

2026 Information Packet

Dancers ages 8-18 (as of Sep 1, 2026) from any studio or school are welcome to audition. Age 7 must be enrolled at LoMastro.

Audition Information

Open auditions for The Nutcracker will take place on September 26 at LoMastro Performing Arts Academy in Lake Forest. Rehearsals will be primarily on Fridays from October 2 -December 4 (no rehearsals Nov 23-29), and Dress Rehearsals December 6 and 10. Performances will take place at John and Nancy Hugh's Theater in Lake Forest on December 11-13. Over 100 children, ages 7 and up, will be selected to perform in our professionally produced production. Audition times will be grouped according to dancer age and ability level.



General Audition Information

Your child should audition with the appropriate group based on age, height and experience. Registration starts approximately 20 minutes before the audition. Pre-registration must be done in advance online, lomastro.com. The \$35 audition fee must be paid online to complete the dancer's pre-registration. Dancers should attend all audition groups that fit their age, experience, and height. Dancers ages 10+ should be prepared to stay until 4:30 PM on the day of the audition, if called back to do so. All dancers auditioning should be stretched and warm before auditioning. Dancers should attend ALL audition times for which they meet age and experience requirements.

Age as of Sep1, 2026	Requirement	Height	Audition	
Dancers ages 7-9	Currently enrolled in LoMastro level Ballet 2 or Elem B/T/J 2 or Upper Elem. B/T/J. Open to Mini Co. seeking an additional role.	Max height = 54"	Sep 26	Registration @ 1:10 PM Audition: 1:30-2:15 PM
Dancers ages 8-11	at least 2 years of ballet experience *LoMastro level Ballet 3+	No height restrictions	Sep 26	Registration @ 2:10 PM Audition: 2:30-3:15 PM
Dancers ages 10-13	at least 2 years of ballet experience *LoMastro level Ballet 5+	No height restrictions	Sep 26	Registration @ 3:10 PM Audition: 3:30-4:30 PM
Dancers ages 12-18	at least 3 years of ballet experience, please bring pointe shoes if on pointe. *LoMastro level Ballet 7+	No height restrictions	Sep 26	Registration @ 3:10 PM Audition: 3:30-4:30 PM
Professional Dancers and Actors, ages 18+	Professional dancers and actors	Min height = 5'2"	Sep 26	Auditioned by appointment. Contact us to schedule an audition.

Please email hello@lomastro.com or call 847-615-5400 with any questions.



Audition Location

LoMastro Performing Arts Academy
840 South Waukegan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Audition Details

Pre-registration online is required prior to the audition day. On the audition day, arrive promptly at the assigned registration time. All dancers need to bring a headshot or photo no larger than 4x6 and a signed Audition / Participation Contract with them on the day of the audition. Measurements will be taken of each dancer (bust, waist, hip, girth, height, etc) during the registration time, this is for costuming purposes. Dancers should be warm and stretched before the audition start time.

Audition Attire

Girls should wear a solid leotard, pink tights and ballet shoes. Hair should be in a neat bun. Boys auditioning for dance roles should wear dark tights, sweatpants or shorts, along with a white t-shirt and ballet shoes.

2026 Availability

Students must be available for rehearsals on Fridays from Oct 2 -Dec 4.
Select roles require additional availability, see the 2026 Rehearsals section below, rehearsals begin Sep 30.
Rehearsals will not be held Thanksgiving week: November 23-29, 2026.
Students must be available for Rehearsals on Dec 6 between 10am -4pm and Dec 10 between 4-8 PM.
Students must be available for Performances dates December 11-13, 2026.

2026 Rehearsals

All rehearsals are coordinated by LoMastro Performing Arts Academy faculty and professional guest artists. Most parts will be rehearsed on Fridays between 4:00-8:00 PM. Each role will be called for only a portion of the day each Friday. Those enrolled in a Friday class at LoMastro will be scheduled for Nutcracker rehearsal before or after their class. When casting is announced, rehearsal schedules will be set and distributed via email. Some roles will rehearse Wednesdays or Thursdays, please indicate your willingness to commit to these roles on the Audition / Participation Contract.

Production & Costuming Fees:

Every female participant (ages 7-18) involved in The Nutcracker, must pay a non-refundable production fee. There is no production fee charged for boys, adults character roles or hired professionals. Production Fees will be processed for individuals who are cast. If your child is not cast, you will not be charged a production fee. Participants must supply their own tights, shoes and undergarments. Nutcracker costumes are property of LoMastro and must be returned at the end of the last show. In the event a costume is lost or damaged, the family will be charged a replacement fee equal to the cost of the costume, plus \$50.

The fees are defined as follows:

\$439	Production Fee (covers rehearsals, production costs, costume rental, etc.)
\$58	Additional Costuming fee per additional role (this fee is added only beyond initial role). This fee is not due at the time of audition, but must be paid prior to the first rehearsal.
\$0	No Production Fee is charged for Party Boys, Adult Character Roles, or hired professionals.

Attendance

No more than 2 absences from rehearsal will be allowed. All conflicts must be written on the back of the Audition / Participation Contract. Absences may result in reduction of time on stage, or removal from the cast. No refunds will be given if a student is removed due to absences. Attendance on Dec 6, Dec 10-13 is MANDATORY, no absences are allowed on these dates. Please do not audition if your family isn't 100% committed to ensuring your daughter/son is able to fulfill the attendance requirements.

Casting

Every cast member is an integral part to the production. Please DO NOT audition if you are not prepared to accept the role that you have been cast for. All casting is final and not open for discussion. Casting will be emailed within one week of the Auditions.

What do I need to do to Audition?

Everyone must be pre-registered online prior to the audition day.

