TINY DANCES
SWAN LAKE



SOCIAL STORY FAMILY GUIDE

A PRE-VISIT GUIDE TO TINY DANCES: *SWAN LAKE*
Performed by San Francisco Ballet School

SAN FRANCISCO™
BALLET



I am going to watch a ballet performance called **Tiny Dances: *Swan Lake*.**

Photo Credit: Sasha De Sola and Max Cauthorn in Tomasson's Swan Lake // © Erik Tomasson



A ballet performance communicates a story through movement and music.

Photo Credit: Jacey Gailliard and Sasha Mukhamedov in Tomasson's Swan Lake // © Jesús Vallinas



There are big sets on stage, as well as fancy costumes and props that help tell the story.

Photo Credit: Wona Park and Wei Wang in Tomasson's *Swan Lake* // © Erik Tomasson



There will be ballet dancers on stage. The dancers will show the story through their movement and facial expressions.

Photo Credit: San Francisco Ballet in Tomasson's *Swan Lake* // © Lindsay Thomas



The dancers are teenagers training at San Francisco Ballet School. There will also be an actor on the stage called a narrator to help tell the story and guide me through the adventure.







I may walk, take a car, or ride public transportation to the performance.



The performance will be inside a big building called the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre. When I arrive, I will wait in line in the small Box Office Lobby area where an usher will look at my ticket. An usher is a friendly helper.



Next, I will go into the big lobby. There will be lots of people in the big lobby area. There will be friendly people at the welcome table to greet me.

Photo Credit: Palace of Fine Arts Theatre





In the lobby, I can try on a costume and learn about different types of ballet shoes.



In the lobby, I can visit the arts and crafts tables and take photos. I can also visit the sensory station and chillout space.



There will be a big rock in the lobby called Rock-bart. This is a fake rock. It is part of the set in the *Swan Lake* ballet. I can take photos in front of Rock-bart, but I cannot touch or climb on Rock-bart.

Photo Credi: Jim Sohn as Von Rothbart in Tomasson's *Swan Lake*, 1988 © San Francisco Ballet



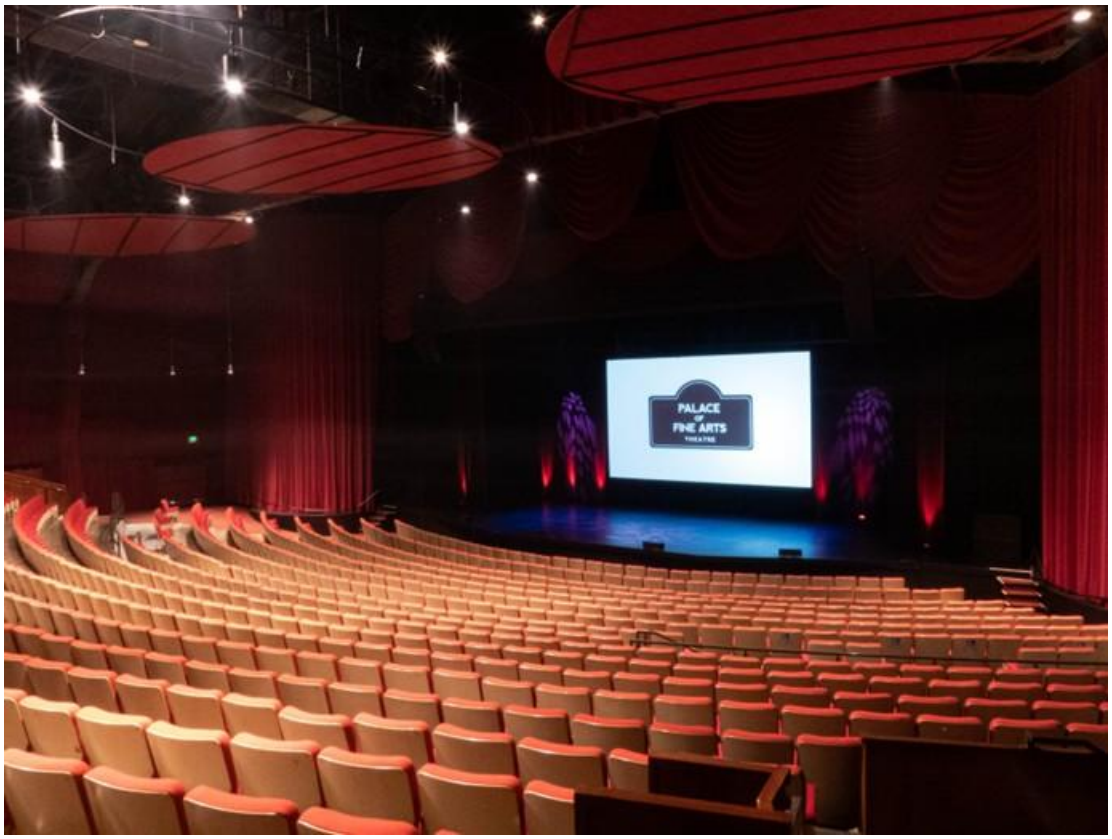
If I need help at any time, I can always ask an usher or a kindness ambassador.

