



THE  BROWN-FORMAN  
NUTCRACKER

Choreography by Val Caniparoli

WHAT TO  
EXPECT

*at the theater*

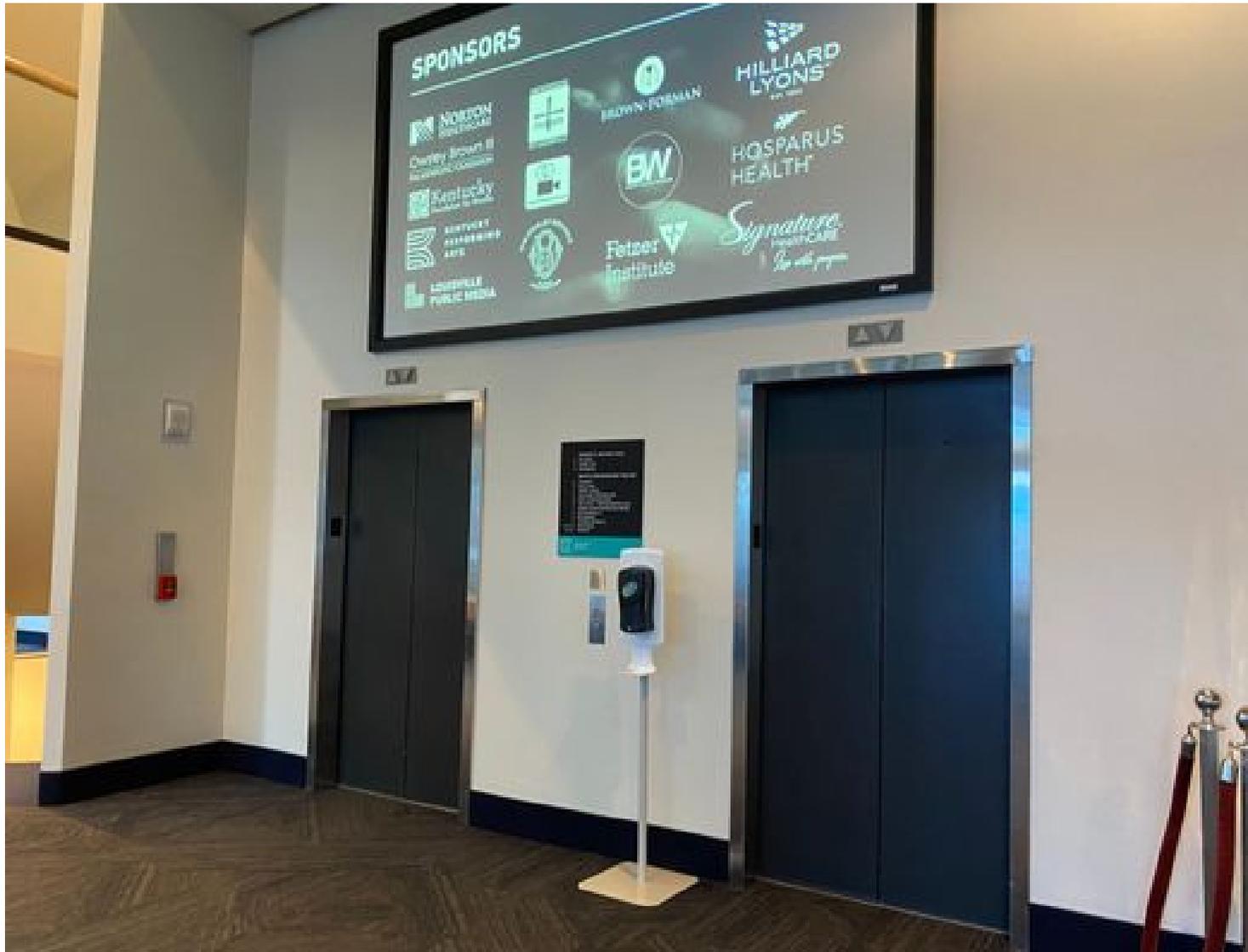


louisville ballet



Louisville Ballet performs the The Brown-Forman Nutcracker at the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts. Right now, the Kentucky Center is doing construction on the front of the building.





