



BALLET ARKANSAS
BEAUTY IN ACTION

Romeo & Juliet

Community Cast Audition & Information Packet

Audition Information

Ballet Arkansas is thrilled to invite students from Northwest Arkansas, as well as the Fort Smith and Alma areas, to audition for roles in Ballet Arkansas's community cast production of *Romeo & Juliet*, taking the stage at the Skokos Performing Arts Center in Alma, February 22-23, 2025! This is a unique opportunity to perform alongside our professional company in a classic ballet filled with drama, beauty, and unforgettable storytelling. Whether you are an experienced dancer or passionate about performing, we welcome you to audition to be part of this iconic production. Auditions are open to students ages 9+ of all skill levels. Auditions do not guarantee acceptance into the cast.

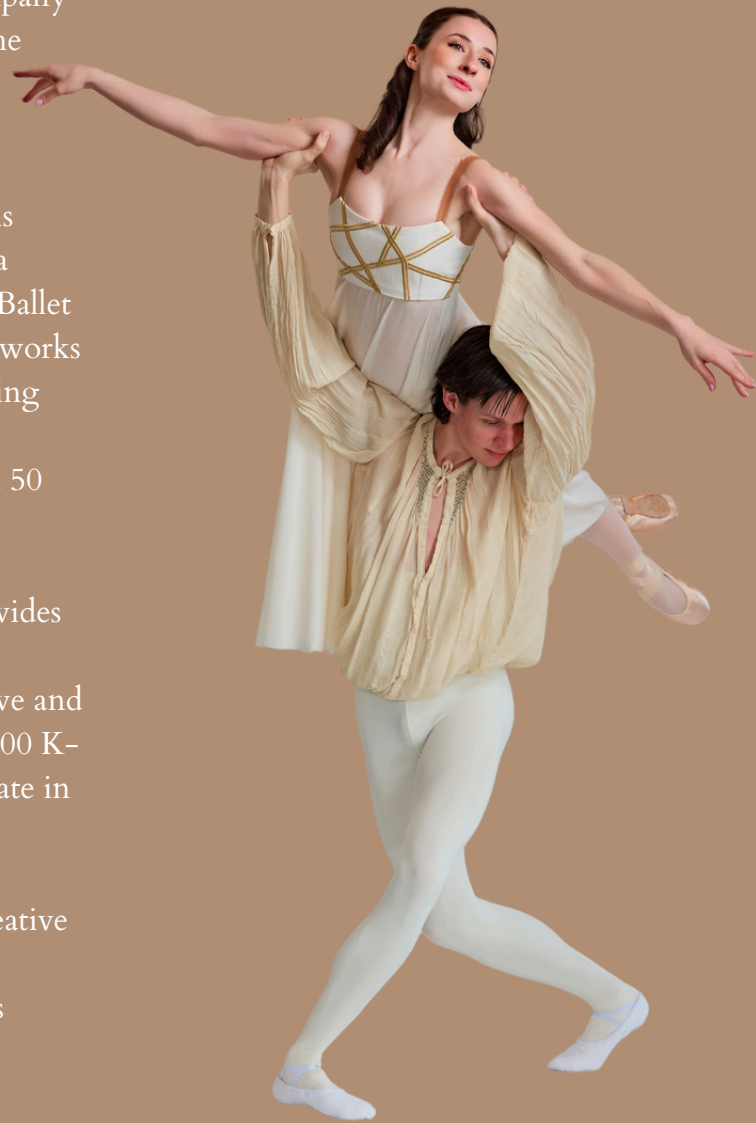
About Ballet Arkansas

Ballet Arkansas's roots can be traced to the Little Rock Civic Ballet, founded in 1966 by Lorraine and Donald C. Cranford. The organization was incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation in 1978 and over the course of its 46-year history, its programming has touched the lives of nearly Half-a-million Arkansans. Ballet Arkansas is the only professional ballet company in Little Rock and is the state's official ballet company SM, serving northwest, central, and southern portions of the state.

