

OREGON **BALLET** THEATRE



In a Nutshell

George Balanchine's

The Nutcracker® - Act II

Sensory Performance - Social Story

Friday, December 20th at noon



I am going to watch a live ballet performance at Keller Auditorium in downtown Portland.



Dancers are on a stage right in front of me. They have practiced a long time to get ready for this show.



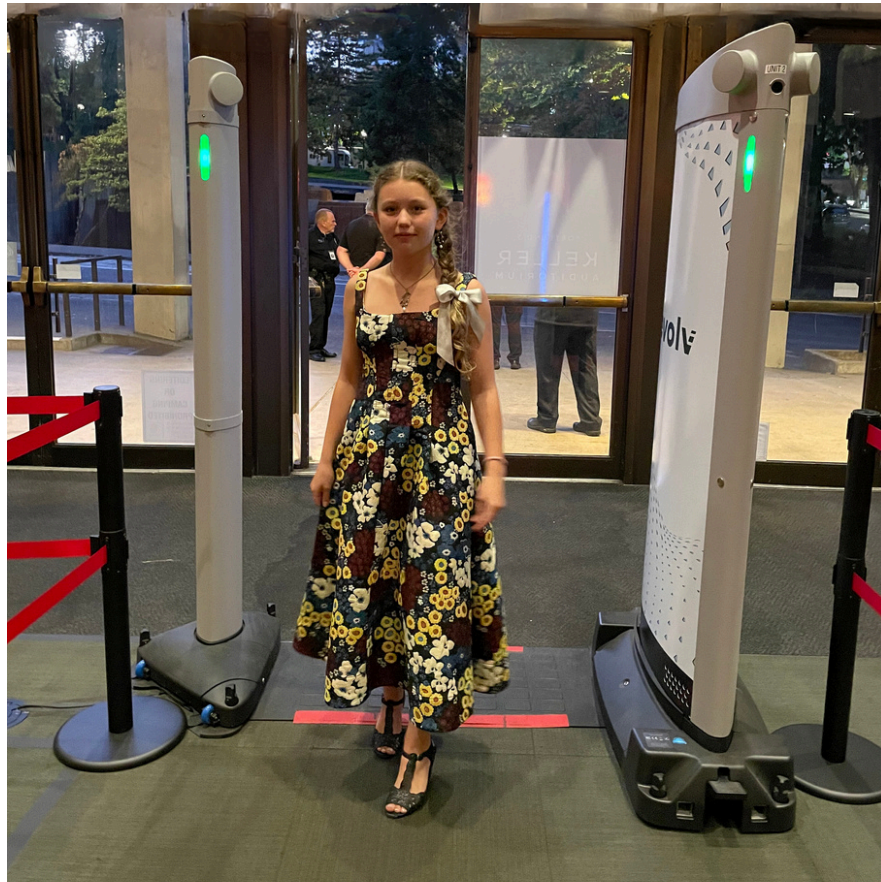
Ballet is a type of dance.
Dancers use their bodies to tell
stories. They don't talk or sing.



I will hear music. The dancers
dance to the music. If it is too loud
I can put on my headphones or
cover my ears.



Some people like to dress up for the ballet. Other people like to dress casual. I may wear any clothes that make me feel comfortable.



When I arrive at Keller Auditorium there may be lots of other people attending the performance, too. I will walk through security metal detectors. These may beep if I have any metal in my pockets.



Next, I will show my ticket to a person at the door. My ticket may be a paper ticket or an electronic ticket on my phone. The person will scan my ticket, this may make a beeping sound.



Now I am in the lobby. The lobby is a large, busy room and may be full of people. In the lobby I can buy snacks and drinks, locate the bathrooms, and pick up a sensory bag.



The bathrooms are located on either end of the lobby. The women's bathroom is on the South end of the lobby and the men's bathroom is on the North. An ADA/family bathroom is on the North end of the lobby, too. It is always a good idea to use the bathroom before the performance begins.



Sensory bags are available in the lobby at coat check. The sensory kit includes:

- Communication cards for non-verbal individuals
- Noise reducing headphones
- Fidgets

I may also ask for a weighted blanket.



