

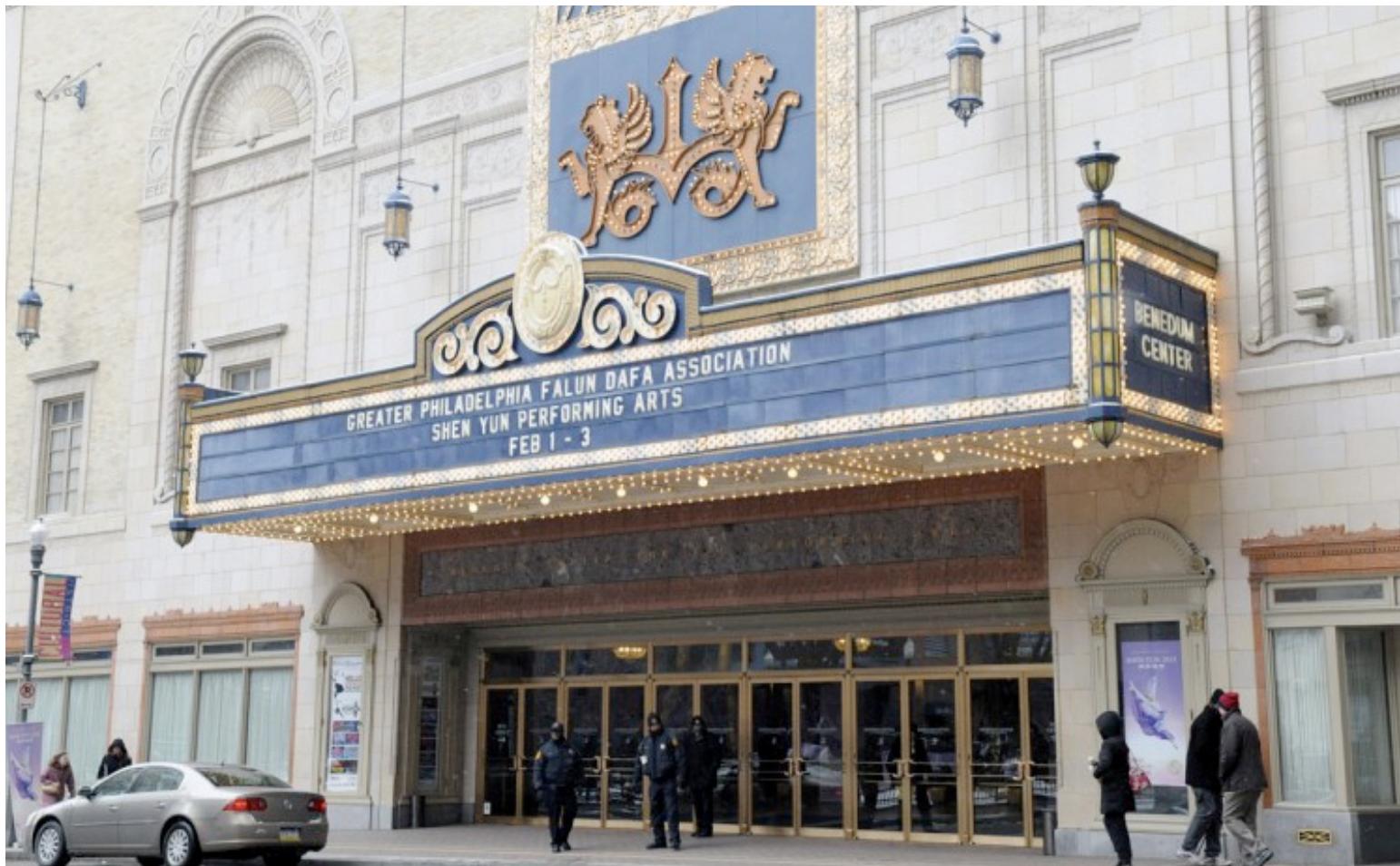
the **NUTCRACKER**

PITTSBURGH BALLET THEATRE
SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE

~ PRE-VISIT STORIES ~



PITTSBURGH BALLET THEATRE



theater

I am going to the Benedum Theater to see a ballet.

A ballet tells a story through dancing.

I am going to see The Nutcracker ballet.



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BT Tickets/'

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PITTSBURGH'S CULTURAL
DISTRICT IS A PART OF
Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre
Presents
The Nutcracker

Fri, Dec 05, 2014 7:00 PM

Benedum Center

There are no refunds or exchanges. See reverse.

**THE PITTSBURGH
CULTURAL TRUST**



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2

TKT \$ 0.00

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4

SAMPLE TICKET

usher/tickets

The theater usher is a friendly helper.

I will give my ticket to the theater usher to enter the theater.

The ushers help me and my family find our seats.

If I need help I can ask the usher.



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.

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

Loud and fast music often means something exciting 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 fly around.

This piece of cloth isn't really flying.

The cloth is being moved around on wires.



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.



pop out of boxes

During the ballet, a dancer will pop up out of a box. This may happen suddenly.

The dancers in the boxes are dressed in colorful costumes.

If I do not like this, I can hold my parent's hand.



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 light so I don't miss anything.



dark stage

Sometimes the stage will get 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 red cape and a sword.

The Rat King will fight with the soldiers on stage.

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 may be many dancers 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.



butterflies

There will be people dressed like butterflies on stage.

The butterflies will be dancing.

I can look at their pretty costumes.



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.



characters

I am going to see people dressed up as different characters.



dragon

I am going to see a dragon puppet on the stage.
The dragon puppet is very colorful.



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 actors 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 theater

I have to walk in the aisle or down the stairs to leave the theater.

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

The stairs will be crowded.

I will walk slowly on the stairs.

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Sensory-Friendly Performances

PBT began sensory-friendly performances of The Nutcracker and other popular story ballets during the 2013-14 seasons in order 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.

The inaugural performance in 2013 was directed and coordinated by:

Terrence S. Orr
Artistic Director

Harris Ferris
Executive Director

Alyssa Herzog Melby
Director of Education and Community Engagement

Jillian Brinberg
Project Manager

Consultants
Luciana Randall
Autism Connection of PA
Executive Director

Roger I. Ideishi, JD, OT/L, FAOTA
Program Director & Associate Professor
Department of Rehabilitation Sciences
Program in Occupational Therapy
Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

Special gratitude to:

The dancers and production staff of the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre
The students and staff of the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School
The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust and the Benedum Center for Performing Arts

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Photo Credits:

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A special thank you to the following sponsors of the inaugural performance of The Nutcracker in 2013:

THE EDITH L. TREES CHARITABLE TRUSTS



PBT also thanks all new sponsors and donors who have helped us continue the sensory-friendly performances into 2014-15 and beyond!