

## **Going to Keshet Center for the Arts to see *Nutcracker on the Rocks***

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On Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>, I am going to the Keshet Center for the Arts to see *Nutcracker on the Rocks*. The Keshet Center for the Arts is a performing arts space in Albuquerque where people can go to see different shows. The show I am going to see is a contemporary dance performance called *Nutcracker on the Rocks*. Dancers of all ages and abilities will tell the story by moving their bodies and dancing. I will get to watch the dancers on stages and listen to the music. The dancers will not talk while they are dancing. I can read more about the story of the traditional Nutcracker or watch YouTube videos so that I know how *Nutcracker on the Rocks* is different and I'll know what to expect when I go to Keshet Center for the Arts. The show will start at 2:00 in the afternoon.



### **Getting to Keshet Center for the Arts**

After lunch, I can ride to Keshet Center for the Arts with my family/group. We can get dropped off or we can park in the parking lot or along the street in front of Keshet Center for the Arts. My parents/group can tell me what we plan to do. Keshet Center for the Arts also has directions on their website Keshetarts.org.



When we get to Keshet Center for the Arts we will go inside the building. There is a purple door decorated in the middle of the building that leads directly into the lobby. Inside the door I will meet volunteers dressed in black and white and wearing a tag around their neck. They will greet us at the door and can help answer any questions and show us where to go. I can say "hi" or "good afternoon" to the volunteers.

## In the lobby

Inside the lobby I will see many decorations. Some of these decorations could break or fall, so I will remember to look at the decorations, but I won't touch them. There may be lots of people coming to see *Nutcracker on the Rocks*, so it is important for me to stay close to my parents/group so that I stay safe. It is also important for me to stay calm and wait my turn if there is a line for something that I want to do or see. I can bring some things from home in a bag to do while I wait. If I think it might be too loud in the lobby, I can cover my ears or pack headphones to wear.



The show starts at 2:00 in the afternoon. The doors to the theater will open at 1:30 pm. If I am early, I will have to wait to go inside the theater. While I wait I can look around the lobby, go to the restroom, eat a snack, play with things I brought from home, practice dancing, or have my photo taken at a large backdrop outside the theater door. Ticket takers will be at the big black door to the theater. I can hand my ticket to them so they can tear off the end piece and give me back the large part of the ticket to keep as a bookmark.

## Restrooms

If I need to use the restroom, there are restrooms located down the left hallway of the lobby and inside the left-side dance studio called C2. The restrooms flush with a pedal on the floor and have paper towels that I can use to dry my hands. If there are a lot of people that need to use the restroom, I may need to wait in line. I will try to be patient and wait my turn to use the restroom.



## **Food and Drinks**

I may see people selling food and drinks in the lobby. They usually sell cookies, water and have a donation hot chocolate/ coffee table. I can talk to my parents before the show to see if we plan to buy a snack and/or drink or bring something from home. This is a special performance and I am allowed to bring snacks and drinks from home and have them inside the theater. If I am buying something in the lobby, I may have to wait in line for my turn to buy a snack or drink.

## **Break Areas**

For this performance, there will be two break areas that are available for me if I need to take a break or would like to go to a quiet space with fewer people. I can tell my parents/ group that I need to take a break and we can go to one of these areas. The first break area is right in the theater as you enter. It is beside the seating risers on the right side as you are looking at the stage. The second (quieter) break area is in the lobby down the left hallway towards the restrooms. I can go to the quiet break area before, during or after the show if I need to. Any of the volunteers can show me where to go if I need help.

## **Entering the theater**

When it is time to go into the theater, I will show my ticket to the usher. They will tear off the end portion and hand it back to me. Inside the door another volunteer usher will offer me a program to look at and learn more about *Nutcracker on the Rocks* and the dancers before the show starts. I can take this program home to remember our visit to see *Nutcracker on the Rocks*.



## **In the theater**

When I go inside the theater I will see lots of seats. For this performance it is open seating. That means, together with my family/group, I can choose which seat I want to sit in for the whole show. As I set in my seat, I will wait for the show to start. The seats are all facing the stage. All the people who sit in the

seats to watch the performance are called the audience. It is important to sit in my chair during the show so that the people sitting behind me can see the stage.

