



Artistic Director Barbara Mullen established the New England Dance Ensemble in 1986. It is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. NEDE's mission is to combine the talents of local pre-professional dancers, with currently performing professionals from National and International Companies. Membership is open to all performers in the New England area. Our members will have the opportunity to perform traditional classical ballet repertoire and contemporary choreography. They will become knowledgeable of composers, choreographers, costuming and stage make-up. The NEDE Company welcomes dancers who want to specifically focus on the various aspects of the professional performing experience.

Our season will include "The Nutcracker" "A Child's View of the Holocaust" and "The Lorax."

AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held on *Sunday September 13th*, for "**The Nutcracker.**" Video submission auditions are also available for those unable to attend in person. Please email us directly to receive audition material and filming instructions. Virtual auditions are to be submitted by Friday, September 11th, apart from unexpected illness the day of audition.

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals will take place each weekend in September, October & November. Rehearsals meet once per weekend per role. On Saturday November 21st and Sunday November 22nd there will be full company rehearsals. There will be an onstage dress rehearsal on Friday, November 27th. Rehearsal schedules will be distributed after casting is announced. Performances of The Nutcracker will be presented on Saturday November 28th and Sunday November 29th, 2026. Auditions are open to all dancers ages 5-18. Apprenticeships are available for dancers ages 18+. Performers interested in joining NEDE as an apprentice are to contact us by email. Adult character roles in the party scene are also available. Email us for more information.

CASTING

Casting at the discretion of artistic director, Barbara Mullen. Studio affiliation does not play a role in casting. There is a \$25.00 audition fee for all performers. Please do not audition unless you are seriously planning on accepting the role you are offered. Performers will be emailed the cast list approximately four days after the audition. Acceptance of your role is necessary. There will be an all company meeting on Sunday, September 20th at 5PM.

MEMBERSHIP

Those accepted into the 2026/2027 company must meet each of the following requirements to maintain membership:

- Senior members are to be enrolled in two regularly attended ballet classes.
 - *Junior and Pre- Junior members are to be enrolled in one regularly attended ballet class.
- Company members do not need to be students at Londonderry Dance Academy
- Members must attend all scheduled rehearsal throughout the season. Unexcused absences will not be accepted
 - Members are responsible for knowing all rehearsal and performance schedules, and to come

prepared to each rehearsal. Students are to be warmed up, and to bring water and a notebook to each rehearsal.

- Members are always to set a good example to other NEDE members, families, and guests.
- Parent or Guardian must be committed to attend all Company meetings from beginning to end, and to adhere to volunteer requirements. As a non-profit we rely on our parent volunteers
- All members are required to pay annual membership fees no later than September 30th.

Those accepted into the company for the 2026/2027 season will be given a contract at the first company meeting. All contracts are to be signed by NEDE Company members and their parents, and returned to NEDE no later than September 30th.

These contracts explain the commitment and behavior expected for participation in the company. Company members must adhere to these criteria in order to retain membership. Failure to maintain one or more of the standards set forth will be cause for a variety of sanctions ranging from casting delegation to dismissal from the Company.

VOLUNTEERING

NEDE relies heavily on the willingness of the parents to assist in presenting a professional, well organized and polished production. Therefore, we ask that all families volunteer ten hours per performer for The Nutcracker season. In the event you cannot donate time, then we require parents to provide NEDE with a \$200.00 Volunteer Opt-Out Fee. Volunteer positions and opportunities are flexible and inclusive. They will be discussed at the company meeting.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Those accepted to perform as a member of the NEDE Company, are required to pay an annual membership fee. NEDE is a non- profit organization

Membership fee includes:

*The rental of all costumes

*Nutcracker Performance Tights

*One pair of Nutcracker Performance Shoes (not including pointe shoes)

*2026/2027 Company t-shirt

*All rehearsal costs, Costume and Performance Fees for all performances in the season Including “The Nutcracker” “A Child’s View of the Holocaust” and “The Lorax.”

Pre-Junior Member (ages 8 and under) \$195.00

Junior Member (ages 9-12) \$235.00

Senior Member (ages 13 +) \$260.00