

MILWAUKEE
BALLET

MICHAEL PINK, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The Nutcracker: A Social Story



Choreography by Michael Pink
Composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

MILWAUKEE BALLET
without boundaries

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I am going to see Milwaukee Ballet perform *The Nutcracker*.



There are a lot of fun things to see at the ballet, including dancers in costumes, scenery and props.



Going to the ballet is like watching TV or going to the movies because it tells a story.



Going to the ballet is different because the dancers perform in front of you on stage.

In ballet, there are no words. Dancers tell a story by moving their bodies.

The Nutcracker will be performed at the Marcus Performing Arts Center.



To get there, I will drive to the theater and park in a parking garage or on the street.



If I park in the garage, I will use an elevator or stairs to get to the skywalk.



The skywalk is a covered bridge that goes over the street to get into the theater.



I will enter the lobby and I might need to get my ticket from the box office. Everyone needs a ticket to enter.



Once I have my ticket, I can go into the theater. An usher may give me a program and help me find a seat.



If I want, I can look at the costumes and props that will be used in the show, so I know more about *The Nutcracker*.



The theater is big. It has 2,000 seats! I will see a stage, lights and speakers in the theater. I may be sitting next to someone I do not know.



Before the show starts, someone will come on stage to tell me about *The Nutcracker*. They will talk about the costumes and what *pretend* means.



When it is time for the show to start, it will get a little darker in the theater, but the lights will still be on.



The show will be on the stage. There will be dancers, bright colors and music during the show.



Once the show starts, it is okay for me to make noise, jump and flap my hands. If I want to clap, I can. I don't have to clap if I don't want to.



The Nutcracker is a classic ballet about a magical journey. I will see mice and soldiers fighting with swords and rifles.



This is all pretend, and the dancers dressed in costumes are acting (another word for pretend). No one will get hurt.

There will also be a character called Madam BonBon who rides her bicycle all around the entire stage!



The music in the show might sound loud. If it is too loud, it is okay for me to cover my ears or ask an adult for help. I know that even though loud music can feel scary, none of the noise can hurt me.



I can use my phone or tablet during the show if I need to.

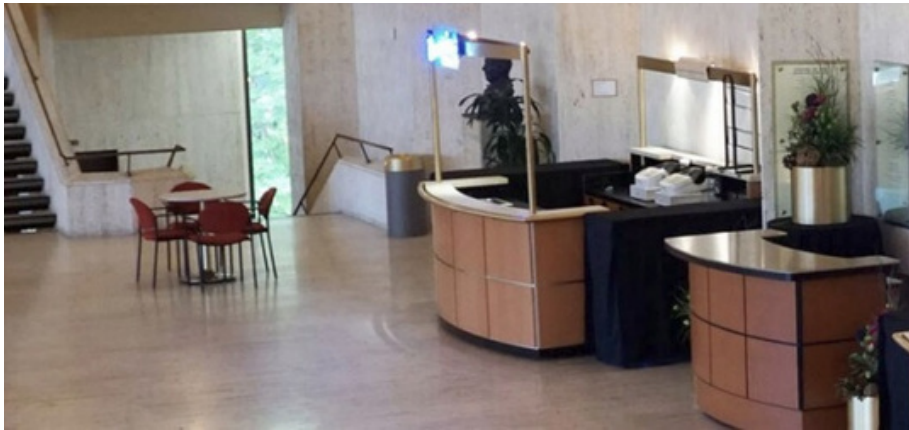


I can use the restroom, get a drink of water or go to the quiet room any time I need to.



I can come back to the show when I am ready. I can do this while the dancers are on stage.

I will take a break halfway through the show. This is called intermission, and it will last 15 minutes.



I can go to the bathroom, walk around, or get something to eat during this time. After intermission, the show will start again.

After the show, I will leave the theater. Other people will be leaving too, so there may be a lot of people walking to the parking garage. I may have to wait my turn to leave.

