- **Hair requirements:** Dancers with long enough hair should wear it in a LOW bun with no bows or other ornaments. Dancers with short hair should wear it secured out of the face.
- **Make-up requirements:** general stage make-up (see page 3)

Dolls (March of the Toys):

- **Base wear:** flesh-toned spaghetti strap or tank leotard, flesh-tone convertible tights, flesh-tone shoes.
- **Hair requirements:** Dancers with long enough hair should wear it in a LOW bun with no bows or other ornaments. Dancers with short hair should wear it secured out of the face.
- **Make-up requirements:** general stage make-up (see page 3)

Mouse General, Battle Mice (Big Battle):

- For rehearsals, dancers should wear their class uniforms and clean, non-skid **gym shoes that have not been worn outside** or ballet slippers for the Mice Corps.
- **Base wear:**
 - **Clothes (all dancers):** flesh-tone spaghetti strap or tank leotard, footed black tights.
 - **Shoes (Battle Mice):** Converse black high top sneakers. There are several style options of this shoe on the market; the Mice & Mouse General should purchase the version **in black with the plain white sole**.
- **Hair requirements:** Dancers with long enough hair should wear it in a LOW bun with bows or other ornaments. Dancers with short hair should wear it secured out of the face.
- **Make-up requirements:** general stage make-up (see page 3)



no

Battle Nutcracker, Battle Soldiers (Big Battle), Soldier Corps (March of the Toys):

- For rehearsals, dancers should wear their class uniforms and clean, non-skid **gym shoes that have not been worn outside**.
- **Base wear:**
 - **Clothes (female-identifying):** flesh-tone spaghetti strap or tank leotard, snug fitting bike shorts, white socks that cover the ankles (no visible logos).
 - **Clothes (male-identifying):** tight-fitting white t-shirt, snug-fitting bike shorts, white socks that cover the ankles (no visible logos).
 - **Shoes:** [Red/White Pumas](#) or [Campus 00S Adidas](#)





2026 COSTUME & MAKE-UP REQUIREMENTS

- **Hair requirements:** Dancers with long enough hair should wear it in a LOW bun with no bows or other ornaments. Dancers with short hair should wear it secured out of the face.
- **Make-up requirements:** general stage make-up (see page 3)

Gingerbread:

- **Base wear:** flesh-tone spaghetti strap or tank leotard, flesh-tone convertible tights, flesh-tone shoes.
- **Hair requirements:** Dancer's hair should be worn in two buns.
- **Make-up requirements:** general stage make-up (see page 3)

Polichinelles:

- **Base wear:** flesh-tone spaghetti strap or tank leotard, flesh-tone convertible tights, flesh-tone shoes.
- **Hair requirements:** Dancer's hair can be worn in pig tails or two buns.
- **Make-up requirements:** general stage make-up (see page 3)

Maafe from Guinea:

- **Base wear:** flesh-tone spaghetti strap leotard, flesh-tone convertible tights only if dancer has a quick change (we will supply bike shorts), barefeet.
- **Hair requirements:** Dancers with long enough hair should wear it in a HIGH or LOW ballet bun with no bows or other ornaments. Dancers with short hair should secure it away from the face.
- **Make-up requirements:** general stage make-up (see page 3)

Basbousa from Egypt Lead & Corps:

- **Base wear:** flesh-tone spaghetti strap leotard, flesh-tone convertible tights, flesh-tone shoes or barefeet.
- **Hair requirements:** Choreographer will specify hair requirements. Hair should be worn with no bows or other ornaments. Dancers with short hair should secure it away from the face.
- **Make-up requirements:** general stage make-up (see page 3)

Tangyuan from China:

- **Base wear:** flesh-tone spaghetti strap or tank leotard, flesh-tone convertible tights, flesh-tone shoes.
- **Hair requirements:** Choreographer will specify hair requirements. Hair should be worn with no bows or other ornaments. Dancers with short hair should secure it away from the face.
- **Make-up requirements:** general stage make-up (see page 3)

Marzipan from Sweden:

- **Base wear:** flesh-tone spaghetti strap or tank leotard, flesh-tone convertible tights, flesh-tone shoes.
- **Hair requirements:** Dancers with long enough hair should wear it in a LOW bun with no bows or other ornaments. Dancers with short hair should wear it secured out of the face.
- **Make-up requirements:** general stage make-up (see page 3)

Zefir from Russia:



2026 COSTUME & MAKE-UP REQUIREMENTS

- **Base wear:** flesh-tone spaghetti strap or tank leotard, flesh-tone convertible tights, flesh-tone shoes for female-identifying people; tight-fitting white t-shirt, black opaque boys dance tights, and black ballet shoes for male-identifying people.
- **Hair requirements:** Dancers with long enough hair should wear it in a LOW bun with no bows or other ornaments. Dancers with short hair should wear it secured out of the face.
- **Make-up requirements:** general stage make-up (see page 3)

Flowers & Snow Corps:

- **Base wear:** flesh-tone leotard, flesh-tone tights, and flesh-tone pointe shoes OR flesh-tone soft ballet shoes (as required for the role).
- **Hair requirements:** Dancers with long enough hair should wear it in a **low bun for Flowers and a mid-low bun for Snow (check with your rehearsal master)** with no bows or other ornaments. Dancers with short hair should wear it secured out of the face.
- **Make-up requirements:** general stage make-up (see page 3)

Soloists: Female-Identified (Sugar Plum, Dew Drop, Spanish, Marzipan, Snow Queen):

- **Base wear:** flesh-tone spaghetti strap or tank leotard, flesh-tone convertible tights, flesh-tone pointe or soft shoes as required for the role.
- **Hair requirements:** Dancers with long enough hair should wear it in a LOW or HIGH bun with no bows or other ornaments (**check with your rehearsal master/wardrobe**). Dancers with short hair should wear it secured out of the face.
- **Make-up requirements:** general stage make-up (see page 3)

Soloists: Male-Identified (Snow King/Nutcracker Prince):

- **Base wear:** tight-fitting white t-shirt, white opaque boys dance tights, and white ballet shoes.
- **Hair requirements:** Dancers with short hair should wear it secured out of the face.
- **Make-up requirements:** general stage make-up (see page 3)