

KANSAS CITY
BALLET

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



KANSAS CITY BALLET
SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE

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PRE-VISIT STORIES



Theater

- I am going to the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.
- I am going to see a ballet called *The Nutcracker*.
- A ballet uses dancing to tell a story.



Usher

- The usher is a friendly person who is there to help me.
- They will show me where to sit and can answer questions for me.



Security

- When I arrive at the Kauffman Center, I will need to go through security.
- Security keeps my family and I safe while we are at the performance.
- I will move through the machine and wait for my family when I am done.



Break Room

- The break room is a quiet space on the Mezzanine level.
- I can go here to calm my body or I can move in the lobby.
- I will tell my family if I need to take a break.



Serenity Room

- There are two Serenity Rooms on the Mezzanine level.
- I can go here if I need a private space during the performance.
- I will tell my family if I need to take a break.



Music

- Musicians will play music for the dancers.
- The music can be loud or quiet. If it is too loud, I can hold my hands over my ears until it is quiet again.



Orchestra

- The musicians will play their instruments in the orchestra pit below the stage.
- The conductor will lead them through the music.
- I might not be able to see the musicians from my seat. I can look inside the pit before the ballet starts or during intermission.



Dancers

- The dancers will be dancing on the stage during the ballet.
- They will leave the stage and come back many times.
- Sometimes there will be a lot of dancers on the stage and other times there will only be a few dancers on the stage.



Costumes

- The dancers will wear many different costumes.
- I will see many different colors.



Odd Noises

- Sometimes I might hear an odd sound.
- I shouldn't be afraid because the sound won't last very long



Popping Sounds

- During the battle scene, I will hear popping sounds.
- This tells me that the toy soldier is using his toy gun.
- This sound will not last very long.
- I can hold my parent's hand if I am afraid.



Clapping

- People may clap while a dancer is still dancing.
- This tells the dancer the audience likes what they see.
- I can clap if I like the dancing.



Dark Stage

- Sometimes the stage will be very dark.
- There will be a bright spotlight on the dancer.
- I should watch the light so I don't miss anything.



Mouse King

- The Mouse King is a character during the battle scene.
- He will fight with the Nutcracker and his toy soldiers.
- I can cover my eyes if I don't like how he looks.



Intermission

- Intermission is like a break.
- The dancers will change their costumes and the stage will look different when I come back.
- I can use this time to use the restroom, have a snack, or talk with my family about the ballet.
- We will go back into the theater to see the rest of the ballet.



Dragon

- A dragon will come on stage during the Chinese Tea dance.
- The dragon is a puppet and will move across the stage.



Finale

- At the end of the ballet, all the dancers will come on stage.
- They will dance together one last time.
- When they are done dancing, I will clap for them.



Leaving the Theater

- The lights will come on when it is time to leave the theater.
- It will be crowded because everyone will be leaving at the same time.
- I will walk slowly down the stairs to the lobby with my parents to leave.

Kansas City Ballet Sensory-Friendly Performances

Kansas City Ballet began sensory-friendly performances of *The Nutcracker* for the first time during the 2018-2019 season in order to create a welcoming, supportive environment for people of all abilities and their families to enjoy the beauty, splendor, and excitement of a live ballet performance.

The inaugural performance in 2018 was directed and coordinated by:

Devon Carney

Artistic Director & Choreographer

Grace Lewis

Project Manager

Consultants

Children's Mercy Hospital

Autism Speaks

Breedlove Family Foundation

Special gratitude to:

The dancers and production staff of the Kansas City Ballet

The students and staff of the Kansas City Ballet School

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Kansas City Symphony

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