

THE NUTCRACKER

Sensory-Friendly Performance
Pre-Visit Story





theater

I am going to Kendall Hall to see a ballet.

A ballet tells a story through dancing.

I am going to see *The Nutcracker* ballet.

Mark Roxey

The Nutcracker: Relaxed Performance

College of New Jersey Kendall Hall

Saturday, December 03, 2016 at 2:00 PM

It's the Ticket!™

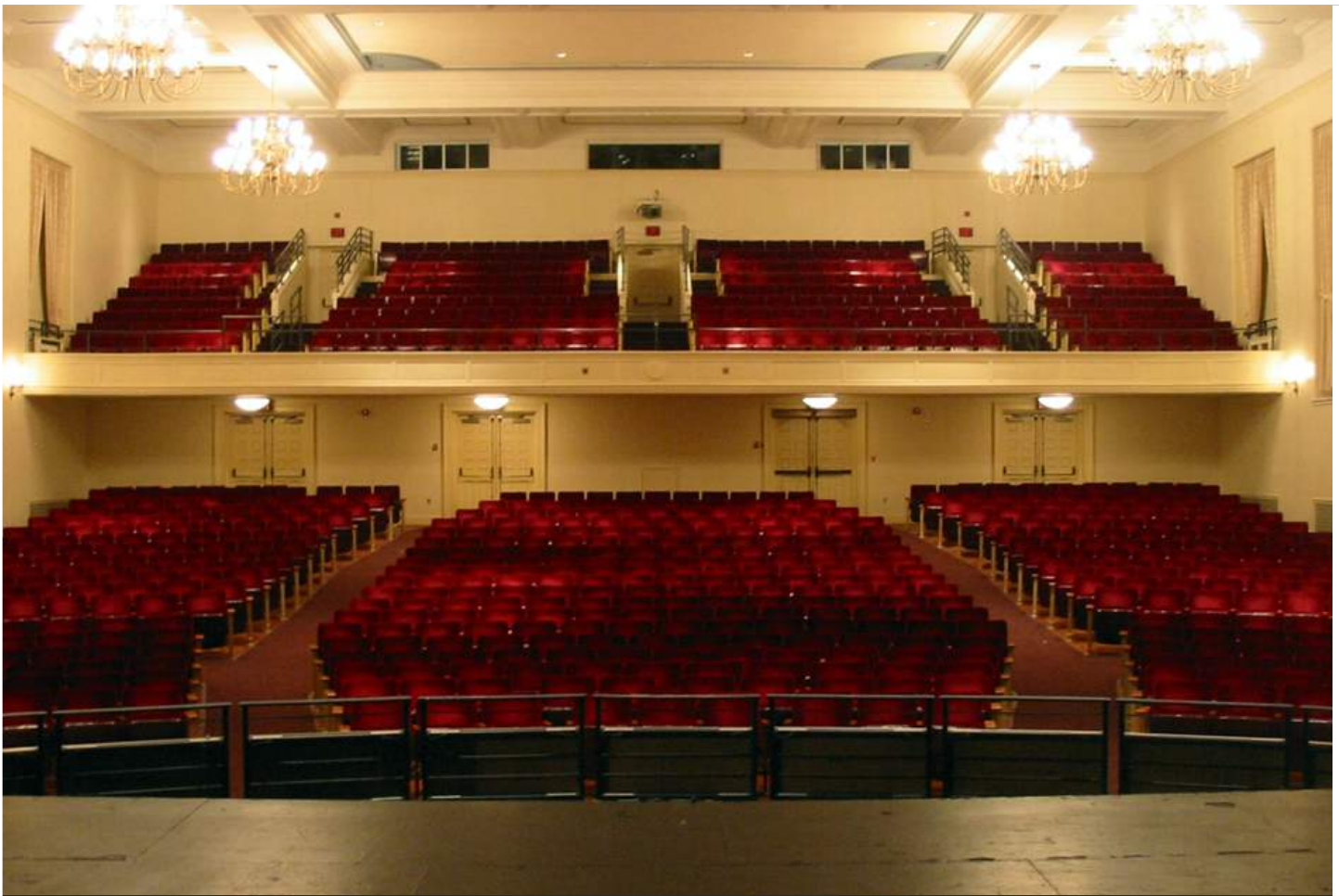
usher/tickets

The theater **usher** is a friendly helper.

I will show my ticket to the **usher** to enter the theater.

The **ushers** will help me and my family find our seats.

