

Beauty and the Beast

A Tip Sheet for the Sensory Friendly Performance

Sunday, April 8 at 10:30am at The Aronoff Center

What to Expect During the Performance

- Beauty and the Beast is a ballet. The dancers will tell the story of Beauty and the Beast by dancing. The audience will hear music and a narrator will tell parts of the story, but the dancers will not be talking while they dance. There will be one break, where the host, Julie will come out, talk about the show, and lead some movement exercises that you can do in your seat.

Here is the synopsis of our Beauty and the Beast:

ACT ONE

Scene 1: The Forest/Castle Door - Deep in the forest, where bands of fairies, sprites and trolls, still have magic powers, there is a castle where a prince once lived. Years before, an evil fairy, disguised as an old hag, begged the Prince for shelter from a storm. When he denied her access to his castle, she magically stole his heart and turned him into a hideous beast. This lonely castle remains silent but for the moaning of the Beast. For many years he has walked through the halls and grounds of his empty estate.

Scene 2: Beauty's Home - In a village close by, there lived a merchant who had three daughters. The youngest daughter, Beauty, who was just 16 years old, had a good heart, was kind, understanding and knew that sometimes bad things happen and were a part of life. Unlike her jealous and complaining sisters, Babette and Colette, Beauty met each day with a smile and a happy heart. Henri was a determined suitor but Beauty rejected his proposal because she did not love him and said she would only marry for love.

One day, the merchant received word that one of his ships was returning to port loaded with treasures that would again bring wealth to the family. Babette and Colette requested precious gifts but Beauty asks only for a rose. The merchant sets off to claim his ship and the fortune it brings.

Scene 3: The Forest/Castle Doors - When the merchant arrived at port, he learned that his ship had been wrecked at sea in a terrible storm. Not only was his fortune lost, but the storm that had swallowed up his ship was now heading for land. Empty-handed, the merchant hastened to return home, Upon his return home, he becomes lost in the forest during the storm. He seeks shelter in what seems to be a welcoming but empty castle.

Scene 4: The Animated Castle - He calls out but hears only an echo. Weary from his travel, the merchant enters the castle and treats himself to a sumptuous meal. Warm and cozy, he falls asleep.

Scene 5: The Rose Garden- The next morning, the merchant wakes feeling refreshed, discovering he is now in a magical rose garden. While picking a rose for his daughter, Beauty, the Beast appears and demands that the merchant must die for stealing his most prized possession. When he learns that the merchant has three daughters he says he will allow the merchant to return home if one of his daughters will return in his place as a captive of her own free will and be willing to sacrifice her life in his place. He gives the merchant a magic glove which will transport him home. He warns him that he will die if he does not meet these conditions.

Scene 6: Gates of Beauty's Home - Upon learning of her father's fate, Beauty agrees to take his place in the Castle.

Scene 7: The Animated Castle – The merchant and Beauty return to the castle and Beauty meets the Beast, assure him that she has come of her own free will. The Beast rewards the merchant for his honesty and sends him home with treasure for the family, Beauty bids her father goodbye.

ACT II

Scene 1: The Hallways/Beauty's Chamber – While Beauty missed her Father and wanted to cry, she chose not to worry since she thought she had but a little time to live. However, when she saw her bedroom, it was magnificent, full of all the things she loved. She decided that such a room was surely not meant for only one day and had new hope. As she falls asleep in her bedroom, she hears the voice of the Good Fairy assuring her that her sacrifice will be rewarded.

Scene 2: The Hallway/castle Interior- Beauty and the Beast dine together and he asks her questions about his ugly appearance and other unlovely manners. She tells him, he seems to be a good person in spite of his appearance he seems thoughtful and kind. The Beast asks her to marry him, but she says, “no.”

Scene 3: Beauty's Chamber- As she slept that night, Beauty dreams of a handsome man whom she believed was a captive in the castle. Once again she hears the voice of the Good Fairy “Beauty, follow your heart.”

Scene 4: Hallway/Rose Garden – The Beast again asks for her hand in marriage. She again tells him “no” but does agree to teach him to dance.

Scene 5: Beauty's Chamber – Beauty has agreed to stay with the Beast and always be his friend. However, when she looks into the enchanted mirror in her room, she see that her father is unhappy and very ill. The Beast allows Beauty to travel home by way of the magic glove with her promise to return in a week.

Scene 6: The Gates of Beauty's Home – Beauty's Father was happy to see his daughter alive and her presence helped him to return to health. However, she had stayed much longer than a week. As she saw the dying Beast in her family's mirror, she kissed her father goodbye, slipped on the magic glove of the Beast.

Scene 7: Rose Garden – Beauty returns to the dying Beast, kisses him on the cheek and begs him not to die because she loves him and will marry him. She then asks the Good Fairy to save the Beast, but the Good Fairy says that only she, Beauty, can save the Beast. Beauty offers her own heart to the Good Fairy if she will save the Beast. Beauty looked up, but the Beast was gone and in his place was the handsome young man of her dreams, restored to his former self. The Prince and Beauty lived happily ever after.

About the Sensory-Friendly Performance

- The doors to the Aronoff Center will open at 9:00am. The doors to the theater will open for seating at 10:00am. **The performance will start at 10:30am** and will last for approximately one hour and fifteen minutes, with one fifteen minute intermission.
- Visit The Cincinnati Ballet : www.cballet.org for visual supports, parking information and directions
- **Seating** is assigned for this performance and designated rows and seat numbers will be printed on your tickets. The ushers inside the theater can help you find your seat. Please let the ushers know if you need a seat cushion.
- During the performance, the **lights** will remain at half brightness.
- You are welcome to enter and exit the theater as needed during the sensory-friendly performance. You are permitted to bring fidgets, handheld devices and noise canceling headphones.
- Restrooms are located on either side of the lobby. The toilets are automatic flush and have paper towels available to dry hands.

- For this performance there will be two break areas. One will be in the lobby and the other will be more private and located on the second floor in the green room. Volunteers will be available to assist guests with locating break areas.
- Families are permitted to bring appropriate snacks and drinks from home. Eating and drinking will be allowed in the theater during this performance.
- Photography and Videography is not permitted inside the theater.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Sunderland,
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