

Ulster Ballet Company
PO Box 565
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(845) 246-4316

September 26, 2014

Dear Christmas Carol Cast Member and Parents:

Congratulations on being a selected cast member for the 20th annual full-length production of "A Christmas Carol," an adaptation of Charles Dickens' novel, choreographed by Sara Miot. In 1994 UBC first introduced "Excerpts from A Christmas Carol" at Saugerties High School. In 1995 the first full length version was presented. Over the years, this show has changed, grown and developed into the quality production of today. Welcome to all cast members and thank you for continuing this Hudson Valley holiday tradition.

The Ulster Ballet Company is a non-profit organization that relies on ticket sales, community support, and other fundraising efforts to finance production expenses. Neither the artistic directors, Scarlett Fiero and Quiedo Carbone nor the UBC Board of Directors draw a salary from this event.

For the continued success of "A Christmas Carol," we require that each cast member and parent contribute a small amount of time to fundraising and volunteering. A participatory pre-production meeting will be held at the studio during the first weekend of rehearsals, on Saturday, October 4 and Sunday, October 5. For your convenience we are scheduling 2 meetings that will coincide with most of your children's rehearsal time. **ALL PARENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ONE OF THESE MEETINGS where you will receive your show packet, which has all of the important information for this year's production. Even if you are a parent of a continuing cast member we ask that you attend this meeting as there are new and exciting things going on this year that need to be discussed.** The rehearsal/costume fitting schedule was already sent out and is posted in the studio and on our special hidden cast page.

The following items are just some of the things that will be discussed/explained at the meeting:

- Please bookmark http://ulsterballet.org/christmas_cast.html or add it to your list of "favorites". You can also go to ulsterballet.org and click on the Ulster Ballet logo to arrive at our special page for cast members. In addition to rehearsal schedules, you will find downloadable pdfs, upcoming events and fundraisers, cast obligations and their due dates- basically all information that you'll need to know.
- Each family is responsible for selling at least **one ad** for our **program**, or a personal contribution of \$50 will list your family as a "Donor" in our program, satisfying your ad obligation. For helping hints in obtaining ads, read "A Few Notes on Ad Solicitation" which can be found, along with the downloadable ad letter, check remittance form and a list of past advertisers at http://ulsterballet.org/christmas_cast.html or go to www.ulsterballet.org, and click on the UBC logo.
- Each cast member is required to sell at least **10 door prize tickets** (\$1 each). Prizes include a "Fezziwig Feast" (holiday basket), a Gingerbread House and Dinner for 2 at 2 local restaurants.
- Cast members/families are required to participate in various **fundraisers**, some of which include performances of selected scenes from the show. The Barnes and Noble Book Fair, and Balloon Day at the Hudson Valley Mall are 2 examples, plus, this year we are hosting a Fezziwig Festival here on the studio grounds- an exciting new event!
- We need your help to fill the seats for our **Thursday morning school show!** The invitational letter can be found at http://ulsterballet.org/christmas_cast.html or go to www.ulsterballet.org, and click on the UBC logo. Contact your child's teacher, principal, PTA... convince them to bring their class, and other classes, to the show to see their student(s) on stage in a spectacular production!
- UBC offers group discounts to schools, churches, clubs, nursing facilities, etc. If you know of a worthy organization that might like to attend one of our performances, please contact us at ulsterballet@gmail.com.

UBC appreciates your support. With you, we proudly present the Emerald Anniversary, 20th year production of "A Christmas Carol."

Thank You,
Board of Directors, Ulster Ballet Company