



## What Can You Expect at a Sensory Inclusive Performance?

First and foremost, we want to give you and your family a professional theatre experience. In order to do that effectively, we will modify the environment and some of the typical theatre guidelines to accommodate individuals with a variety of sensory sensitivities and those who support them.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q. Is this performance only for families of children with autism or other developmental disabilities, or can anyone attend?**

A: Sensory Inclusive Performances are not segregated performances for individuals solely with sensory sensitivities or autism. These programs embrace the concepts of Universal Design with the ultimate goal of creating a shared experience for an audience, regardless of one's abilities. Broadly, these shows are designed to serve any person with a physical, emotional, intellectual, or developmental disability AND those who support them.

Sensory Inclusive Performances are designed and modified to address the sensory sensitivities that are often found in children, adolescents, and adults who have a variety of diagnoses including (but not limited to) autism, sensory processing disorder, ADD/ADHD, intellectual or developmental disabilities, post-traumatic stress disorder, and dementia.

**Q: What accommodations will be made for this show that will make it different from other public performances?**

A: The autism-friendly accommodations are:

- Lights inside the theater remain on, but dimmed low
- Consistent and comfortable sound levels (elimination of loud sound effects)
- Individuals are free to talk and leave their seat under supervision-we REALLY will be there to support you!
- "Activity Area" and "Quiet Area" where individuals may choose to take a break from the performance (the area is staffed by qualified teachers and volunteers, a simulcast of the performance on a video monitor may be available)
- You may bring your own snacks and drinks (don't worry, concessions will also be open for business for non-school events)

**Q: Will there be support services at the show?**

A: YES! Parents, teachers and support persons are responsible for direct supervision. Trained professionals and volunteers are available to assist:

- With transitions in and out of the theater
- In the activity area
- During the performance

**Q: Will the show on stage be any different from other performances that are not Sensory Inclusive?**

A: Each show has been reviewed by a panel of specialists to determine the appropriateness of the performance. The most minimal changes will be made to ensure the comfort of this audience. All in all, most theater-goers would not be able to tell that a show has been modified. In addition to content, the amplified audio levels will be tuned to be comfortable and consistent levels, without abrupt spikes in volume or jarring sound effects.

**Q: Will it be noisy during the show?**

A: It's very possible. Expect there to be more than the usual ambient sounds from the audience.

**Q: I'm unsure if we will be able to sit through the entire show. If not, can we go in and out of the theater during the show (or leave the show early)?**

A: Yes. We are here to support you in your theatre experience.