

A SOCIAL STORY

# SENSORY FRIENDLY SHOWS



*THE NUTCRACKER*  
FRI, DEC 13, 2019 | 6PM

# DOORS OPEN

MARCUS CENTER | 5 PM

# MEET THE CHARACTERS

MAGIN LOUNGE | 5:15-5:45 PM

Questions? Contact:

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# GOING TO THE NUTCRACKER

A SOCIAL STORY

*The Nutcracker*

Choreographed by Michael Pink

Composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky



Christina Dennis, photo Nathaniel Davauer

# THE THEATRE

Today, I am going to the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts to see a show.



[marcuscenter.org](http://marcuscenter.org)

# THE NUTCRACKER

I am going to see *The Nutcracker*. This is a show about a magical journey.

# DRIVING TO THE THEATRE

To get to the show, we are going to drive to the theatre. We may have to sit in some traffic as a lot of other people are going to the show too!



*onmilwaukee.com*

# PARKING AND SKYWALK

Once we get to the theater, we are going to park in a parking garage. We are going to use an elevator or the stairs. Then, we are going to walk across a covered bridge, called the skywalk, that goes over the street to get into the theatre.



# ENTERING THE THEATRE

When I enter the building, the first thing I will do is go to the Magin Lounge. I should hold my family's hands so I don't get lost.



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# MEET-AND-GREET

Before the show starts, I can meet the dancers. This is called a meet-and-greet.

The dancers will be in their costumes from the show. I can take pictures with the characters of the show. I may have to wait to say hi to them.



Milwaukee Ballet Company photo Mark Frohna



Milwaukee Ballet Company photo Mark Frohna

# COAT CHECK


After I meet the characters, we will go downstairs to find our seats. Before we go to our seats, we will check our coats at the coat check. I may have to wait in line.



Henrick Weis, Getty Images

# TICKETS

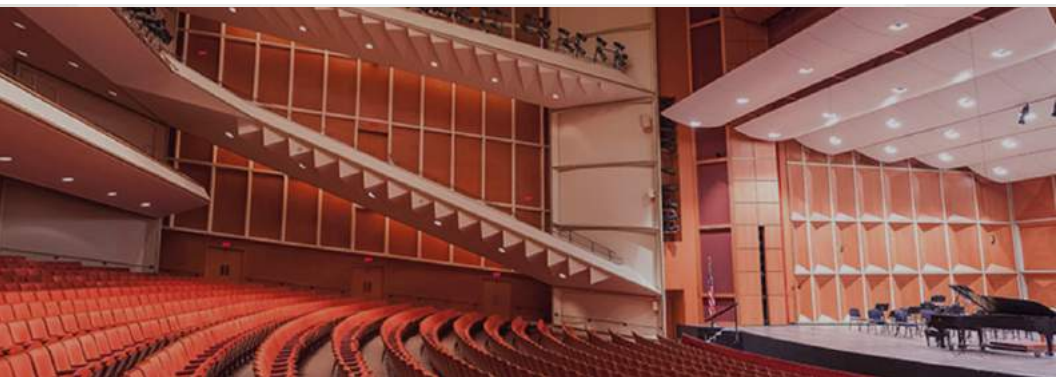
I will get a ticket that lets me into the show. Every person seeing the show needs to have a ticket

<p><b>SECTION/AISLE</b> <b>ORCH</b></p> <p><b>ROW SEAT</b> <b>A 1</b></p> <p>13-DEC-19 6:00 PM</p> <p><b>EVENT CODE</b> <b>ABCD1234</b></p> <p><b>COST</b> \$20.00 <b>FEE</b> \$0.00</p> <p>Marcus Center for the Performing Arts</p>	<p><b>BALLET</b></p> <p>Milwaukee Ballet presents The Nutcracker Sensory-Friendly Performance Marcus Center - Uihlein Hall Fri, Dec 13, 2019 6:00 PM</p>	<p><b>ABCD1234</b> ACCT #12345678 EG \$20.00</p> <p><b>SEC. ORCH</b></p> <p><b>ROW A</b></p> <p><b>SEAT 1</b></p> <p>Photos Alyson Cha</p>  <p>ABCD12345</p>	<p>Marcus Center for the Performing Arts</p> <p><b>MARCUS CENTER</b></p>
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# SEATING

A helper, called an usher, will show us into the theatre. I can sit in whatever seat I like, but I need to sit with my family.

I may be sitting next to someone I don't know. It will also be a little darker in the theatre, but the lights will still be on.



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# THE SHOW STARTS

The show will start at 6 PM. When the show starts, it's okay for me to make noise, jump and flap my hands. I can use my tablet or phone too.

