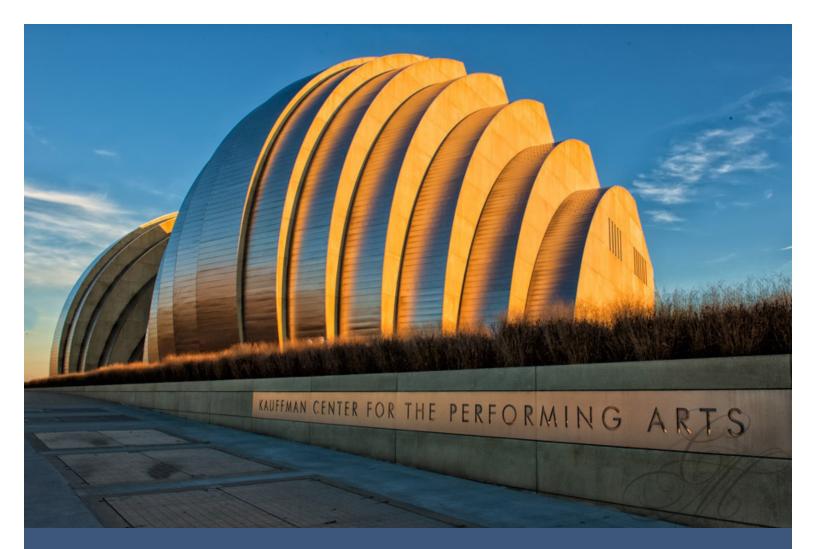
PRE-VISIT STORIES

KANSAS CITY BALLET SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE

CRAC

Presented by: BANKOFAMERICA



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.



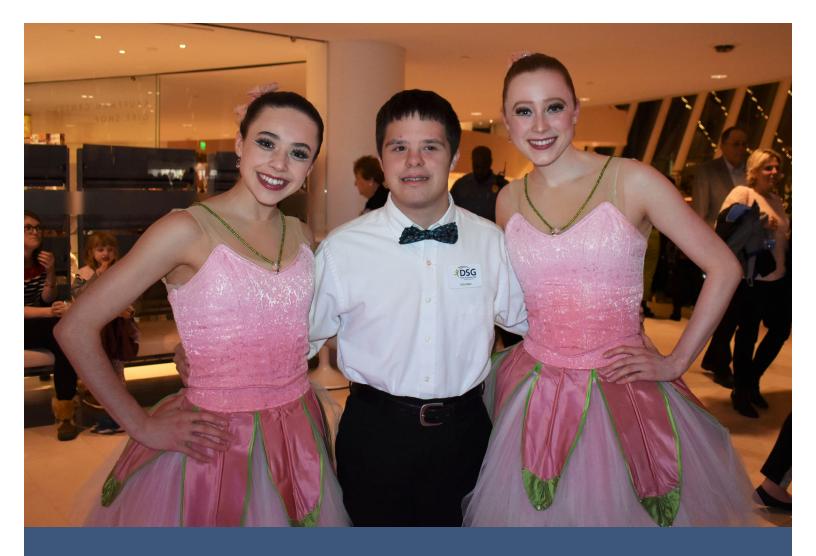
Usher

- 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.



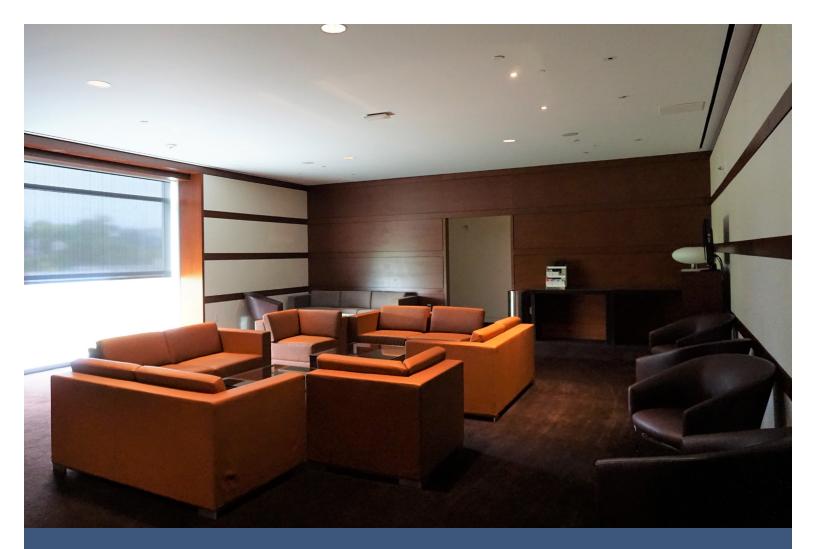
Security

- 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.