The stage is where the dancers will stand and dance during the show. In front of the stage is called the apron. This is the space we keep clear for audience members to walk, find their seats or move to the break areas if needed. For my safety and the safety of the dancers, I will stay off the stage.

### ***Watching Nutcracker on the Rocks***

When it is time for the show to start there will be a short announcement and the lights will get a little bit darker, but won't turn off. They will stay at half brightness during the show. I can clap anytime to show I am excited to see the show. When the music starts the dancers will come on stage and start dancing. There will be kids and adults dancing in the show. The dancers will be wearing different costumes to help tell the story. If I am afraid of the Mean Lady (who becomes the Rat Queen) and don't want to see her, I can close my eyes or look away. She is not really a mean person she is just one of the dancers telling the story.

The dancers will come on and off stage during different parts of the show. Lights will be used on the stage to make it look like different places or different times of the day. Sometimes light will shine on one part of the stage if there is something important for the audience to see. I can follow the light with my eyes to look at the important things. The music and sounds help to tell the story. If the music or sounds are too loud I can cover my ears or wear headphones. Sometimes it might look like the dancers are fighting, but they aren't really fighting. They are just pretending to fight to help tell the story of *Nutcracker on the Rocks*.



If I need a break while the dancers are dancing, I can tell my parents and they can walk with me out of the theater. Since this is a special performance it is okay to get up and take a break during the show. If I take a break, I can walk around the lobby to go to one of the special break areas. I can also visit the restroom. I can come back and watch the rest of the show when I am ready.

The show is divided into two acts, Act One and Act Two. I will see different dancers and costumes and hear different music in each act. Each act lasts about 40 minutes. There will be a break called intermission between the two acts.

## **Act One**

- The family and maids are getting ready for a holiday party with their friends
- The party guests arrive
- A magical friend, Madame Drosselmeier arrives at the party and shows the guests magic toys
- Marie gets a special gift, a Nutcracker doll
- At the end of the party the guests go home
- Marie sneaks back to the Christmas tree to sleep with her Nutcracker
- Clock Chimes
- Mice and rats come to steal Marie's Nutcracker
- The Nutcracker comes to life and fights the Rat Queen
- Marie and Nutcracker celebrate their victory

Because this is *Nutcracker on the Rocks* you can clap along anytime during the show to show the dancers you are enjoying yourself. At the end of Act One, I will clap my hands to tell the dancers they did a good job and that I liked the first half of the show.

After Act One, there is an intermission. This is a break for the dancers and the audience during intermission, I can stand up, go to the restroom, get a snack or take a break. I can also choose to stay in my seat. During intermission the lights will get brighter again so that the people can see to stand up and walk around. I can talk with my family/group during intermission. Intermission will last for 15 minutes.

When it is time for the show to start again the lights will go to half brightness. The music will start playing and Act Two will begin.

## **Act Two**

- Madame Drosselmeier takes Marie and Nutcracker on a magical journey to meet her friends the snowflakes
- The journey continues as different groups of dancers for different times in history come and dance for Marie and Nutcracker – the 1920's, the 1950s
- The rats return for a party because their Rat Queen is well again
- Madame Drosselmeier helps Nutcracker and Marie to feel safe and enjoy dancing together
- The 1960s dancers come to celebrate the love of the Nutcracker and Marie
- Nutcracker and Marie dance together
- The Rat Queen returns to take back her crown. The Nutcracker chases the Rat Queen and Marie chases her Nutcracker as the dream ends...
- Marie's mom wakes Marie and she tries to tell her everything that happen...was it real or was it a dream?
- It was magic!



At the end of Act Two the audience will clap for the dancers. The dancers will take turns coming onto the stage so that the audience can clap for them. I will clap my hands to tell the dancers they did a good job. I can even cheer if I want to! The dancers will take a bow while the audience claps. Sometimes when the audience really likes the show they will stand up to clap. This tells the dancers they did a really good job! When the clapping slows down the dancers will dance off the stage. This will mean the show is over.

I will look around my seat and make sure that I pick up all my things before I leave. I will walk to the aisle and wait with my family/group to walk out of the theater. There will be lots of people leaving the theater at the same time. I will try to be patient while I wait my turn to walk up the aisle and into the lobby. I can stop at the restroom if I need to on the way out of the theater. I will walk with my family/group through the lobby and to our car.