Under the visionary leadership of Michael and Catherine Fothergill, today Ballet Arkansas's company of 16 dancers is ranked among the Largest 75 Ballet Companies in America (based on revenue) by the Dance Data Project. Each year, Ballet Arkansas presents a vibrant repertory of the classics, masterworks of American dance, and premieres by the world's most daring dance makers to an audience of nearly 50,000. The organization's broadcast reach includes patrons in all 50 states and 24 countries.

A statewide leader in dance education, Ballet Arkansas provides hundreds of children and adults of all backgrounds with exceptional training from a distinguished staff. Its interactive and educational K-12 outreach programs reach more than 10,000 K-12 students each year, and more than 300 children participate in its annual Community Cast productions.

Ballet Arkansas is a founding member of Little Rock's "Creative Corridor" in the heart of downtown. The company's headquarters are located across the street from the Arkansas Repertory Theater at 520 Main St.



Audition Details

ROMEO & JULIET AUDITIONS

Location: Western Arkansas Ballet

4701 Grand Ave, Fort Smith, AR 72904

Registration opens December 20th and closes January 3rd.

Sunday, January 5, 2024

Ages 9-18: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm | Sign In: 12:45 pm

Community Cast Rehearsals | January 19 – February 21, 2025

Rehearsals will be held on Sundays between the hours of 1:00–5:00 pm, at Western Arkansas Ballet. Though casting is not determined until the completion of the audition process, you'll have the chance to report anticipated schedule conflicts to Ballet Arkansas after you register for the audition. We'll try our best to work with your schedule. but cannot guarantee accommodation in all instances. All cast members will be required to commit to Ballet Arkansas's attendance policies.

Performances | February 22 and 23, 2025 @ Skokos Performing Arts Center

February 22 – 7:30 pm

February 23 – 2:00 pm

Important Dates

IN STUDIO REHEARSALS (SUNDAY)

Sunday, January 19 – Sunday, February 16

*The first and last weekend of rehearsals is mandatory. See attendance policies later in this packet.

SKOKOS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER REHEARSALS

Friday, February 21 – Saturday, February 22

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 2:00 pm

MANDATORY COSTUME FITTINGS

Mandatory Costume Fittings TBD

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL REHEARSAL & PRODUCTION SCHEDULE](#)

Please check all tabs for the full rehearsal schedule, overview, and costume requirements.

Audition Requirements

- Audition registration forms and fees are due by January 3rd. After these times, registration will not be permitted.
- Audition registration fees are \$30 per audition, not including online payment processing fees.
- All cast members who receive/accept a role will be required to pay a \$100 non-refundable production and costume fee and will be required to commit to all community cast policies, due February 1.
- Participants auditioning for Romeo & Juliet must be 9 years old by January 1, 2025.
- Participants should attend the assigned audition class for their age group – their age on the date of the audition.

Ballet Arkansas highly recommends that participants who audition for community cast performance opportunities are enrolled in dance classes during the year. Ballet Arkansas recommends the minimum dance training for each age group:

Participants age 9 | 2-3 years

Participants ages 10-12 | 3-4 years

Participants ages 13-18 | 4-5 years

DRESS CODE

- Female Participants: Black leotard, full-length pink tights with pink ballet shoes or full length flesh-tone tights with flesh tone ballet shoes. Tights must be worn inside the ballet slipper and drawstrings shall be tucked into the shoes. Hair must be secured neatly in a bun.
 - Participants en pointe for 1+ years, should bring pointe shoes to the audition. Pointe work is not required and will not be requested for participants ages 10 and younger.
- Male Participants: White or black fitted t-shirt, white ballet shoes with white socks or black ballet shoes, and black tights or dance shorts. Hair should be neat and out of the face and eyes. Long hair shall be secured neatly in a ponytail.

