

Festival Ballet of North Central Texas – The Nutcracker

Guidelines for Costumes & Hair

COSTUME CARE

- ✓ We ask that you avoid drinking or eating in your costumes. We want all performers to look their best and a spill or stain cannot always be removed or repaired.
- ✓ The construction of your costume is designed to withstand the rigors of performance not every day wear and tear. For this reason, we ask performers to avoid sitting in costumes. By taking care of your costume, it will be available for a long time for many future cast members to enjoy.
- ✓ All dancers want to practice being good stewards by keeping all parts of their costumes together. Try not to leave shoes, bows, boots, sashes, hats, ribbons, etc. laying in chairs, on the floor, or in an undesignated area. All items should be placed back on the original labeled hanger. Misplacing part of your costume creates havoc for everyone, and we want to have fun, not tears!
- ✓ Costumes belong only at the studio or theater. All costumes are inventoried with names, casts, and repair needs. We want to make sure that our dancers are not stressed due to missing or unrepaired costumes.
- ✓ We understand that everyone has preferences on how they dress, but we request that nothing be removed or added to costumes. While you may favor a certain color of dress where there are options, the Costume Coordinator will make final decisions based on body fit, lengths, etc.
- ✓ If you encounter any costume problems, please communicate with the Costume Coordinator as soon as possible.

HAIR

Hairpieces – To avoid costume malfunctions, we avoid using hairpieces. If you require an exception or have concerns, please direct these to the Production Coordinator.

Ringlets – Curls should be tight, smaller curls. Multiple methods are available to achieve curls (sponge rollers, curling iron, curlformers, plus many more). You will need to purchase heavy holding product like gel, hairspray, mousse, etc. to hold curls. No one method and product work for every hair type, so be sure practice ahead of time. Be sure to give yourself plenty of time. Invest in a satin cap to save yourself time, especially for tech week if you have multiple rehearsals. See the Look Book at the DBA desk for some ideas for methods and products.

Half Up/Half Down – Pull half of the hair into a ponytail (use a hair elastic the same color as hair or clear) leaving the rest to fall around the neck and shoulders. Depending on the role, the placement of the ponytail may need to sit higher or lower on the head to secure the headpiece properly. During costume fittings is the best time to get direction from the Costume Coordinator. Curl hair once your ponytail is secure. No bangs.

Ringlets Full Head- Curl complete head and leave curls loose over entire head. No part.

Ringlets High Pigtails – Create a center part and separate hair onto each side. Secure each side in a high ponytail (use a hair elastic the same color as hair or clear). Curl hair once you have both pigtails secure. No bangs.

Bun – Create a standard ballet bun (take into consideration any headpiece for bun location). Use a hairnet the color of your hair or one shade darker. Secure firmly with bobby pins. No wisps or bangs.