



Coppélia

2026 Spring Showcase Family Guide

As of January 7, 2026

Participation Survey (yes or no) is due Friday, January 30

Mandatory Rehearsal Dates: May 26-28, 2026

Performance Dates: May 30 & 31, 2026

PLEASE READ THIS GUIDE IN DETAIL AND KEEP FOR REFERENCE THIS SPRING.

We will update the handbook and distribute it via email as new information becomes available. The most current information is always available at <https://milwaukeeballet.org/mbsa-performances-showcases>.

Coppélia, considered one of the greatest comic ballets of the 19th Century, has remained one of the best-loved classical works in ballet repertory. This MBSA production of *Coppélia* will be created in 2026 by School & Academy Director Kristin Dimmer in conjunction with faculty members. We are delighted to bring this charming 19th-century ballet about love, jealousy, and magical dolls, to our MBSA students and families. The story follows spirited Swanilda who suspects her fiancé Franz is smitten with the beautiful but silent *Coppélia*, a lifelike doll made by the eccentric toymaker Dr. Coppélius. Swanilda sneaks into his workshop to discover the truth and pretends to be the doll herself to teach Franz a lesson, leading to comical chaos and a happy village wedding for the real couple.

MBSA encourages all students in Pre-Ballet I through Academy II to participate in the annual showcase. Performing utilizes the skills learned in ballet class, increases self-confidence, and provides an opportunity to work towards a project in which each student is an important part of a larger whole...and it is a lot of fun!

While tickets must be purchased for family and friends to attend the show, there are no additional costume or performance fees to participate in the Spring Showcase performances.

THE PROCESS

Use the Participation Survey link below to indicate if your student(s) will or will not participate. A response is required for all enrolled students (except for Dance Along with Me and Creative Movement). Please read all the information in this guide before deciding if your family can commit to this showcase.

[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE PARTICIPATION SURVEY BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 30.](#)

Starting in February, students spend a few minutes of each class rehearsing. In May, the full cast comes together, and students learn the transitions between dances before bringing the show to the stage.

CASTING – *Roles assigned to each class level are coming soon!*

Pre-Ballet I	Ballet III	Boys Class I & II*
Pre-Ballet II	Ballet IV	Pre-Academy*
Pre-Ballet III	Ballet V	Academy I*
Ballet I	Ballet VI	Academy II*
Ballet II	Ballet VII	*Participates in all four shows

MANDATORY DRESS REHEARSAL & PHOTO DAY AT BAUMGARTNER CENTER FOR DANCE

- **Students must attend their dress rehearsal to participate in the show.** See the schedule below and speak with your student's instructor if you have a conflict.
- Students should arrive with hair and make-up done and wearing required attire (see below for details).
- Individual and class photos will also be taken. Information about ordering photos online from Visual Image Photography will be available shortly after photo days.
- **MBSA classes at all studio locations will NOT be in session Monday through Saturday, May 25-30** (except Creative Movement and Dance Along With Me classes will be in session) due to showcase preparations, dress rehearsals, and performances.
- Food or drink, other than water, is not permitted at rehearsals, except for Boys Class I & II and Academy students who will have a brief break to snack between rehearsals. Please pack nut-free and easy to eat snacks.
- Due to limited waiting room space at the Baumgartner Center for Dance, please plan to drop your student(s) off and return later to pick them up.