If I need to use the restroom, there are restrooms in the lobby. There are also concessions where I can purchase snacks and drinks.



When I am ready to find my seat to watch the show, an usher will look at my ticket and direct me through the odd or even doors to my seat in the theatre. This is where I will sit to watch Tiny Dances: *Swan Lake*.

Photo Credit: Palace of Fine Arts Theatre



The theatre is a big space where a performance happens. The dancers and narrator perform on stage. The audience watches from their seats.

Photo Credit: Palace of Fine Arts Theatre



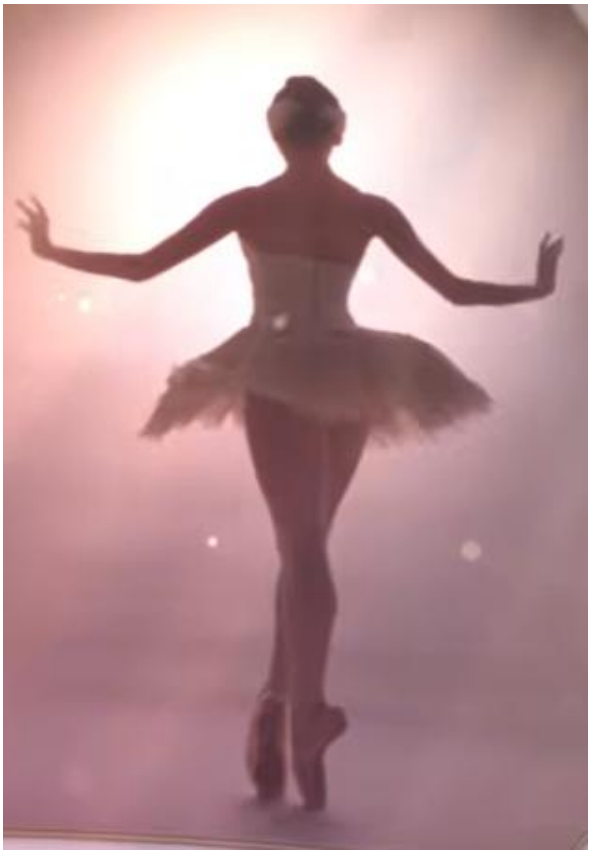
When the performance begins, the lights will get a little darker. The music and dancing will start, and people in the audience will stop talking.



The performers will dance to recorded music. Sometimes the music may be fast, sometimes it may be slow. If the music is too loud, I can cover my ears or use my headphones. I can also ask an usher for earplugs.



During the performance, I can sit in my seat and watch the dancers on stage. If I need to use my fidget objects, I can. I will share the space with others sitting around me. If I like what I see, I can clap, vocalize, flap my arms, or move along.





Swan Lake is a story about a girl named Odette who is magically transformed into the Swan Queen by an evil sorcerer named Von Rothbart. Odette is always wearing white. There's a second character named Odile, or the Black Swan. Odile always wears black.



The evil sorcerer is named Von Rothbart. Some parts of the story might be scary. If I feel scared, I can cover my eyes or take a break in the lobby. It is important to remember that the dancers on stage are wearing costumes and acting (another word for pretending).

Photo Credit: Tiit Helimets as Von Rothbart in Tomasson's *Swan Lake* // © Erik Tomasson



If I need a break during the performance, I can ask an adult to go with me to the lobby to use the restroom, have a snack, or visit the chillout space. An usher will help us find our seats when I’m ready to go back and watch the ballet.



Part 1 is 30 minutes. There will be a short intermission after Part 1. During intermission, I may stay in my seat, go to the lobby to have a snack, use the bathroom, or visit the chillout space.

After intermission, I will go back to my seat for the rest of the show. Part 2 is 30 minutes.



When the performance is over the dancers will take a bow.

If I like the ballet I can clap my hands or stand up and say “bravo” to let the performers know that I enjoyed the show. If the clapping is too loud, I can cover my ears.



After the show, I will take all my belongings and leave the theatre.



If I enjoyed my experience at Tiny Dances: *Swan Lake*, I can ask my family to see another ballet.

Photo Credit: Julia Rowe as the Sugar Plum Fairy and SF Ballet School students in Tomasson's *Nutcracker*



QUESTIONS?

www.sfballet.org/tiny-dances-swan-lake

Learn more about San Francisco Ballet and San Francisco Ballet School at www.sfballet.org.

Photos © San Francisco Ballet

Tiny Dances: *Swan Lake* Illustration by Kristina Swarner