AUDITION PROCESS

The audition process is completed by a highly-skilled team. Participants are encouraged to approach the audition process with an open mind and free from expectations of specific outcomes. The staff will make every effort to make each participant's audition process enjoyable and stress-free.

Community Cast acceptance and casting is based upon the following variables:

- The artistic and technical performance of each participant within their assigned audition class
- The number of costumes of varying sizes for use within the production
- Participant's age and level of maturity
- Participant's years of training, for the consideration of safe practices
- Participant's availability for assigned rehearsals, mandatory fittings, and performances
- Participant's ability to follow instructions and advance beyond the check-in point to enter their assigned audition studio – unaccompanied by a parent/guardian.

****Audition participation does not guarantee any participant's acceptance to the cast.**

Casting

Ballet Arkansas devotes much time to the casting process. Casting is based on each dancer's performance within their assigned audition/s and takes the following into consideration:

- The development and range of cast member's abilities
- Memory recall and the mastery of new material
- Confidence level and maturity
- Quantity and sizes of costumes available
- Reported schedule conflicts
- Reported injuries

Ballet Arkansas makes every effort to accommodate cast member conflicts. Upon its release, casting is final and Ballet Arkansas will not honor requests for casting changes. Every role is vital to the production and has much importance to the story.

Ballet Arkansas reserves the right to alter its casting or remove cast members from the production at any time, as a result of the following:

- Persistent tardiness or absence
- Absence from mandatory activities
- Inability to master rehearsal material
- Violation of health and safety policies or code of conduct
- In response to injury or illness

Community Cast Roles By Act

*Roles Subject to Change

Escalus Attendant

Juliet's Attendant

Juliet's Friends

Courtiers at the Ball

Villagers in the 1st & 2nd Market

Communication & Conduct

CONTACTING BALLET ARKANSAS

Romeo & Juliet is but one of many programs and performances that Ballet Arkansas produces each season. Communication is important to our team and we will do our best to promptly respond to inquiries. Please refer all requests for information to education@balletarkansas.org or (501) 223-5150. If we are unable to take your call, please leave a detailed message and a member of our team will return your call at our earliest convenience.

RECEIPT OF INFORMATION

Ballet Arkansas will send important information from education@balletarkansas.org to the email address listed on each cast member's audition registration form. Please check this email account frequently. Please notify us if you are not receiving emails from Ballet Arkansas and check your spam filters.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Participation in Ballet Arkansas productions should be a positive experience for all involved. Persons engaged in activities contrary to the code of conduct below shall be promptly dismissed from the cast. Criminal behavior will be referred to law enforcement.

- Be considerate, respectful, and collaborative
- Seek amicable solutions to conflict
- Refrain from demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behavior and speech
- Respect the belongings and personal space of others
- Abstain from bullying and threats of violence
- Refrain from the use of defamatory language
- Do not disseminate unverified information to third parties
- Do not speak on behalf of the organization, its employees, sponsors, or affiliates
- Do not carry firearms within rehearsal or performance
- Refrain from the use of alcohol and controlled substances while engaged in activities with Ballet Arkansas



Cast Member Next Steps

- Refer to FAQ's [HERE](#) for more information.
- Review the information in this packet carefully, including rehearsal schedules and absence policies. Cast members must be present at all assigned public performances, mandatory rehearsals, and costume fittings. If you are unable to make this commitment, the production may not fit into your schedule this time around.
- Non-mandatory anticipated schedule conflicts must be disclosed in advance of accepting casting at (). Mandatory conflicts must be emailed to education@balletarkansas.org in advance of casting acceptance. In order to preserve the integrity of the production, we cannot guarantee accommodation, and conflicts of significance may preclude acceptance to the cast. Please carefully review the absence policy before completing this form.
- Dancers who would like to join the cast must accept their casting by January 15, 2025. Roles unfilled at this time will be re-cast.
- Dancers who wish to decline their role, please email education@balletarkansas.org by January 15, 2025.
- The \$100 production fee is due in full by February 1, 2025. Cast Members who accept their role and join the cast are responsible for paying this fee regardless of injury, illness or withdrawal after the acceptance deadline, as Ballet Arkansas prepares for the production based on this information.
- Prior to reaching out to Ballet Arkansas with questions, please review this packet and the FAQs in their entirety.
- Support the costume and programming needs of Romeo & Juliet and future Community Cast Productions by making a donation at www.balletarkansas.org/donate.

