

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

MANKATO BALLET COMPANY

ELEVATING EXCELLENCE



STUDIO REMINDERS

AUGUST 7TH: LAST DAY TO ORDER DRESS CODE AND GURANTEE IT WILL BE READY ON REG WEEK

AUGUST 29TH: LAST DAY TO APPLY 10% TUITION DISCOUNT OR SUBMIT NUTCRACKER AGREEMENT

AUGUST 31ST: REGISTRATION WEEK OPENS AT NEW STUDIO

SEPTEMBER 14TH: FIRST DAY OF FALL CLASSES

Registration Week

We have moved the ENTIRE registration process online this year.

Registration Week is now the week of August 31st to allow us to completely move into the new studio space.

Please do the following to get registered:

- Register for Fall Classes
- Notify us if you want to Pay in Full
- Sign up for a Reg Week Shirt
- Place your Dress Code order
- Sign up for *The Nutcracker* (1A & higher)

In order to ensure you are able to pick up your items the week of August 31st please have all attire orders in by August 7th. Orders are still accepted after the 7th and most items will be in stock.

Be a Board Member

Mankato Ballet Company is accepting applications for new board members. This is a wonderful way to be involved in our organization and we welcome anyone interested to apply. We encourage community members and outside individuals as well, so if you know someone who might be a good fit who is looking for a non-profit volunteer opportunity please share this with them!

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about the MBC Board and to download the interest form



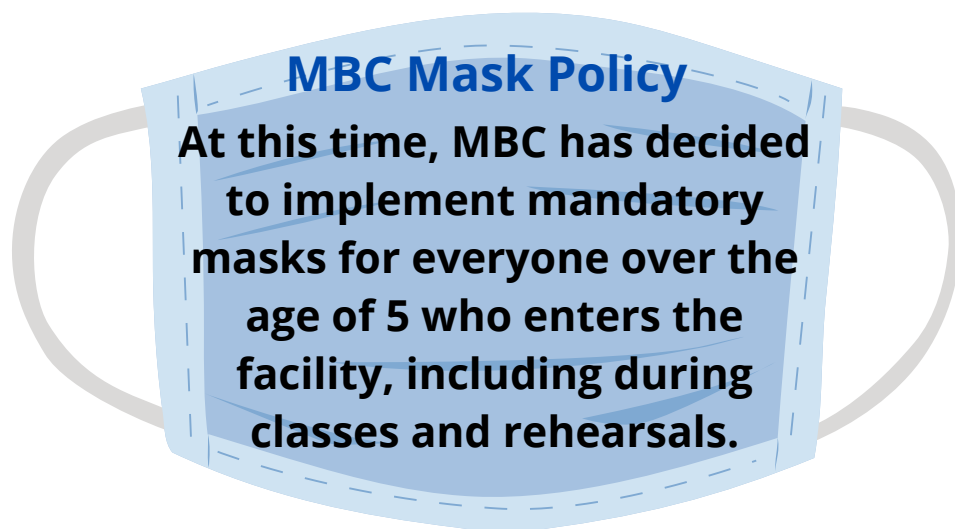
Be Part of... The Nutcracker

Dancers may begin submitting their Performance Agreements electronically. We will ONLY accept electronic versions of the agreement and the deadline is August 29th.

[CLICK HERE](#) to go to the form.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Dancers MUST be entering Ballet 1A+ this fall
- Dancers MUST be enrolled as a full-time BALLET student and meet all level requirements
- Dancers MUST be available for scheduled rehearsals, which will be masked
- Dancers MUST be available for scheduled performances and understand that performances will be unmasked. Choreography modifications are being made for social distancing.



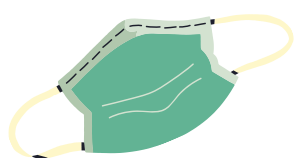
UPDATED

COVID-19 PROCEDURES FOR FALL

After researching best practices at other studios, listening to the survey feedback from families, and a great desire to start this year strongly and safely we have modified our COVID-19 plan slightly:

- Masks are now to be worn by everyone entering the studio over the age of 5 years old
- Dancers will be asked to leave them on for class and rehearsal
- Dancers with medical issues that exempt them from masks are allowed to go without

Please know that as things change we will modify and update these restrictions when and where possible. We feel strongly that requiring masks initially will benefit everyone and allow us to get a good start on the year while they learn our new procedures and protocols.





DANCER SPOTLIGHT

MARIA TALLCHIEF

Elizabeth Marie Tallchief was considered America's first major prima ballerina. She was the first Native American to hold the rank, and is said to have revolutionized ballet.

Tallchief was involved in dance, starting formal lessons at age three. When she was eight, her family relocated from her birth home of Fairfax, Oklahoma, to Los Angeles, California, to advance the careers of her and her younger sister, Marjorie.

At age 17, she moved to New York City in search of a spot with a major ballet company, and, at the urging of her superiors, took the name Maria Tallchief. She spent the next five years with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, where she met legendary choreographer George Balanchine. When Balanchine co-founded what would become the New York City Ballet in 1946, Tallchief became the company's first star.

The combination of Balanchine's difficult choreography and Tallchief's passionate dancing revolutionized the ballet. Her 1949 role in *The Firebird* catapulted Tallchief to the top of the ballet world, establishing her as a prima ballerina. Her role as the Sugarplum Fairy in *The Nutcracker* transformed the ballet from obscure to America's most popular.

She traveled the world, becoming the first American to perform in Moscow's Bolshoi Theater. She made regular appearances on American TV before she retired in 1966. Tallchief was honored by the people of Oklahoma with multiple statues and an honorific day. She was inducted in the National Women's Hall of Fame and received a National Medal of Arts. In 1996, Tallchief received a Kennedy Center Honor for lifetime achievements.