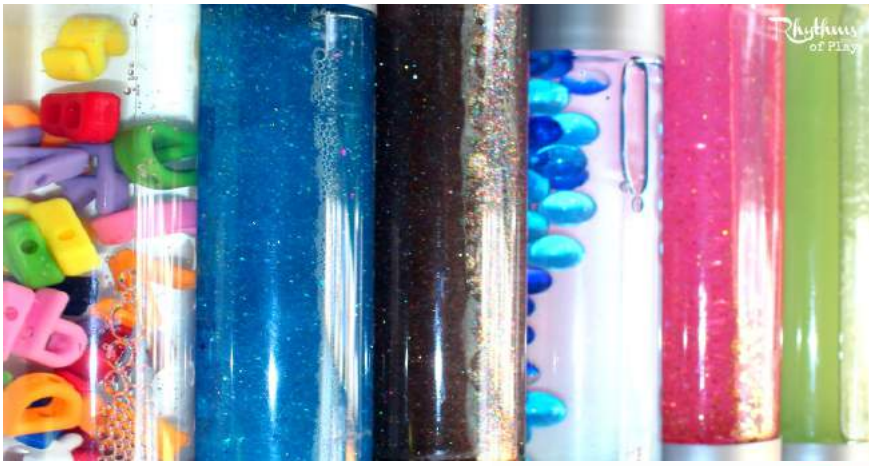
If I need help, I can ask an **usher**.



finding my seat

When I go into the theater, I will find my **seat**.

There will be other people sitting near my **seat**. They have come to see the show, too.



break area

I will tell my mom or dad if I need quiet time.

I can leave the show and go to the **break area**.

I can relax in the **break area** or walk around the lobby.



music

Ballet uses **music** and dance to tell a story.

The **music** will get louder and softer at different times during the show.

Loud and fast **music** often means something is about to happen.

Softer **music** often means it is a calm part of the show.

If I don't know what is happening I can whisper questions to my parents.



dancers

During the ballet, I will see **dancers** moving on and off the stage.

These **dancers** are not disappearing, but just going behind the stage. They may come back on the stage.

Sometimes many **dancers** will move on and off the stage at the same time.



costumes

In a ballet, the dancers wear **costumes**.

Wearing **costumes** is like playing dress up.

The dancers are telling a story with their **costumes**.

The **costumes** may be colorful.



magic

During the ballet, a person may perform a **magic** trick by making something appear.

The flowers were hiding under Uncle Drosselmeyer's cape.



odd noises

I may hear **odd noises** included in the music.

These **odd noises** sound like whistles, cymbals, clashing, or clicking noises.

I may not know where they are coming from.

These **odd noises** are heard only for a short time.



clapping during a dance

During the ballet, people will **clap** when a dancer does a cool movement or when the dancer finishes a dance.

I can **clap** if I like what the dancer is doing.

People **clap** for a short time.

I can cover my ears if the **clapping** noise is too loud.



dark and light

During the ballet, the lights will get very dark.

Sometimes there will be one bright spot of light.

This means I should pay close attention to the bright spot so I don't miss anything.



dark stage

Sometimes the stage will be **dark** all over.

The **dark stage** is supposed to look like night time.

I should pay close attention so I don't miss anything.



popping noises

During the battle scene with the mice and the nutcracker soldiers, there will be **popping noises**.

The **popping noises** I hear are from the toy guns the soldiers are using. There will be a lot of soldiers on stage.

If I don't like it I can cover my ears.



rat king

The Rat King will have a purple cape and a sword.

The Rat King will fight with the soldiers and the Nutcracker.

I might not like how he looks.

I can cover my eyes if I do not want to see him.



people on stage

Sometimes, there are many people on the stage.

During these times there may be a lot of action going on at once.

If there is too much happening on stage, I can choose one dancer to watch.



one or two dancers

Sometimes there will be **one** person dancing alone on the stage.

Other times there will be **two** people dancing with each other on stage.

These people know each other and are working together.



finale

The ballet is coming to the end when all the dancers and characters come back onto the stage.



clapping

The show ends when the dancers bow.

If I like the show, I can clap when the show ends.

Other people will **clap**.

I can cover my ears if the **clapping** noise is too loud.

People clap only for a short time. Then the **clapping** is over.



leaving the theater

I have to walk in the aisle to leave the theater.

All the people will leave the theater at the same time.

The theater and the lobby will be crowded.

I will walk slowly and stay with my mom or dad.



yes



no



break



bathroom



help



finished

Roxey Ballet Sensory-Friendly Performances

"We want to make sure we are always connecting and building bridges to all parts of our beautiful community. We are excited to create these types of access opportunities for people living with autism to participate in a way that make dance more accessible and enjoyable to them."

- Mark Roxey, Executive Founding Director of Roxey Ballet

"Studies have shown that theater experiences increase social skills for students with autism. Our sensory-friendly performance allows everyone to experience ballet in a comfortable, nurturing, and accepting environment!"

- Hailey Glover, Director of Outreach and Community Engagement

This performance was directed and coordinated by:

Mark Roxey

Founder, Artistic Director

Melissa Roxey

Co-Founder

Hailey Glover

Director of Education and Community Engagement

Lees Hummel

Director of Development

Special Thanks to:

The dancers and production staff of Roxey Ballet

The students and staff of Mill Ballet School

The Roxey Ballet volunteers

The Roxey Ballet Board of Trustees

The Roxey Ballet ADA Committee

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