Dress Code

The dress code is in effect for all rehearsals and warm-ups should be removed prior to the start of rehearsal. Footlights Dance Store, the official shoe sponsor of Ballet Arkansas, is available to assist with all of your dancewear needs. Contact Footlights at footlights05@gmail.com or (501) 227-5446.

FEMALE PARTICIPANTS

- Solid Black leotard, full-length pink tights with pink ballet shoes or full length flesh-toned tights with flesh-toned ballet shoes. Tights must be worn with tights inside the ballet slipper and drawstrings should be tucked into the shoes. The color of the tights should match the color of the ballet shoe. Hair must be secured neatly in a bun or similar style, with hairspray and bobby pins. No pony-tails.

MALE PARTICIPANTS

- White or black fitted t-shirt, white ballet shoes with white socks or black ballet shoes, and black tights or dance shorts. Hair should be neat and out of the face and eyes. Long hair shall be secured neatly in a ponytail.

PROHIBITED ATTIRE

- Leotards with attached skirts or sheer panels
- Visible undergarments (flesh-tone or clear straps from leotards/camisole bras are permitted)
- Jewelry other than stud earrings

Attendance

Community cast rehearsals for Romeo & Juliet take place over a five week rehearsal period. Dancers will be asked to learn a significant amount of material in a short amount of time. For this reason, regular attendance at scheduled rehearsals is vital to ensure cast members are prepared for performance.

ABSENCE POLICY

Cast members must be in attendance for the full duration of the rehearsal period to be considered "present." **Each cast member is permitted ONE non-mandatory rehearsal absence.** Please reserve this absence for unexpected illness/injury or emergency. Dancers who miss one rehearsal will be required to make up the rehearsal with a 30 minute private lesson prior to the next lesson in order to maintain their role. A private lesson fee of \$50 will be applied in this instance. Cast members who miss more than one non-mandatory rehearsal, miss a mandatory activity, struggle to retain rehearsal material, or do not provide advance notice for anticipated absences will be placed on probation. Ballet Arkansas reserves the right to alter or remove cast members from the production at any time to ensure the cast is prepared to meet the demands of the production.

ADVANCED NOTICE

Cast members are required to provide Ballet Arkansas with 48 hours advance notice of an anticipated absence or early departure from rehearsal by reporting the absence in the parent portal. In the instance of sudden illness or emergency, please email Ballet Arkansas at education@balletarkansas.org or call (501)-223-5150 as soon as possible. To ensure cast member safety, written consent from a parent or guardian shall be required for the early release of underage cast members.

Mandatory Activities

MANDATORY FITTINGS

All cast members must be present for mandatory costume fittings. Mandatory fittings are the only instance when costume staff is able to view cast members side by side to determine needed sizes, alterations, and shared costumes.

MANDATORY REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

Mandatory rehearsals ensure each cast member has a firm grasp of their assigned material and a thorough understanding of Theater facilities and policies for crew and backstage areas. Absence from mandatory rehearsals impairs our staff's ability to present a polished production, and may pose risks to the cast. Cast Members must be available for all assigned performances.

MANDATORY ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

- Cast member's first assigned rehearsal. This rehearsal determines each cast member's placement on stage.
- Rehearsals at the Theater. Production week rehearsals introduce cast members to backstage areas, stage lighting, costume, sets & props, and much more.
- Cast Member's fittings.
- All assigned performances.