Now I am ready to enter the theater.
A worker will look at my tickets and
show me to my seat.



Inside the theater I see rows and rows of seats. There is also a red curtain that hides the stage where the dancers will be once the show begins.



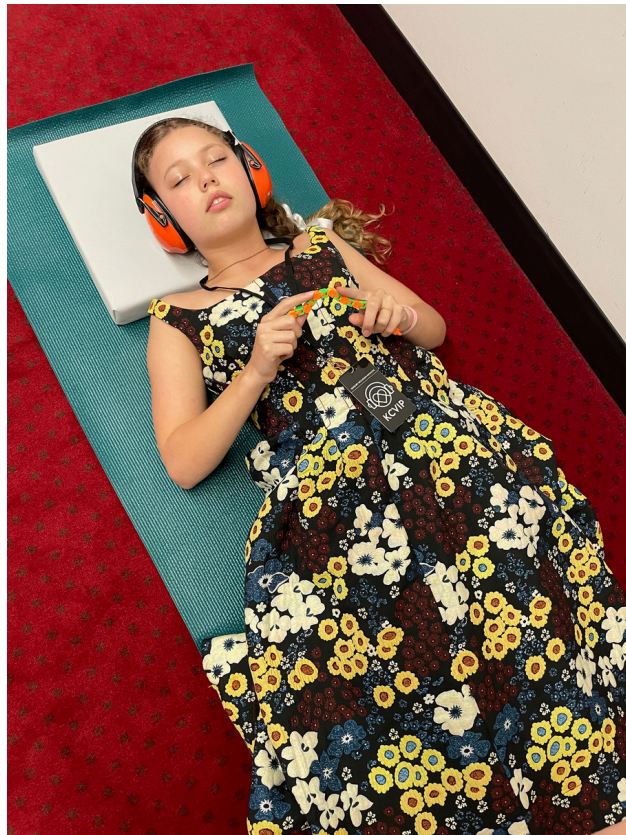
Lots of other people will be seated in the theater, too. Some people may even be sitting in the chair right next to me. Inside the theater I can look at the program and talk quietly.



I know it is time for the performance to begin when the lights dim, everyone is quiet and the curtain rises.



Because this is a sensory friendly performance I may walk around the seats if I need to move.



If I want to take a break from the show I may find a Calm Down Station. A Calm Down Station is a quiet space with yoga mats, pillows and blankets. There are even a few tents for privacy. If I need, I can ask a worker to help me find them.



When the performance is over, the audience will clap and cheer for the dancers. The clapping may take a long time. If I really like the show I may stand up to show my excitement. This is called a standing ovation.



Leaving the theater is a busy and noisy time. It is important that I stay with my group. I may leave right away or stay in my seat and wait for the crowd to exit.



I look forward to attending the ballet!



Thank you:

Thank you to all those that helped make this social story possible: Louisa Brown, Scott Brown, Matt Carbone, Shannon Goffe, Shane Jewell, Kate Kerns, Karen Lam-America, Clara Metzler, Marjorie Metzler, Dani Rowe, Robyn Ulibarri, Heather Wilton, Portland's Centers for the Arts staff and volunteers.

Photo Credits:

page 1: OBT School|Yi Yin, page 2: Yi Yin, page 3: Juliette Ochoa|Yi Yin, page 4: Carley Wheaton, Hannah Davis, Michael Linsmeier, Isaac Lee|Jingzi Zhao, page 9: Courtesy of Portland's Centers for the Arts|Jeremy Jeziorski, page 13 Courtesy of Portland's Centers for the Arts|Jason Quigley: ,page 15: Blaine Truitt Covert, page 16: OBT2|James McGrew, page 18: OBT|Blaine Truitt Covert, page 19: courtesy of Portland's Centers for the Arts|Jason Quigley, page 20: Charlotte Nash, Gustavo Ribeiro|Jingzi Zhao, page 21: Jessica Lind|Yi Yin

OREGON **BALLET** THEATRE