- 1) Visit lomastro.com and click on "Register Online"
- 2) Select "Enroll in a class"
- 3) Select "Nutcracker Audition 2026"
- 4) Enroll in ALL Audition groups appropriate for your child's age/height/experience.
- 5) Follow the prompts to complete your enrollment and pay the non-refundable \$35 audition fee.
- 6) Then, complete the Audition / Participation Contract and bring it with you on the audition day, along with a 4X6 headshot (doesn't need to be a professional photo). Be sure to arrive at the designated registration time.

The Role of Clara

For those auditioning for the role of Clara, please bring a short essay about your reasons for pursuing the role of Clara and why you feel you would be a good candidate for the role(s). This essay is due the day of the audition. Clara is in almost all scenes and onstage more than any other character. Therefore the dancer cast as Clara will need to be at most rehearsals for every scene. Dancers pursuing the role Clara must be at least 11 years old and must not have any pre-planned absences/conflicts.

NON-AUDITION ROLES

Male Children's Roles: Fritz and Fritz's Friends

We need boys between 8 and 12 years old, to play the roles of Fritz and Fritz's friends in The Nutcracker. No ballet needed. These are non-speaking character roles. Boys are costumed in knickers, shirt, and tie. Boys must supply their own black jazz shoes if cast. No fees charged for boys who are cast in this role. No audition necessary, contact us if interested in participating.

Volunteer Opportunities

We need adult volunteers to help ensure our productions success! Please email us at hello@lomastro.com or call 847-615-5400, if your willing to volunteer for any of the following. Thank you in advance!

Seamstress Helper – Costume Committee

- Costume fittings
- Costume distribution and collection

Advertising Committee

- Write press releases to area publications (physical and online) highlighting cast members from each community.
- Post Performance Posters around the community

Admissions and Ushers

- Checking tickets
- Handing out programs
- Ushering patrons to seats before and during shows

Back stage Room Parents / Security

- Refresh make-up
- Keep dancers quiet and occupied
- Get dancers in costumes and ready
- Running dancers to and from “holding room” and back
- Chaperoning 1st act dancers, once in house after intermission (only if there are enough unsold seats)

Merchandise Table

- Set up
- Sales: before, during intermission, and after show
- Restock
- Cashier – collection of receipts
- Collection, inventory and packing of stock and pack after last show.

Clean Up Crew

- Make sure all dressing rooms are clean, costumes are back to wardrobe for transport
- Packing up of props and supplies

Transport Crew

- Help load costumes and props in the truck and transport between LoMastro and the theatre.

Cast Pizza Party - Tuesday, December 15 at LoMastro

- Planning the event
- Decorating room – set up
- Picture taking

Pre-registration
must be done in
advance online,
lomastro.com



Audition / Participation Contract

Please complete and return to LoMastro on or before September 26 along with a 4X6 Photo/Headshot.

STUDENT'S NAME

DATE OF BIRTH (M/D/Y)

SCHOOL / GRADE 26-27

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE

DANCER EMAIL

HOME PHONE #

PARENT CELL PHONE #

PARENT'S NAMES

PARENT EMAIL

Are you committed to being cast in more than one role? This will increase the rehearsal time ☐ YES ☐ NO
commitment and incur an additional \$58 costume fee per additional role.

Are you available to be cast in a role which requires rehearsal in addition to Fridays (indicate below)?

Please indicate your willingness to commit to the following weekly rehearsal days/times.

Beginning Sep 30, I am available on Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 PM, in addition to Fridays. ☐ YES ☐ NO

Beginning Sep 30, I am available on Wednesdays 7:30-8:30 PM, in addition to Fridays. ☐ YES ☐ NO

Beginning Oct 1, I am available on Thursdays 8:30-9:30 PM, in addition to Fridays. ☐ YES ☐ NO

Parent/Guardian Commitment and Waiver

I/We, on our own behalf and as Guardian of _____ [insert name of student], hereby release LoMastro Performing Arts Academy, Inc., its Agents, affiliates, assigns and employees from any and all actions, causes, causes of action, suits, damages, claims and liability whatsoever, at law or in equity which I/We may have with respect to personal injury, illness, or property damage or any other damage that may be incurred, occurring on or off the school's premises. I certify that I am in good health and capable of participating in all school activities and classes, I have consulted a physician to determine the risks if any in participating in said activities and accept said risks freely and voluntarily. I hereby give permission to LoMastro Performing Arts Academy to take photographs and video for promotional uses for the school and waive all right, title or claim to said photographs/video as well as any claims that may arise out of the use of said photographs/video.

Please initial each of the following:

_____ I have read and understand the time commitment, financial commitment and requirements as outlined in the 2026 Nutcracker: Information Packet.

_____ If my child is cast in the Nutcracker, I understand that my payment method on file will automatically be charged a \$439 production fee. The Production Fee covers rehearsals, production costs, costume rental, etc.

_____ I understand that my child is allowed no more than 2 absences, and exceeding 2 absences will result in reduction of stage time and/or removal from the production. Attendance on Dec 6 and December 10-13 is mandatory.

_____ I understand that participants must supply their own tights, shoes and undergarments.

_____ I understand that Nutcracker costumes are property of LoMastro and must be returned at the end of the last show. In the event a costume is lost or damaged, I will be charged a replacement fee equal to the cost of the costume, plus \$50.

_____ I understand that if my child is cast in two or more roles, I will be responsible to pay a \$58 Additional Costuming fee for each additional role. This fee must be paid by check and prior to the first rehearsal.

_____ My child is 100% committed to participating in The Nutcracker if selected. I am fully committed to supporting my child's commitment for the duration of the 2026 Nutcracker rehearsals and performances.

_____ I understand that all tuition and fees are non-refundable.

Parents/Guardian Signature

Date

*All known absences
and/or conflicts must
be written on the back
of this contract.