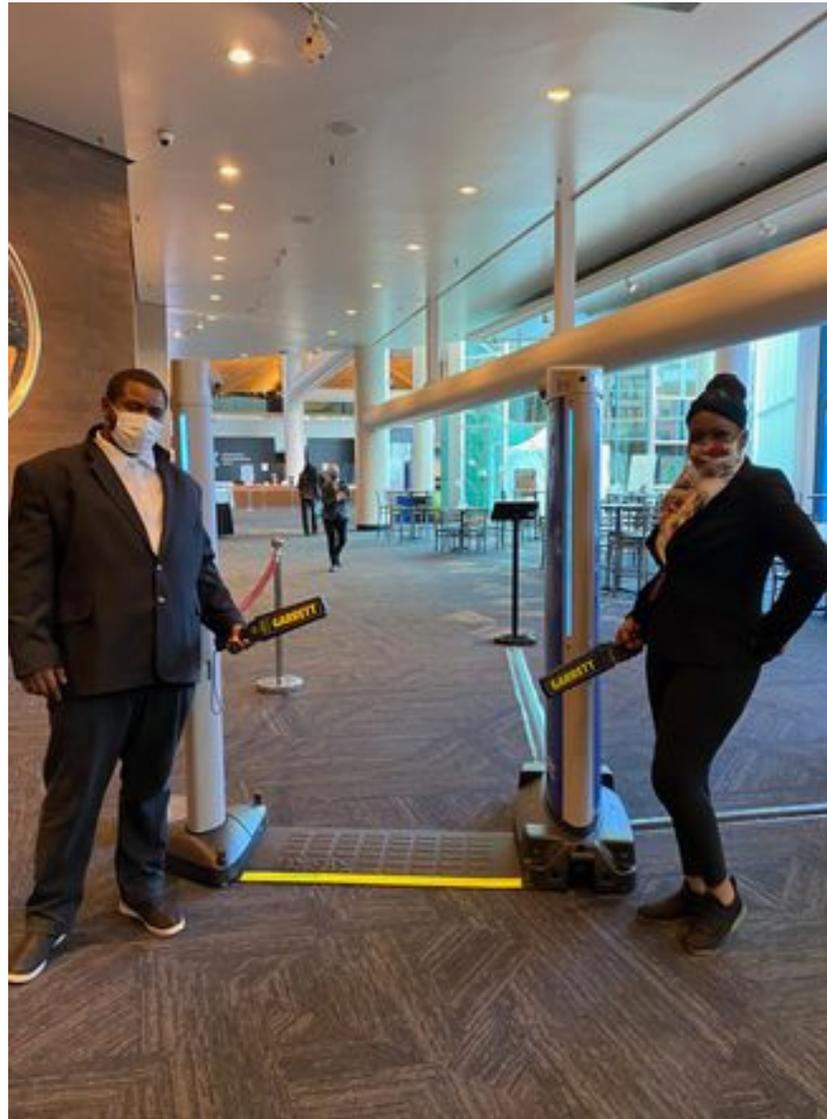
There are elevators I can take from the parking garage to get inside the theater.



I can also enter through the front of the building, but I have to use this stairwell along the side of the construction wall.



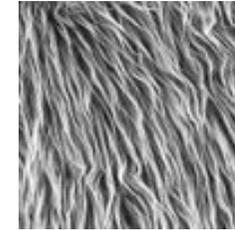
When I arrive to the lobby, there are metal detectors that I will need to walk through.



Security guards are located at all entrances into the building to help keep me safe.



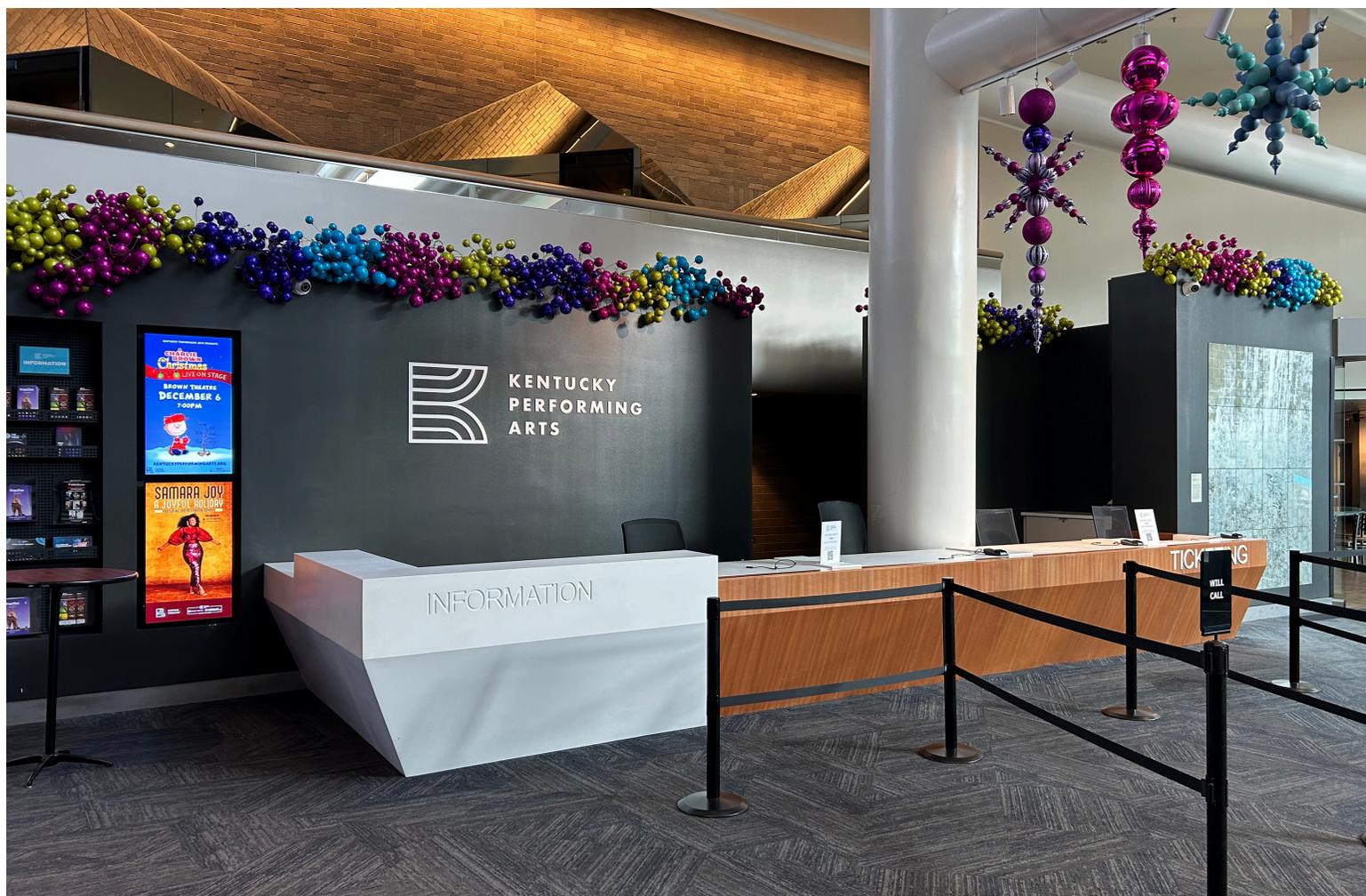
I will see dancers in costumes and many friendly people there to greet me. I can talk to the dancers and have my picture taken with them if I like.



