THE NUTCRACKER

PITTSBURGH BALLET THEATRE

December 4 - 27, 2026
Benedum Center, Pittsburgh

Sensory Guide

Emoji Key:

🎧 Auditory Impact

☹️ Emotional Impact

👀 Visual Impact

🕐 Time Impact

Performance time, including intermission:

🕐 Approximately 2 hours and 10 minutes

Act 1:	57 minutes
Intermission:	20 minutes
Act 2:	53 minutes

General Considerations

- 🕐 Run times are approximate and may vary slightly during a performance
- 🎧 The sound of ballet shoes may be heard moving along the floor during the performance.
- 🎧 Music will play from speakers throughout the performance
- 👀 Lights for the audience will be dark while the performers are on stage. The lights will come up during the intermission to signify the audience can get up and walk around

Overture

- Music starts playing while the curtain is still closed
- The Nephew wears a mask covering half of his face

Party Scene

- Drosselmeyer performs many different magic tricks
- Dancers dressed as Dolls appear and disappear inside of large boxes
- Children tease and take toys from each other

Battle Scene

- Mice and a giant Rat King appear with glowing red eyes
- Many different characters walk out of a giant story book
- A fake cannon shot is fired
- Different characters get hurt throughout the scene, but the dancers playing these parts are always okay

Snow

- Snow falls from the ceiling on the stage but not on the audience

Land of Enchantment

- Characters dressed in many different costumes appear to dance for Marie and the Nutcracker Prince
- A whistle sounds at the start of Exuberance
- Friendly clowns are on stage to perform tricks

Generously sponsored by:

HIGHMARK. giant eagle Clearview. S&T Bank

Thank you to Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust for their ongoing commitment to accessible programming at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre.