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FOR MORE INFORMATION AND PHOTOS CONTACT:

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Ballet Rhode Island Announces Open Auditions for Children's Cast of *The Nutcracker*

**Auditions will be held September 19 and 26
for New England dancers ages 7-18**

**The beloved annual production runs December 19-28
at Veterans Memorial Auditorium**

September 10, 2026 (Providence, RI) – Ballet Rhode Island (Ballet RI) will hold open auditions for the children's cast of its annual production of *The Nutcracker* on **Saturday, September 19** and **Saturday, September 27** at 825 Hope Street in Providence, RI. The auditions are open to all young dancers ages 7-18 across New England. Selected dancers will rehearse weekly throughout the fall, leading up to performances December 19-28 at Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

Ballet RI's beloved annual production of *The Nutcracker* brings together world-class artists from the professional company with a talented cast of local youth, delighting thousands of audience members. Under the guidance of Artistic Executive Director Kathleen Breen Combes and Ballet RI Artistic Curator and Resident Choreographer Yury Yanowsky, children perform the iconic roles of Clara, Fritz, party children, mice, soldiers, angels, snow fairies and polichinelles. All roles require a minimum of two years of dance and/or acro experience.

"Each year, we are thrilled to open our doors to young dancers across the region to be part of this magical production," Breen Combes said. "Having the opportunity to watch and learn from our professional dancers while also making friends with other cast members their age is so affirming. These young performers make memories with us that last a lifetime."

Audition Details

Saturday, September 19

12:30-2:00pm: Ages 11 and older with two or more years of dance and/or acro

experience

3:00pm – 4:30pm: Ages 7-10

Saturday, September 26

1:00-3:30pm: Ages 13-18 with four or more years of dance experience; callbacks

3:30-4:30pm: Clara/Fritz callbacks

Location: Ballet RI 825 Hope Street Providence, RI 02906

Requirements: Dancers must complete an online application by the Wednesday before their audition. There is an audition fee of \$25. Please bring a 4×6 headshot.

Eligibility: Dancers of all experience levels are welcome. Students do not need to be enrolled at the School of Ballet RI to participate.

To learn more, and to complete the online application form, visit

balletri.org/nutcrackerauditions/

Audition-related questions can be directed to Rebecca Rosenberg, Children's Cast Coordinator, at rebecca@balletri.org.

ABOUT BALLET RHODE ISLAND

Ballet Rhode Island is Rhode Island's premier professional ballet company, captivating local, regional, and national audiences with a diverse repertoire of classical, neo-classical, and contemporary ballet. The company's mission to reimagine classical ballet as a modern, inclusive art form that reflects the rich diversity of Rhode Island's communities, is achieved through its public performance series, community engagement programs, and the School of Ballet Rhode Island.

Founded in 1978 by Christine Hennessy and Winthrop Corey, Ballet Rhode Island has undergone a remarkable transformation defined by growth, innovation, and a renewed commitment to artistic excellence and community engagement. Under the direction of former Boston Ballet Principal Dancer Kathleen Breen Combes since 2019, Ballet Rhode Island has deepened its commitment to presenting a wide-ranging repertoire, balancing groundbreaking contemporary works with timeless classical masterworks, and has prioritized accessibility, diversity, and education in meaningful new ways. With performances now staged across the region, and as the resident dance company at the United Theater in Westerly, Rhode Island, the Ballet has firmly established itself as a leading cultural force in Southern New England.

As the organization approaches its fiftieth anniversary in 2028, Ballet RI is pursuing an ambitious vision for its future: to become a nationally recognized creative force in

dance, rooted in Rhode Island and helping shape what ballet can become for the next generation.

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