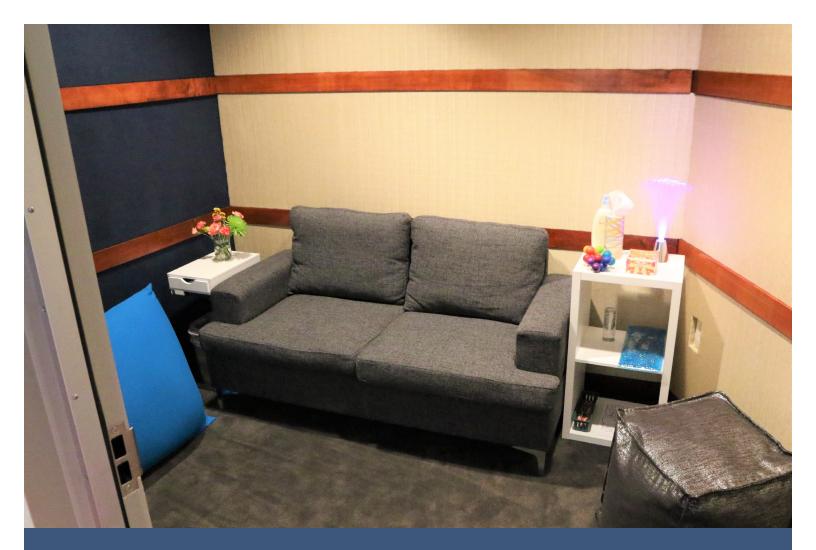
Dancers in the Lobby

- Before the performance and during intermission, dancers will come into the lobby in their costumes.
- They will smile and wave at me and they might ask me questions.
- I can talk to them and take pictures if I want to.



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.



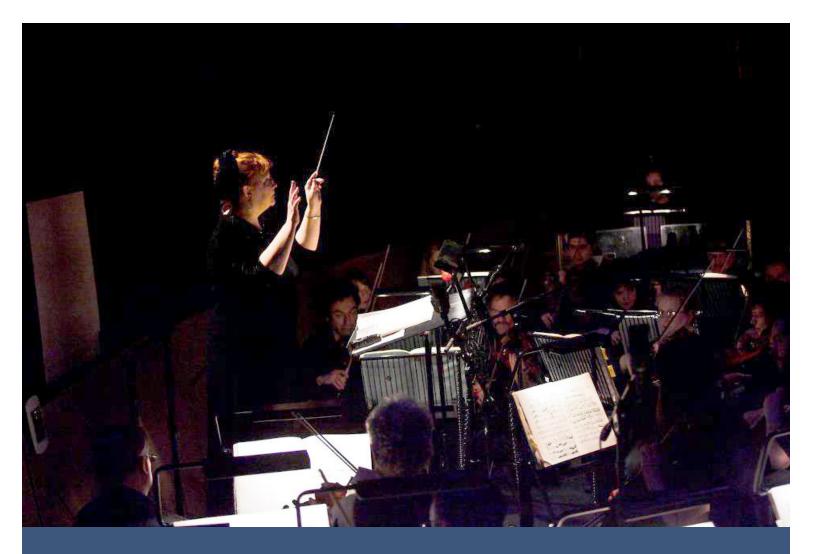
Serenity Room

- 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 below the stage in the orchestra pit.
- 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.



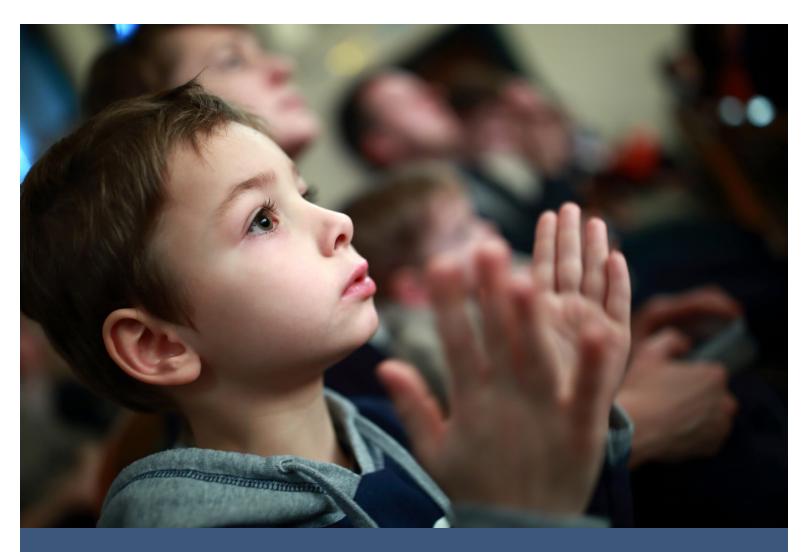
Odd Noises

- 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 guardian'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.

