

Things to help build anticipation before show starts

Letting your child know a few things to look for or listen for in the performance can help them feel an excited sense of anticipation, and keep them engaged throughout the performance.

Before the show, ask them to watch for the following:

- At the Christmas Party, the children are playing games around the Christmas tree; what game will they be playing?
- Candy canes – Uncle Dross will do a trick with Candy canes with Clara. Watch for this magic trick.
- There will be a fantastical baby animal in the production- what kind of animal?
- There is a Snow Queen in the production – what is her name?
- There is a dance called Waltz of the Flowers in the show - how many 'flowers/dancers' can you count on stage?
- **For older children:** The backdrops during Clara's journey feature scenery of famous places in the world. How many can you guess/count? (Great Wall of China, The St. Basils Cathedral in Moscow, Russia, the Rialto Bridge in Venice, Italy, and a winter forest scene shot in Revelstoke!)

Listen to the Music ahead of time

The Music of the Nutcracker was written by Pyotrilyich Tchaikovsky in 1892, and has become some of the most recognized music in the world. Many of the musical numbers in the ballet are associated with specific characters and objects. Your child will delight in 'meeting' these characters on the stage if they recognize the music.

Play some of these tunes at bedtime or listen to together as a family before the show:

- Dance of the Snowflakes
- The Russian Dance
- The Arabian Dance
- The Chinese Dance
- Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy
- Waltz of the Flowers

After the performance, ask your child:

- What was your favorite character in the story and why?
- How did the ballet make you feel? Did you have different feelings at different parts of the ballet?
- Was there any part of the ballet that you did not like? Why?
- If you could imagine another story told with our words as a ballet, what story would you like to see 'danced'?

