

Attending a Ballet Performance



Going to the theater for ballet is similar to going to a movie:

- The lights will go down before the performance begins and the theater will remain dark during the ballet.
- Audience members are expected to sit still and quiet in their seats.
- Photography and video recording are strictly prohibited.
- Cell phones and electronics should be turned off when you enter the theater.

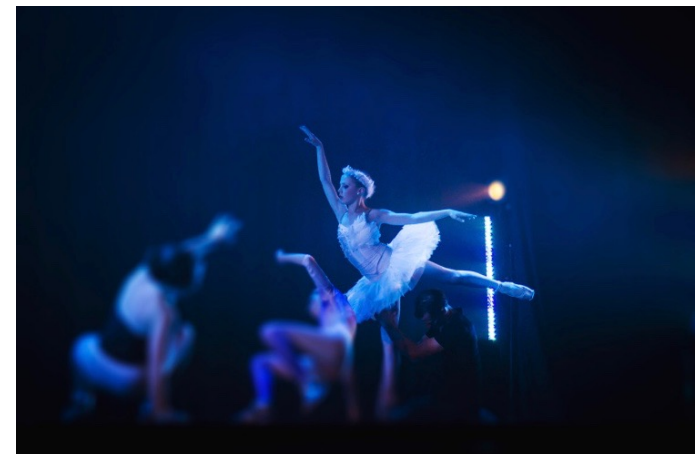
However, different from the movies:

- There is no talking in ballet. The story is told through movement, music, costumes, and sets.
- Ballet is performed live. There are no second takes and dancers can react to the audience!

- Clap when you enjoy something, laugh if something is funny, and give a standing ovation at the end if it was amazing. Let the dancers know you appreciate their hard work!
- At the end of the performance, the dancers take a bow. This is a curtain call.
- Some people make their visit to the ballet a dress-up occasion; others dress casually. Wear something you are comfortable in so you can enjoy the performance.
- There is an intermission. This is a perfect time to use the restroom.

Most Importantly:

- Enjoy the movement, music, sets, costumes—and HAVE FUN!



The story of **THE SLEEPING BEAUTY**



In the fairytale, there is a gathering to celebrate the birth of Princess Aurora. Catalabutte, the head master of ceremonies, greets the lords, ladies, and fairies as they arrive bestowing Aurora with gifts of goodness, joy, beauty, song, and dance. As the celebration is underway, there is a violent interruption of thunder and lightning. Carabosse, with her minions arrive in the chaos. She was the only one in the kingdom not invited to the christening. In Carabosse's rage over her exclusion, she attacks the terrified Catalabutte and sets her minions on the other fairies.

Carabosse gifts baby Aurora with a curse: at the age of 16, Aurora will prick her finger on a spindle and die. The kingdom weeps for baby Aurora until the Lilac Fairy, who has not yet given her gift, announces that Aurora will not die but instead fall into a deep sleep.

Princess Aurora does, indeed, grow up to be a kind and beautiful princess. On her 16th birthday, Aurora joyously dances with her friends until she pricks her finger; the curse has begun.

*Deep into a century-long slumber, the beautiful princess and her kingdom await the power of true love's kiss. **THE SLEEPING BEAUTY** enchants with a host of magical characters- from the deliciously wicked Carabosse and the valiant Prince Desire, to the benevolent woodland fairies and hilarious Puss in Boots. This iconic production with beautiful costumes and choreography, and Tchaikovsky's majestic score will sweep you off your feet. Don't miss the timeless tale you know and love.*

*May 19 & 20
Gryphon Theatre- Laramie, WY*



Discussion Questions

Movement:

Discussion:

Describe ballet to students as a way to communicate stories, ideas, and feelings without using words. Ask them if then can tell if someone is angry, happy, sad, or frightened just by walking into a room. Share a little about the history of *The Sleeping Beauty* and the time period in which it was originally created.

Pre-performance Questions:

What kinds of movements and facial expressions show happiness? Anger? Are these movements fast or slow?

What steps would you do, or expect to see, when a character is celebrating?

What steps would you do, or expect to see, when a character is evil?

Post-performance Questions:

Did the dancing fit the mood of each scene?

Were any parts of the performance that were confusing to you? Why?

Would you have made any adjustments?

What movements could you use to make *The Sleeping Beauty* a contemporary performance?