DRESS REHEARSAL & PHOTO DAY SCHEDULE (See below to know which rehearsal to attend)

Monday, May 25	No classes in session (Memorial Day holiday)	
Tuesday, May 26	4:30-8:30pm	Towne Centre students & those participating in Saturday 2:30pm Show* *Students in Pre-Ballet I, Pre-Ballet II, and Pre-Ballet III dismissed by 7:00pm
Wednesday, May 27	4:30-8:30pm	Riverpoint Village students & those participating in Sunday 11:00am Show* *Students in Pre-Ballet I, Pre-Ballet II, and Pre-Ballet III dismissed by 7:00pm
Thursday, May 28	4:30-6:30pm	Baumgartner Center students participating in Saturday 11:00am Show* *Students in Pre-Ballet I, Pre-Ballet II, and Pre-Ballet III dismissed by 7:00pm
	6:30-8:30pm	Baumgartner Center students participating in Sunday 2:30pm Show* *Students in Pre-Ballet I, Pre-Ballet II, and Pre-Ballet III dismissed by 7:00pm
Friday, May 29	No classes in session	

PERFORMANCES

SOME CLASSES PERFORM IN ONE SHOW. SOME CLASSES PERFORM IN MORE THAN ONE SHOW. READ THE SCHEDULE BELOW CAREFULLY TO FIND YOUR STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE(S) BASED ON CLASS LOCATION, LEVEL, AND DAY.

At Oak Creek Performing Arts & Education Center

Saturday, May 30, 11:00am		Saturday, May 30, 2:30pm	
Baumgartner Center for Dance (#1)		Towne Centre	
BCD Pre-Ballet I, Saturday	BCD Ballet V	TC Pre-Ballet I, Mon/Tue/Sat	Ballet V (RP & TC)*
BCD Pre-Ballet II, Saturday	BCD Ballet VI	TC Pre-Ballet II, Mon/Tue/Sat	Ballet VI (RP & TC)*
BCD Pre-Ballet III, Saturday	BCD Ballet VII	TC Pre-Ballet III, Mon & Sat	Ballet VII (RP & TC)*
BCD Ballet I, Saturday	Pre-Academy	TC Ballet I, Mon & Wed	Pre-Academy
BCD Ballet II, Saturday	Academy I	TC Ballet II, Wed & Thur	Academy I
BCD Ballet III Red	Academy II	TC Ballet III	Academy II
BCD Ballet IV A	Boys Class I & II	TC Ballet IV	Boys Class I & II

Sunday, May 31, 11:00am		Sunday, May 31, 2:30pm	
Riverpoint Village		Baumgartner Center for Dance (#2)	
RP Pre-Ballet I, Tue/Thur/Sat	Ballet V (RP & TC)*	BCD Pre-Ballet I, Tue & Wed	BCD Ballet V
RP Pre-Ballet II, Tue/Thur/Sat	Ballet VI (RP & TC)*	BCD Pre-Ballet II, Mon & Tue	BCD Ballet VI
RP Pre-Ballet III, Tue & Thur	Ballet VII (RP & TC)*	BCD Pre-Ballet III, Mon & Tue	BCD Ballet VII
RP Ballet I, Wed & Thur	Pre-Academy	BCD Ballet I, Tuesday	Pre-Academy
RP Ballet II, Wed & Thur	Academy I	BCD Ballet II, Thursday	Academy I
RP Ballet III	Academy II	BCD Ballet III Blue	Academy II
RP Ballet IV	Boys Class I & II	BCD Ballet IV B	Boys Class I & II

- **Students in Ballet V, VI, and VII at Riverpoint and Towne Centre will be combined and will participate in both branch performances (Saturday at 2:30pm AND Sunday at 11:00am).**
- It is possible for siblings to be scheduled in different shows.
- Students cannot change performance dates/times without officially changing class enrollment. **Enrollment changes must be made by January 23**, based on availability.
- NO food or drink, other than water, is permitted in the dressing rooms at the theatre. Parents of students in multiple shows may bring a snack to their student between performances.

PERFORMANCE DAY SCHEDULE AT OAK CREEK PERFORMING ARTS & EDUCATION CENTER

Saturday, May 30	9:00-10:00am	Pre-Academy, Academy I, and Academy II class and spacing on stage
	9:15-9:30am	Baumgartner Center for Dance (#1) students and Boys Class arrive to theater
	10:30am	Theater opens for seating
	11:00am-12:30pm	Baumgartner Center for Dance Performance (#1)
	1:00pm	Towne Centre students and Boys Class arrive to theater
	2:00pm	Theater opens for seating
	2:30-4:00pm	Towne Centre Performance
Sunday, May 31	9:00-10:00am	Pre-Academy, Academy I, and Academy II class and spacing on stage
	9:15-9:30am	Riverpoint Village students and Boys Class arrive to theater
	10:30am	Theater opens for seating
	11:00am-12:30pm	Riverpoint Village Performance
	1:00pm	Baumgartner Center for Dance (#2) students and Boys Class arrive to theater
	2:00pm	Theater opens for seating
	2:30-4:00pm	Baumgartner Center for Dance Performance (#2)

VENUES

When putting dates and times in your calendar, note location as well.

BAUMGARTNER CENTER FOR DANCE

128 N Jackson St, Milwaukee, WI 53202

414-902-2100 | Front Desk Line

- May 26, 27, & 28 for Dress Rehearsals/Photo Days
- Limited parking lot availability after 5:30pm. Free street parking available on neighborhood streets.
- Students enter and exit through the front doors on Jackson/Corcoran Street.

OAK CREEK PERFORMING ARTS & EDUCATION CENTER

340 E Puetz Rd, Oak Creek, WI 53154

414-334-1114 | Student Cast phone for use on performance days only

- May 30 & 31 for performances
- Large parking lot on site
- Students enter and check in at back of PAC building through loading dock, follow posted yard signs
- Students picked up in hallways near lobby, one adult will come to check out their student(s)

TICKETS ON SALE SOON

All tickets are reserved seating and will be on sale starting mid-April. Tickets will only be available online and not through Milwaukee Ballet, and student discounts do not apply. Complete details will be announced in April.

PROGRAM MESSAGES – optional

Send a special message to your student in the performance programs. Each message is \$20 through the Sign-Up Genius link below. Messages may be up to 50 words in length. Please type your program message exactly as you wish for it to be printed. Include greeting, names, to, and from. **The deadline to purchase a program message is May 1. [Purchase and complete your program message here.](#)**

PERFORMANCE VIDEOS – optional

All performance videos will be available as digital downloads that can be purchased online. More information to follow the performances.

CAST T-SHIRTS – optional

Cast T-shirts are a fun way to commemorate the 2026 spring showcase! T-shirts will only be available for pre-order via an online link; details will be announced in early spring.

All T-shirts will feature student cast list names on the back. T-shirts will be created for each branch location, so plan to order the t-shirt for the branch where your student participates to ensure their name appears on the back. Academy Division and Boys Class cast names will be included on all branch T-shirts. All shirt styles are unisex.

BALLET CLASS ATTENDANCE

Only fully enrolled students in Pre-Ballet I and up are eligible to participate in the performance.

Regular attendance in ballet classes is required for students to participate in the showcase. Students who have excessive absences or frequently attend make-up classes will not know the choreography and will not be able to perform. Participation of students with excessive class absences will be left to the discretion of the instructor(s) and School Director.

COSTUMES, HAIR, MAKE-UP – required for May 26-28 and May 30 & 31

All costumes are property of Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy.

All students must arrive with the required dance attire on under their street clothes to dress rehearsals and the performances. Studios and backstage areas are not private enough for students to fully undress and change.

Boys:

- No make-up
- Hair should be combed neatly. Longer hair must be secured away from the face and neck.
- Always have regular ballet class attire at all rehearsals and at performances to wear before costumes are put on.
- No nail polish or jewelry of any kind. Remove all earrings and leave jewelry at home.

Girls:

- Hair should be slicked back into the required style. NO BANGS: they create shadows on faces under stage lights.
- All hairpins and hairnets must match hair color. No additional hair accessories.
- Very short hair is to be pulled off the face and neck securely. No headbands.
- Young students should not look as if they are wearing make-up. Just brighten natural features for stage lights.
- No underwear under leotards and tights. This should be a regular habit, but if your student is not used to this, please start practicing long before rehearsal and performance days.
- Skin-tone camisole leotards should have fabric straps (not clear/plastic) and match your skin-tone.
- No nail polish or jewelry of any kind. Remove all earrings and leave jewelry at home.

