

**SENSORY-
FRIENDLY
PERFORMANCE**



**PARENT'S
GUIDE**

Sunday, March 8 at 4 p.m.



GRIMMZ Fairy Tales

By Christopher Parks, Rahsheem Shabazz, and Ron Lee McGill

About the show

Jay and Will Grimmz, the hip-hop fable story dance-pop sensation, have come back home to the city where they grew up to give a concert. They're known not just for their sounds but for their powerful storytelling, an inventive remix of familiar classics. The brothers put a modern spin on valuable life lessons in Snow White and the Seven Shawties, Down with Rapunzel, Hansel & Gretel and their featured first Granny-winning song, Break, Cinderella, Break! Pay your bling, hear them sing and get ready to drop the mic in this unforgettable theatrical experience.

Show sponsors

BlackArch Gives, PwC, The Hensley Family, Quanteer Williams, Sarah & Mike Kaminski, and Catherine & Jerry Malone

Special thanks



to Julie Higginbotham of Precious Developments. Julie has worked as our consultant in the creation and preparation of our sensory-friendly performances. We're grateful for this valued partnership.

What to expect at a sensory-friendly performance

Sensory-friendly theatre is an approach to the audience experience that "softens" the environment. What does that mean exactly? In general, we make the theatre available to everyone, including those who may need more flexibility to help manage all of the sensory experiences that come along with attending a performance. Below are some of the adjustments Children's Theatre of Charlotte is making to create a more sensory-friendly environment tailored to each show:

- Lights in the theatre will stay low during the show, instead of turning all the way off.
- We will lower the sound levels when needed.
- We sell fewer tickets for the sensory-friendly performances so families have more room to move as needed.
- We provide fidgets, headphones and weighted toys to help children feel more organized and settled.
- Someone will be at the front of the stage with glow sticks to help give families a warning when sensory-rich moments are nearing. Raising one light means there's a smaller sensory moment coming up (like a loud sound or a change in lighting). Raising two lights means a more intense sensory-rich moment is about to occur.
- We provide a quiet room if children need to leave the theatre to feel more settled or regroup during the show.

Support materials for you

We provide several guides to help prepare your family for your visit:

The **visit guide** that walks your family through our facility.

The **child guide** goes with each performance.

The **parent guide** like this one helps parents support their children's learning and experience in the theatre.

We want you to have the opportunity to enjoy the theatre with your family, so with that, please enjoy the show!

Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments in GRIMMZ Fairy Tales



Meet the Brothers Grimmz! Will and Jay Grimmz are here to share some fairy tales with you, but you've never heard them told like this before.....

What real-life lessons can we learn from fairy tales?

Sensory-rich moments:

This beginning moment contains light smoke effects, lighting shifts, and tempo changes in the music. This whole production contains lots of lighting effects, some of which we have adjusted further for this production, and cool audio effects throughout. It is a very interactive show for the audience as well!



Meet the rest of the crew helping tell these stories today - they'll give you a quick sneak peek of their take on these familiar tales.

How do these stories compare to the ones you're used to hearing?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a strobe effect and a camera flash effect that have been slowed/softened, other lighting shifts, and several audio effects. There are also light effects that come on in the house that affect the seats in the last three rows of the audience.



Will and Jay Grimmz are going to tell you a bit more about today's show. They are so fun, and they have a lot of energy!

It's way more fun to tell stories with someone else!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some friendly shouting and direct interaction with the audience. It transitions into the next scene with a robotic voice effect, lighting effects, and a rapping story intro. There are also light effects that come on in the house throughout this story that affect the seats in the last three rows of the audience.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Meet Snow White - she's so sweet, and she's growing up so fast! Is she ready for new responsibilities that come with her new age?

How do we really prepare kids for the things they'll experience as they grow up?

Sensory-rich moments:

This story contains lighting shifts, audio effects, puppet faces, and a cool screen visual effect. It also contains bullying moments throughout the storyline.



Diva La'Queen is really concerned about everyone else's opinions, isn't she? Watch what happens when she decides to pull Snow White into her obsession....

What do we say to ourselves when someone is unkind to us? How do we choose to respond?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a quick stop for a funny learning moment, as well as the setup for online bullying. The lighting shifts continue, and puppets make their first appearance here (see pic below for this peek).



Look, it's Snow White's 7 Shawties! She's so upset... how will they help her figure out what to do about Diva La'Queen and her online bullying?

Who do we put in our children's village to help them through tough things like bullying?

Sensory-rich moments:

More puppets come into this scene, and the lighting shifts continue. There is an ending moment, but keep watching!



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



You thought it was over, didn't you? Just wait, the Shawties aren't quite done with Diva La'Queen....

"Other people's opinions are none of my business."

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a quick simulated camera flash and ends with a louder moment to end the scene. The Grimmz brothers come out to share some thoughts on bullying and how to handle it as they bring us into the next story with a rapping transition.