At the discretion of Ballet Arkansas, the following instances shall result in cast member's removal:

- Excessive absences
- Absence during mandatory rehearsals and fittings
- Absence during production week

*In the instance that illness or injury should occur, these policies shall be handled on a case by case basis.

Rehearsal Information

CONFIRMATION OF REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Please review the community cast rehearsal schedule carefully, identifying your cast and role/s to ensure that you are able to fully commit to all assigned rehearsal times, costume fittings, and performances. The rehearsal schedule may vary from week to week. In the instance that you should have overlapping rehearsals on any weekend, please email education@balletarkansas.org. Rehearsals will be conducted by the Ballet Arkansas's artistic staff and community cast rehearsal directors.

LOCATIONS

Rehearsals and fittings will be held at Western Arkansas Ballet, 4701 Grand Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas, 72904. Dress rehearsals and performances during "production week" will be located at Skokos Performing Arts Center, 103 E Main Street, Alma, Arkansas, 72921.

CLOSED STUDIO

Ballet Arkansas's rehearsals are restricted to community cast members, volunteers, and staff.

Rehearsal

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

Cast members must screen themselves at home for symptoms of illness prior to traveling to rehearsal. If symptoms of illness are present, cast members must notify Ballet Arkansas immediately. If symptoms become present during rehearsal, Ballet Arkansas may require cast member to wear a mask or may require the immediate pick-up of cast member. In this instance, Ballet Arkansas staff or volunteers shall contact the parent/guardian and/or the cast member's listed emergency contact. If you are unsure of whether or not you are cleared for rehearsal, please contact Ballet Arkansas at education@balletarkansas.org at your earliest convenience.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Cast members are expected to arrive 10 minutes prior to the start of their assigned rehearsal time/s in for check-in. A timely arrival is critical for rehearsals to begin on time. Cast members should be picked up at their assigned departure time to prevent lobby congestion and to respect staff and volunteer time.

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

Ballet Arkansas expects cast members to:

- Adhere to Ballet Arkansas policies and follow the direction of staff
- Arrive on time prepared for rehearsal and dressed in the appropriate attire
- Participate fully
- Be respectful to all parties associated with the production
- Refrain from the use of electronic devices
- Inform Ballet Arkansas of suspected illness/injury
- Have fun!

Production Week

CALL TIME

"Call Time" refers to the time cast members should be signed-in at the theater and waiting for rehearsal or performance in their assigned dressing room. Do not confuse call time should with suggested arrival time. Suggested arrival time is 15 minutes prior to your call time.

MAKEUP AND COSTUME

Cast members should arrive to the theater for dress rehearsals and performances with performance-ready hair and makeup. Cast members shall not be required to be in costume or makeup for spacing rehearsals. Review Costume and Makeup Requirements, available in the parent portal.

DRESS REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE

Parents will not be allowed in the theater during spacing and dress rehearsals. This policy is subject to change. Attendees shall be required to abide by all policies of Ballet Arkansas and Skokos Performing Arts Center.

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY

The unauthorized taking of photo and video of rehearsal and performance is strictly prohibited. Ballet Arkansas will reach out to all cast members about opportunities to purchase photos and videos, and special branded merchandise, at a later date.

BACKSTAGE ACCESS

Only staff, crew, volunteers, and performers are permitted backstage, without exception. All backstage areas will be staffed with security and cast members must clear security upon arrival and departure.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AT ROBINSON CENTER

As we near the production, Ballet Arkansas will provide comprehensive information regarding arrival and departure at the Theater.

Health & Safety

The health and safety of our staff, performers, and patrons is our first priority. Ballet Arkansas consults extensively with experts in public health in the crafting of its policies for the prevention of communicable illness. In the event of updates to policy, cast members shall be notified in writing at the earliest opportunity. All policies are subject to change at the sole discretion of Ballet Arkansas. Ballet Arkansas is subject to directive from government authorities and venues, and complies with the recommendations of the Arkansas Department of Health and the CDC. If you are unable to adhere fully to these policies, please do not accept your casting. Cast members found in violation of Ballet Arkansas's Health & Safety policies may be dismissed from the cast.

