

Going to see ***THE NUTCRACKER*** A social narrative



I am going to see a ballet called ***THE NUTCRACKER***.

This social narrative booklet will tell me what to expect when I go to see the show.



I will see **American Midwest Ballet's** ***THE NUTCRACKER*** at the Orpheum Theater. I will travel to the Orpheum Theater by vehicle along with my family, teacher or caregiver.



I may choose to wear a mask when I'm inside the building. I can take it off to eat or drink. When I arrive, I will be greeted by someone at the entrance, who will direct me to the security line. The people in the security line may want to check my bag if I am carrying one.



I may get my ticket from someone at Will Call. I can also check out a sensory kit with things such as headphones to help me during the performance.



My tickets will be on a cell phone in the Ticket Omaha app. My tickets will be scanned so that I can enter the lobby



After they scan my ticket and my family/friends' tickets, we will go into the lobby area and be welcomed by the team from Omaha Performing Arts.



Next, we will go to Slosburg Hall where a person called an Ambassador will help my family, teacher or caregiver and me find my seat.



I will sit in my seat and wait for the show to begin. Other kids and their families will also be at the Orpheum Theater. We will all wait together for the show to start.



When I hear an announcement that the show is ready to start, the theater will get darker, everyone will become quiet and the curtains will open.



In ballets, the performers use dance and pantomime, or gestures, to tell their story. I will not hear the performers talking during the show.



In American Midwest Ballet's **THE NUTCRACKER**, I will see many beautiful costumes. Some characters are performed by dancers using special masks and headpieces.



There will be music and dancing on stage during the show. Some performers may walk through the seating area. Some people will clap or laugh. I can clap or laugh, also. If it is too loud, I can cover my ears or use earplugs or headphones.



If it is still too loud or I need a break, I will tell my family, teacher or caregiver. They will take me to the bathroom or to the quiet area. It is okay if I need a break. I can come back and watch the show when I am ready.



In the middle of the show, there will be a break called an intermission. This is a time I can use the bathroom, get a snack or take a break.



When the show is over, the actors will come to the front of the stage and take a bow. Everyone around me will clap and cheer. I can clap too, or I can cover my ears if it is too loud.



When it is time to leave, the lights will come on and everyone will start walking toward the doors. I will check around myself to make sure I have collected all my things. Then I will get up and walk to the doors with my family/friends. If it is too crowded near the doors, I will wait until there is more space.

Everyone in American Midwest Ballet and at the Orpheum Theater hopes that I had a great time at the show and will see me again soon!

On the next page, I will learn about the characters in the story of *The Nutcracker*!

CHARACTERS IN THE STORY

I know that *The Nutcracker* is a story. The things I will see on the stage are part of the story, not things that are real. The performers are pretending to do the things that happen in the story. They wear costumes to make the story more colorful and exciting. If things seem too exciting, I can take a break and come back to the story later.



CLARA

The main character in the story is a girl named Clara. In the story, she falls asleep after a party and goes on a wonderful trip in her dreams.



UNCLE DROSSELMEYER

Drosselmeyer is Clara's favorite uncle. He is famous for making mechanical things and telling exciting tales. He wears a patch over one eye.



THE NUTCRACKER

Drosselmeyer tells Clara a tale about the Nutcracker. He is a prince who was turned into a wooden soldier by a magic spell. He is waiting for someone to undo the magic so he can go back to being a prince.



THE MICE

In Clara's dream, there are giant mice! They will tease and tickle her. The performers say the mouse characters are fun to play because they get to pretend to be animals.



THE RAT QUEEN

The Rat Queen is the leader of the mice. She does not like the Nutcracker and gets angry when he appears. I will see the Nutcracker and some toy soldiers get in a fight with the Rat Queen and her mice.



NUTCRACKER PRINCE

Clara stops the fight between the Rat Queen and the Nutcracker. Clara's bravery has undone the magic spell, and the Nutcracker has turned back into a prince!



THE LAND OF SNOW

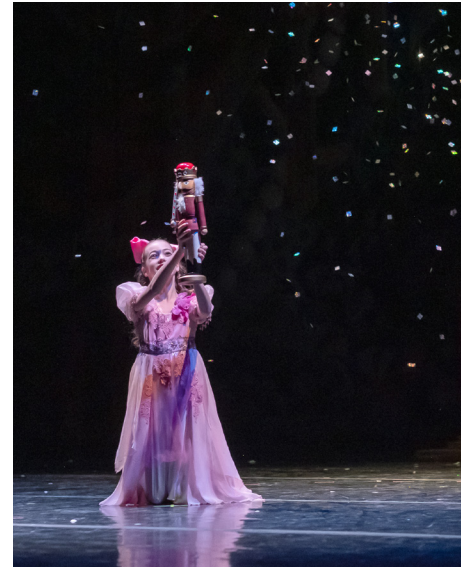
Clara visits the Land of Snow. In this land, performers dressed in white swirl and spin as if they were snowflakes dancing in the air. Clara meets the Snow Queen and King, who dance to welcome her.



THE SUGARPLUM FAIRY

Clara visits the Kingdom of Sweets and meets its ruler, the Sugarplum Fairy.

The Sugarplum Fairy invites her friends to entertain Clara by dancing for her. The dancers include many different characters, including Santa.



CLARA AWAKENS

Clara begins to get sleepy. When she awakens, she is back in her own house with the nutcracker Drosselmeyer gave her, and she realizes she had a wonderful dream!