Meet Hansel and Gretel! These kids have hit a rough time in life, and they work hard to look out for each other to try to stay together.....

True loyalty is so hard to find!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains softer lighting shifts, and the children decide to run away.



The kids are trying to take care of themselves, so they're anxious to get a good meal at this old lady's house. But things start to get a little...strange....

It's important to help children listen to their inner safety radar.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains more smoke effects, lighting shifts, changes in music tempo, and questions about the children's safety. There are also light effects that come on in the house that affect the seats in the last three rows of the audience.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Gretel had a great plan to get them away from the old lady! But what happens when the old lady shows another side of herself? It's time for the kids to make a choice.....

There's grace in being able to see someone else's side to any situation.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some slightly shrieky laughter and moves into a group number with lighting shifts, and the lighting effects in the house return that affect the seats in the last three rows of the audience.



Will and Jay share more personal stories about the people that come into our lives to love on us as they get us ready for the next fairy tale.

You never know who will come into your life to help get you to the next chapter!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains positive talk about tough situations and transitions us into the next story with lighting shifts and traffic sounds.



Meet Rapunzel - you've never heard her story told like this before, and wait until you meet her friends....

What do we see in our kids' friends? When do we need to see them from our kids' point of view?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains rhythmic music created by the cast, and it moves into some....interesting....singing. :) It also contains a brief crashing moment that has been softened.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Rapunzel's mother is about to tell her something she's not ready to hear. What do you think about it?

It's so hard to protect our children from the things we think will hurt them! How do we decide when to step in?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains more.....unfortunate.....singing. It also contains some seemingly unkind words. There are also soft lighting shifts and traffic sounds.



Will isn't scared off that easily - he really wants to show Rapunzel exactly what he thinks about her by bringing in some other friends from the neighborhood.

True friends celebrate us and want us to know we're loved!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some window slams, an "ouch" moment, and lighting shifts. It moves into various musical learning moments with more talents that may not be considered good to the rest of the world. This scene is really interactive with the audience!



Uh-oh, Rapunzel's mother has been watching this whole thing happening.... But wait, she has a surprise of her own to offer the group!

How do we share our dreams with each other, even when they seem far-fetched?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene brings all of the "talents" in to celebrate them noisily together! There is also a quick-stop surprise moment, brief crashing sounds with cat screeches, and riffing with Rapunzel.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Jay and Will are back to talk about doing what you love, no matter what anyone else thinks about you! They'll also take us into our last story, so get ready for more awesome storytelling.....

How do we share our stories with our kids so they can grow from them?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene sets up the final story with prompts about tough life situations. It moves into the story with music and lighting shifts.



Meet Cinderella! She's in a tough part of her life - how is she going to handle it?

How do we help children build the resilience to work through hard situations?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains soft lighting shifts and a garbled voice in a phone call simulation.



Cinderella's "new family" is interesting, isn't it? Her father's new wife isn't very friendly, but what happens when she meets her step-sister?

When people treat us badly, it's usually about something happening to them that we may not know.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene starts the ongoing unkind exchanges between "new wife" and Cinderella throughout the story and displays a lot of hurt feelings. There are some lighting shifts, doors that close firmly, and moving set pieces.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Cinderella is feeling so alone! She prays hard for something good to happen - are her prayers answered?

How do we help children cope when they feel this alone and desperate?

Sensory-rich moments:

This moment is very emotional and moves into a very hopeful exchange. There are some lighting and set shifts.



Cinderella and her step-sister have finally gotten to connect, even though “new wife” is trying so hard to keep them apart. But wait, Cinderella is about to get some good news.....

It just takes one person to give us hope - who needs us to be that one?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains an implied curse word, and there is a quick stopping moment. There are some soft light changes as well.



Wow - things get worse, but Cinderella’s father comes home just in time. Watch as they head to the dance competition and Cinderella’s father helps her cope when it’s over.....

We can’t always fix the big things, but we can be there along the way to help however we can.

Sensory-rich moments:

“New wife” is more aggressive, and the dance competition contains lighting shifts and sparkling set changes. The lighting effects in the house return that affect the seats in the last three rows of the audience.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



What a show! Our amazing storytellers are now asking you.....Whatchu gonna do?

We all have the power to stand up to do what's right through even the smallest acts!

Sensory-rich moments:

This final scene contains more lighting shifts, the return of Rapunzel's voice, and the cast approaching the front edge of the stage for the ending. The lighting effects in the house return that affect the seats in the last three rows of the audience. The ending moment contains an explosion sound and all-red lighting shift.

Thanks for joining us at Children's Theatre of Charlotte for this special performance.

Learn more and buy tickets to other sensory-friendly performances at ctcharlotte.org.

Click on **Shows & Tickets** and look for **Accessibility & Inclusion**.

Upcoming sensory-friendly performances include:

Dragons Love Tacos

Sunday, April 26 @ 4 p.m.



ctcharlotte.org