- Cast members and volunteers are recommended to apply a safe alcohol-based hand sanitizer at arrival and departure from rehearsal and performance.
- All participants within the production (including staff, crew, and volunteers) shall screen themselves for illness prior to traveling to rehearsal and performance, and shall seek directive from Ballet Arkansas if they have tested positive for COVID-19/Flu/RSV, if symptoms of COVID-19/Flu/RSV are present, and in instances of close exposure to parties with COVID-19/Flu/RSV.
- Ballet Arkansas reserves the right to require participants to observe mask wearing at any time.

The following groups should wear a mask to rehearsal:

- Parties who have been exposed to persons with confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the last 5 days.
- Parties residing in households with confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- Parties who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 10 days.
- Parties exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
- Parties with confirmed cases of the flu or with flu circulating within their households.

Your adherence with these policies is critical to ensure the production goes on stage.

Costume Care

Costumes for this production are owned by Ballet Arkansas and rented from third parties. Cast members are expected to treat their costumes with care and respect at all times. Review personal costume and makeup requirements for each role. Costume, hair, and makeup will be discussed prior to production week. Ballet Arkansas reserves the right to charge a monetary fine to cast members who have damaged their costumes, in the amount deemed necessary to return the costume to its original condition.

CAST MEMBERS SHALL

- Handle costume pieces with care while changing to prevent damage to delicate fabrics.
- Promptly notify Ballet Arkansas in the event of costume damage, no matter the significance.
- Not throw costumes or accessories on the floor, or hang costumes by their elastic straps.
- Refrain from sitting on the floor while in costume.
- Not attempt to alter, mend, clean, or launder any costume or accessory.
- ***Never apply stage makeup while in costume and carefully remove costumes to avoid contact with makeup.
- Refrain from the use of spray perfume or cologne while in costume.
- Not wear unassigned garments.
- Not consume food or beverage while in costume, with the exception of water.
- Not take costumes from their assigned dressing rooms or from the theater.
- Remove all bobby pins used to secure head pieces and wigs following their use.
- Return all arm-poofs and headpieces to their assigned bags.
- Comply fully with any and all updates to Ballet Arkansas's wardrobe policies.

Illness & Injury

NOTICE OF CHRONIC OR SERIOUS MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Parents of cast members with chronic or serious medical conditions (including respiratory ailments requiring the use of an asthmatic inhaler) or conditions that shall require participant to self-administer medication during rehearsal or performance must notify Ballet Arkansas of these conditions in advance of the acceptance of casting.

INJURY

In the event of minor injury, Ballet Arkansas shall provide basic first aid to cast member (i.e. ice, band aids). In the event of severe injury, Ballet Arkansas shall notify cast member's parent/guardian or emergency contact and shall proceed with further courses of approved action.

Ways to Support the Production

PURCHASE TICKETS

Tickets are available for purchase at www.balletarkansas.org/tickets. We hope you will join us for the 24/25 Season!

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER

Our production would not be possible without the support of a dedicated team of volunteers. We are now seeking volunteers in a number of areas. Learn more about volunteer opportunities at <https://www.balletarkansas.org/join-the-team>.

BECOME A SPONSOR

Ballet Arkansas has an array of philanthropic opportunities for individuals and organizations to sponsor our productions and enhance our operations, each with customizable benefits. If you or someone you know may be interested in sponsorship, please contact Executive & Artistic Director, Michael Fothergill at michael@balletarkansas.org.

About Ballet Arkansas



Website Home



Enrolled Classes for Children & Adults
NOW ENROLLING!



Purchase Tickets



Group Sales



Education Programs for K-12 Educators



Subscribe & Save