There will a table with "Tactile To-Go" bags. I can take one of these bags with me to my seat. It has items in it that I can touch like tulle used to make tutus and pink ribbons for pointe shoes.



In the lobby of the theater, there are bathrooms. It is always a good idea to go before the show begins. If loud toilets bother me, the restroom closest to the quiet room has a manual flush toilet.



If I need help with my tickets, there is a ticketing counter I can visit.



The performance of The Brown-Forman Nutcracker will be inside Whitney Hall at The Kentucky Center.



Ushers will be waiting to take my ticket at the theater door. I will have my ticket ready to be scanned. There are three levels at the Kentucky Center. For this special performance, only the first, called the orchestra level, will be open. I will see red ropes blocking the stairs that lead to the other two levels.



Once inside the theater, I will get to choose where I would like to sit. Rows E - N will be marked with a snowflake and snow will fall on them at the end of Act 1. If I don't want snow to touch me, I will sit in a different row.



Before the show begins, there will be a slide show playing on a big screen, showing pictures of dancers and costumes. It will also have fun facts about ballet. A person will come out on stage to welcome me to the performance.



Ballet companies all over the world perform the Nutcracker ballet each year. Louisville Ballet performs their very own version of this ballet called The Brown Forman Nutcracker. This production is very special because it was made just for Louisville Ballet.



Watching a ballet is like watching a play, except the performers do not speak. Instead, they use movement and dance to tell their story. In ballet, the performers are called dancers.



There are sets on the stage along with lots of costumes and props that the dancers use to help tell the story. A musical recording of an orchestra will play along while the dancers perform.



When the performance begins, the lights will get a little bit darker and everyone will sit in their seats. The music will start and people will stop talking and watch the dancers on the stage.

I will sit calmly in my seat and I will keep my hands in my lap. I will share the space with others sitting around me while we are watching the performance.



A person with glow sticks will signal if something surprising is about to happen in the performance.



At times throughout the performance, the music will get louder. If it bothers me, I can cover my ears, put on headphones or hold hands with someone if I feel scared.



If I need to take a break, I can leave the theater, go to a quiet room, and come back when I am ready. Volunteers and ushers will be there to help show me the way in and out of the theater.



The dancers will come on and off stage many times. There will be children and adults dancing. If the dancers do something I like, I can clap when the song is over.



Some dancers wear masks, like the Nutcracker and the Rat King. These are people in costumes and not real rats and soldiers. There will be a battle scene, but the dancers are just pretending and do not really hurt one another. If I feel uncomfortable, I can put on my headphones, close my eyes or hold hands with someone.



The show includes a snow scene. It will look like it is snowing on stage, but it really is just tiny little pieces of paper. At the end of the snowflakes dance, it will look like it is snowing on the audience! The snow is like bubbles and will disappear once it lands. The snow will mostly fall on rows E – N. These rows will be marked with a giant snowflake. If I do not want to have the snow touch me, I will sit in a different row.



After the snow scene, there will be a 15 minute break called an intermission. I can use this time to stretch my legs, go to the bathroom, and visit the lobby.



When the dancing starts again, Marie and the Nutcracker arrive in the Land of Sweets where they are entertained by dancers from far away lands. The last part is when all of the performers from the Land of Sweets return for a big finale.



After the performance is over, the audience will clap for the dancers. The dancers will come back out on stage and take a bow. The dancers like it when the audience stands up and gives loud applause. I can cheer loudly if I want to show the dancers how much I liked their performance. If it gets too noisy, I can cover my ears, put on my headphones or hold hands with someone.



Everyone will then get up to leave the theater. I may have to wait a few minutes to get out of my row and exit the theater.