



MAINE STATE BALLET

Backstage
at The
Nutcracker

MERRILL
AUDITORIUM

Tuesday, December 3, 2019
10:00am





MAINE STATE BALLET

Dear Educator,

As the Artistic Director of Maine State Ballet, I would like to personally invite your students to Maine State Ballet's annual "Backstage at *The Nutcracker*." We have been offering this educational dance performance at the historic Merrill Auditorium in the heart of Portland's arts district for over 40 years. Thousands of students have enjoyed the magic of *The Nutcracker* with its beautiful costumes, scenery, dancing dolls, falling snow and giant mice.

We explain all the behind the scenes "secrets" to making a ballet along with the many careers that are associated with a production of this type. Our program satisfies many of the guidelines set forth in Maine's visual and performing arts standards.

I understand that budgets are tight but I hope you will consider a field trip to Maine State Ballet as you make plans for your next school outing. We offer an exciting and entertaining enrichment experience for your students.

We would love to meet your students and give them a peek into the classical world of music, art and dance.

Sincerely,

Linda Miele
Artistic Director

**Join us at the Maine State Ballet
for the 2020 season!**

**Tap, Tap,
Jazz**

January 18-25

**Beauty
and the
BEAST**

March 20-April 5

Coppélia

**July 30-
August 8**

348 U.S. Route One, Falmouth, Maine 04105
mainstateballet.org • 207-781-7672



Experience Backstage at *The Nutcracker* at Merrill Auditorium

Maine State Ballet backstage performances allow school students to get a sneak preview of Maine State Ballet's full length ballet productions at Merrill Auditorium. The program provides education on the silent "language" of classical ballet and takes you and your class on a magical tour of the creation of a ballet production behind the scenes, from costumes to choreography, sets to scenery.

The show is suitable for students of all ages and most enjoyed by students in grades K-5.

Our performances will include:

- Excerpts from *The Nutcracker* including dancing dolls, giant mice, dancing snowflakes, and a magical Christmas tree that grows before your eyes!
- Demonstration and explanation of our beautiful costume and set design.
- Discussion of the "hidden secrets" that help create the magic you see from the audience, including answers to these questions:
How does the Christmas tree grow?
How do they make it snow on stage?

Enhancing Students' Arts Education as Outlined in Maine's Visual and Performing Arts Standards

With Backstage at *The Nutcracker* experience, students will:

- Recognize purposes for art including telling a story and communicating emotion.
- Observe, listen to, describe, and ask questions about dance as an art form.
- Identify the activities and careers of a performing artist.
- Identify various roles of, and requirements to become artists.

What people are saying:

"My class loved Backstage at The Nutcracker. They really enjoyed the show and learned so much about the different jobs that go into making this kind of production."

—Kindergarten teacher

"My favorite was the Mice."

—2nd grade student

"It was cool to see how the tree grew so huge."

—3rd grade student

"The best field trip we take. We go every year."

—2nd grade teacher





Backstage at *The Nutcracker* Performance

The performance lasts approximately one hour. There is reserved parking for buses.

Inclement Weather

Maine State Ballet does not cancel performances due to inclement weather. If your school is cancelled, please contact Maine State Ballet.

Handicapped Accessibility

Merrill Auditorium is handicapped accessible. Please be sure to specify any special needs your group may have.

One Show Only!

Reserve your seats now!

\$7.00 per seat* Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 10:00am at Merrill Auditorium.

Group sales only; must be a minimum of 15 tickets to order. Payment, in full, is due on Tuesday, November 19 (2 weeks prior to the performances) to hold your reservation.

How to Register

To reserve seats for you and your students, submit a registration form available on our website at mainestateballet.org/backstage2019.

More Information

For questions, contact Fred Bernier at fred@mainestateballet.org.

**For every 10 seats you purchase, you receive one seat free.*



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