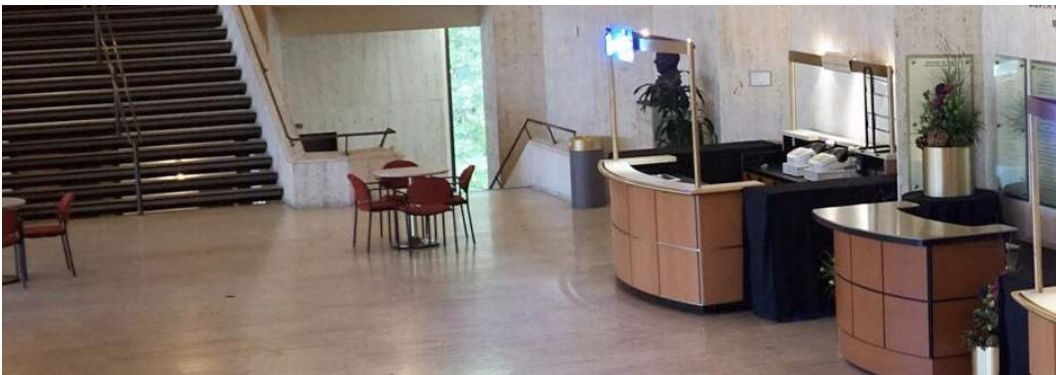
The show will be on the stage. There will be dancers, bright colors, and music during the show. It is okay for me to cover my ears if the show is too loud.

If I need help at any time, I can ask an usher. Ushers will be wearing white shirts, black jackets and a name tag.

# FOOD AND DRINK

No food is allowed in the seats, but I can bring my favorite water bottle with me. If I am hungry, I need to let someone know and they will take me to the concession stand in the Magin Lounge (where we met the characters).

The concession stand is where people go to buy snacks and drinks.



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# BATHROOMS

If I need to use the bathroom, I need to tell someone and they will bring me there. Bathrooms are outside of the theatre in the lobby.

The toilets in the bathroom are noisy and will flush on their own. It's okay for me to cover my ears if the toilets are too loud.

# QUIET ZONE

If I need a break, I can go to the Quiet Zone. I need to tell someone if I want to go there. I can follow the signs to the Quiet Zone or ask an usher to take us there. I will have to take the stairs or the elevator to get there. I have to hold onto the handrail if I take the stairs.

In the Quiet Zone there will be toys, coloring pages and chairs to sit on.



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# INTERMISSION

Halfway through the show, there will be an intermission.

An intermission is to give the dancers a break (it's 15 minutes long). I can go to the bathroom or visit the concession stands during the intermission.



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# THE SHOW

After the intermission, I will go back to my seat for the rest of the show. The dancers will come back out and the show will start again.



Milwaukee Ballet Company, photo Mark Frohna

# CLAPPING

The show is over when the dancers take their final bow. I can show that I liked it by clapping my hands.

Other people will clap too and it may be noisy. If the clapping is too loud, it's okay to cover my ears.



Milwaukee Ballet Company, photo Mark Frohna

# LEAVING THE THEATRE

When leaving the theatre, I will have to walk up some stairs. Other people will be leaving too, so there will be a lot of people on the stairs.

I will walk slowly and wait for my family and friends. I will walk across the skywalk again to get to the parking garage.



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# THE NUTCRACKER SYNOPSIS

## PROLOGUE: DROSSELMEYER'S WORKSHOP

It's Christmas Eve in the toy maker's magic workshop where Drosselmeyer and his nephew Karl finish preparing a very special nutcracker doll for Clara Tannenbaum.



Elizabeth Harrison, Isacc Sharratt, photo Mark Frohna



Parker Brassler, photo Mark Frohna

# ACT I

## THE TANNENBAUM DRAWING ROOM

The Tannenbaum children, Clara, Fritz and the oldest, Marie, are excited for their family's Christmas celebration.

Drosselmeyer delights the children with his magic tricks, producing a floppy clown and a dancing shepherdess doll. Fritz decides he too will entertain everyone by dancing with the wooden sword he was gifted.

After the guests go to dinner, Drosselmeyer gives Clara her special present – a magic nutcracker doll. Fritz returns to steal the doll and it breaks. Drosselmeyer repairs the doll. Soon, the guests depart.



Milwaukee Ballet Company photo Mark Frohna



# ACT I

## THE TRANSFORMATION

After everyone is asleep, the children meet in the drawing room. The clock strikes midnight and smoke starts to pour out of the stove. Soon the room is filled with mice. Drosselmeyer appears to banish them and then sprinkles magic dust on the children.

The Christmas tree begins to grow and the room transforms! The Rat King appears and there is a battle between him and his army of mice, and the toy soldiers led by a life-sized nutcracker doll. Fritz saves the day by striking the Rat King on the head with his sword.

It seems the nutcracker has been defeated in the battle, but Drosselmeyer brings him back to life. He transforms into his nephew Karl. It starts to snow and the children meet the Snow Queen and her dancing Snow Flakes. A steam train comes and takes them to the Land of Toys and Sweets.



Milwaukee Ballet Company photo Mark Frohna

# ACT II

## THE LAND OF TOYS AND SWEETS

Clara, Fritz, Marie and Karl arrive in the magical Land of Toys and Sweets. Drosselmeyer introduces them to his creations, who are riding on a big carousel. The Rat King tries to spoil the fun, but Karl won't let him. The children are treated to entertainment from all the magical toy characters.

They delight in the sight of Spanish and Arabian couples. Clara dances with the Chinese Dragon and the Shepherdess Doll with her dancing geese. Fritz joins in with the Clowns, and both he and Clara dance with Mother Ginger and her many Russian children as well as the Dancing Flowers.



Alana Griffith, Parker Brasser, photo Nathaniel Davauer

# ACT II

## THE FINALE

The real surprise is seeing the entertainment culminate in a beautiful dance between Karl and Marie – she has become the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Drosselmeyer whisks the children magically back to their drawing room where they awaken the next morning wondering if this was simply a dream or a magical adventure they will never forget.

