

MILWAUKEE  
BALLET

MICHAEL PINK, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

# *The Nutcracker:* A Social Story



Garrett Glassman, Lizzie Tripp & Company Photo: Rachel Malehorn

Choreography by Michael Pink  
Composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

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



Elizabeth Harrison & Ransom Wilkes-Davis. Photo: Nathaniel Davauer

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



Craig Freigang & Isaac Allen; Elizabeth Harrison Photo: Nathaniel Davauer

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



Jacqueline Bertault Photo: Rachel Malehorn

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.



Elizabeth Harrison & Marko Micov Photo: Rachel Malehorn

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.



Parker Brasser-Vos & Michael Rinderle Photo: Rachel Malehorn

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 Mother Ginger who is twice as tall as everyone else around her.



Mother Ginger, Photo: Nathaniel Davauer

There are two people in Mother Ginger's costume, making her very tall!

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.

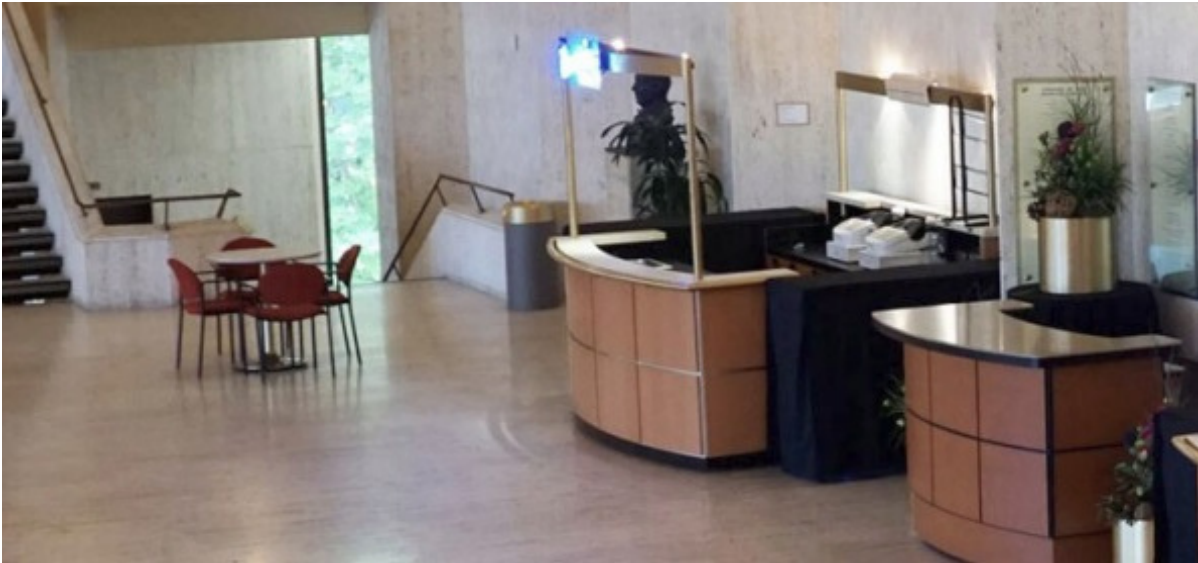


I can use the restroom, get a drink of water or go to the quiet room any time I need to.



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

Everyone 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.





Lizzie Tripp Photo: Rachel Malehorn

MILWAUKEE BALLET  
*without boundaries*

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