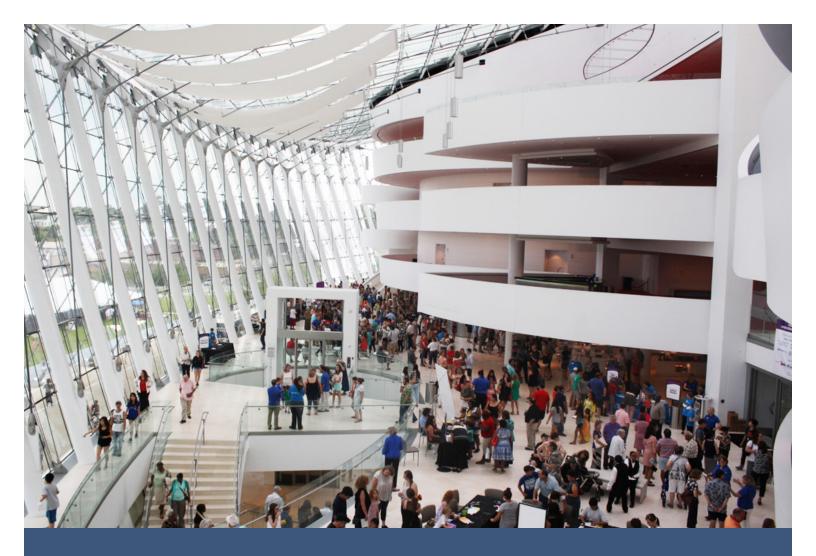
Dark Stage

- 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.
- The dancers will come to the lobby in their costumes during intermission.
- We will go back into the theater to see the rest of the ballet.



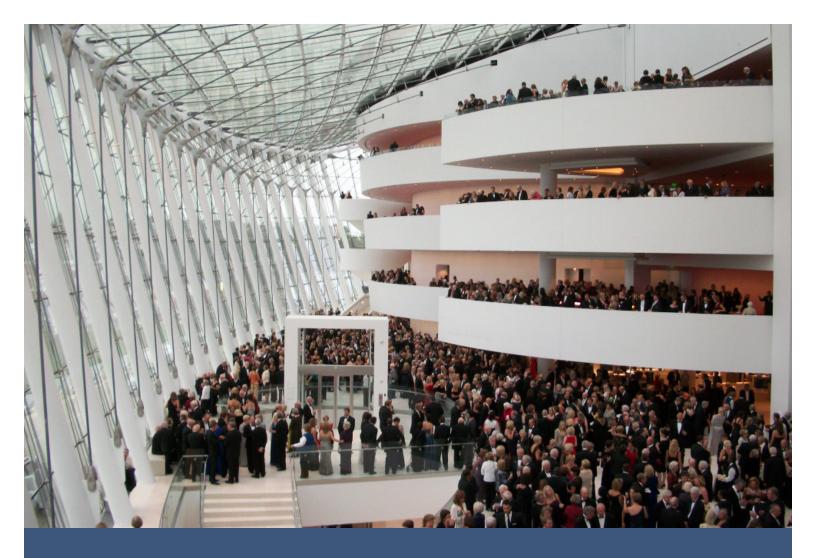
Fu Lion

- A Fu Lion will come on stage during the Chinese Tea dance.
- The Fu Lion 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 or use the stairs to leave with my parents.

Kansas City Ballet Sensory-Friendly Performances

Kansas City Ballet began sensory-friendly performances in 2018 with *The Nutcracker,* directed and coordinated by Devon Carney, Artistic Director & Choreographer, 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.

Special gratitude to:

The Kirk Foundation Riley ABA & Autism Center Mike Breedlove Memorial Fund The dancers and production staff of the Kansas City Ballet The students and staff of the Kansas City Ballet School Kim Trudell, Partnership Specialist Grace Ingham, Manager Events & Philanthropy Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts Kansas City Symphony

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