Class Specific Costume Information. Required for May 26-28 and May 30-31.

Class Level	Required Dance Attire (provided by student)	Required Hair	Required Make-Up
Boys in Any Level	Class uniform	Short hair: combed neatly Long hair: styled off of the face and neck (do not use headbands).	None
Pre-Ballet I Pre-Ballet II Pre-Ballet III Ballet I Ballet II Ballet III	Skin-tone camisole leotard ; pink ballet tights and shoes OR skin-tone ballet tights and shoes. Bring Ballet Class leotard for times costumes are not in use.	Hair in bun on back of head. Hair slicked back, no part.	Light blush, natural lip gloss
Ballet IV Ballet V Ballet VI	Skin-tone camisole leotard ; pink ballet tights and shoes OR skin-tone ballet tights and shoes. Bring Ballet Class leotard for times costumes are not in use.	Hair in bun on back of head. Hair slicked back, no part.	Blush, light brown eye shadow, one coat of mascara, natural lip stick color
Ballet VII Ballet VIII	Skin-tone camisole leotard ; pink ballet tights and shoes OR skin-tone ballet tights and shoes. Bring Ballet Class leotard for times costumes are not in use.	Hair half-up and half down. Hair slicked back, no part.	Blush, light brown eye shadow, one coat of mascara, natural lip stick color
Academy Division	Skin-tone camisole leotard ; pink ballet tights and shoes OR skin-tone ballet tights and shoes. Bring Ballet Class leotard for times costumes are not in use.	Hair and make-up may be role specific. Details to be discussed in classes.	

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

The showcase will not be a success without many parent volunteers. New volunteers, please first apply online through our application portal: <https://milwaukeeballet.org/volunteer>.

We hope you will give some of your time to make the show run as smoothly as possible by volunteering to assist the staff with keeping students organized. Complete volunteer details and online sign-up links will be posted in early spring.

Rehearsal Day Volunteers (May 26-28)

- Up to 2 volunteers needed per class
- Supervise students in the studio where they wait for their turn to dance
- Assist students in putting on costume pieces (instructions will be provided)
- At designated time, escort class to rehearsal studio
- At the designated time, escort class from the rehearsal studio to the photo room, wait with them while they are photographed, escort the class back to the rehearsal studio
- When they are done rehearsing & being photographed, escort students back to dressing room studio and assist in removing costume pieces
- Supervise the class until each student has been picked up by a parent

Performance Day Volunteers (May 30 & 31)

- 1-2 volunteers needed per class, as indicated in sign-up
- Supervise students in dressing room studio where they wait for their turn to dance
- Assist students in putting on costume pieces (instructions will be provided)
- When directed by a staff member, escort class backstage and observe them dance from backstage
- When students are done dancing, escort them back to dressing room studio and supervise them until bows
- When directed by a staff member, escort class backstage for bows
- After bows, return to dressing room and assist in removing costume pieces
- Supervise the class until each student has been picked-up by a parent
- Backstage supervisors do not need to purchase a ticket to the show; you will be backstage for the duration of the show and will be able to see your student dance from side-stage.

Volunteer Sign-Up Links

Volunteer sign-up links will be posted in early spring.

THE PROCESS OF SPRING SHOWCASE WILL BE SMOOTH WITH EVERYONE'S PATIENCE, COOPERATION, AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL.

PLEASE KEEP THIS PACKET FOR REFERENCE. QUESTIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO ALYX JOHNSON, SCHOOL PROGRAMS MANAGER AT AJOHNSON@MILWAUKEEBALLET.ORG.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS EXCITING PROCESS! WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING THE HARD WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE STUDENTS!