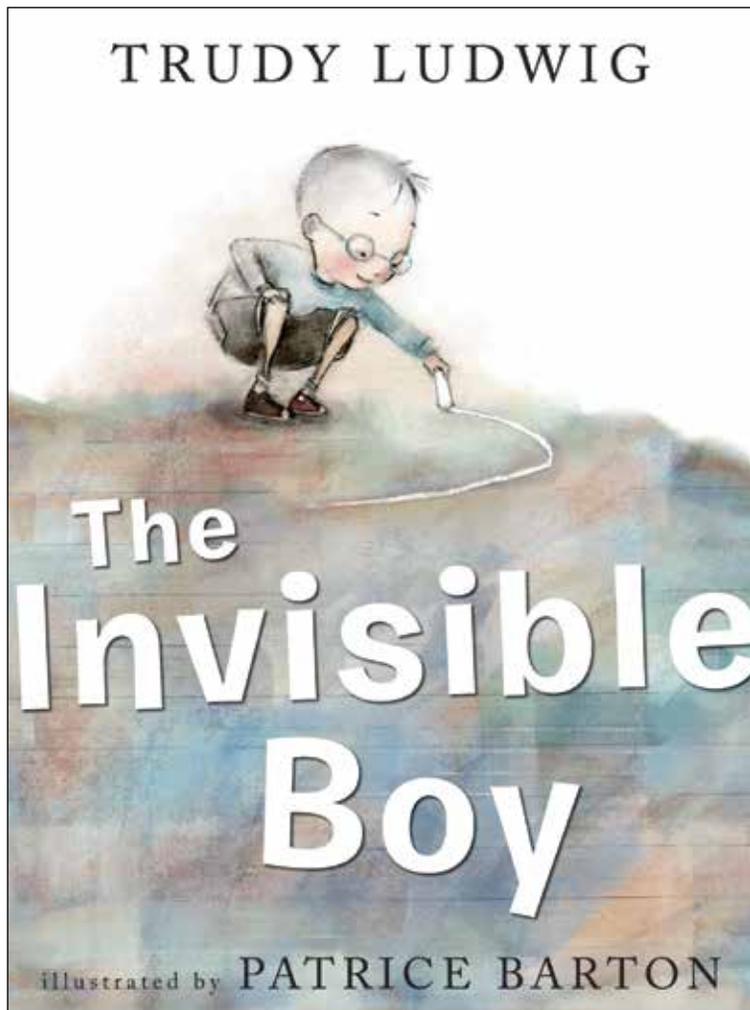


**SENSORY-
FRIENDLY
PERFORMANCE**



**PARENT'S
GUIDE**

Sunday, November 10 at 4 p.m.



The Invisible Boy

Based on the book by Trudy Ludwig, Illustrated by Patrice Barton

Libretto by Christopher Parks

Libretto and Music by Josh Titora

a part of



About the show

Meet Brian. No one notices him. No one includes him. He just feels invisible. But everything suddenly changes when a new student named Justin arrives. A bit of creativity helps form a new friendship, unleashing Brian's lively personality and vivid imagination. This high-spirited musical, complete with fun songs and heartfelt humor, will help us all discover the possibilities that begin with a simple act of kindness.

Show sponsors

Atrium Health Levine Children's, Capital Bank Foundation, Dorlisa & Peter Flur, Patrick Burgess & Joan Martin, Linda Reynolds, SentryOne

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 *The Invisible Boy*



It's time for school! These students look like they're ready to take on the day!

How do we teach our kids that we're all unique, but we can still find a way to belong together?

Sensory-rich moments:

The opening scene contains an active introduction song with lighting shifts and an announcer voice.

As a whole, this production contains a live band on stage, quick starts to songs, and very cool lighting and projection effects throughout the show.



Meet Brian. He's working hard to get himself ready for school today...

It's important to find out what kids are thinking so we can help them work through their worries.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a soft transition into the next scene.



This is Mrs. Carlotti. She really knows each of these students so well....or does she?

Teachers have a tough job as they try to connect with each student individually.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains sounds as set pieces are moved, fake air freshener (it's just water), an EW GROSS moment, and a musical number that builds energy.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Why is Brian over here by himself?

We have to be sure to notice the kids that are quiet as much as the kids who are more vocal.

Sensory-rich moments:

The song in this scene continues to build energy into its ending moment with a more active ensemble and softly flashing lights onto the stage.



Meet the “new kid,” Justin. What do the other students think about him?

How do we teach our kids to invite others into their circle of friends?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a song that builds and has light shifts and tempo changes. It transitions into the next scene with a short moment containing a news announcer voice and more active projections on set.



It’s time to pick teams for kickball. How do you think they’ll choose their teammates?

How do we make sure all kids are included in activities that want to be included?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some light shifts and a short musical moment, along with some brief shouting and a sad moment. It transitions into the next scene with a news announcer voice.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



It's time for lunch. What's everyone going to eat today?

It's important to respect each other's preferences, cultural differences, and choices!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains two active songs with light shifts and building energy. It also contains some bullying moments. This scene transitions into the next one with the news announcer voice.



Ah, now Brian is really in his happy place! Watch what happens when his imagination really has room to grow!

Kids can really blossom when we allow them to focus on their interests and give them space to explore.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a softer song that builds through some very cool projection and lighting effects.



Brian was feeling really brave. Why is he hiding under the table now?

Being brave sometimes means that we're scared of doing something big, but we decide to do it anyway.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene starts softly with some lighting shifts and transitions into the next scene with some shouts, red flashing lights that have been softened, and an alien voice recording.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Whoa, why is Brian standing on that table?

It's easy to get carried away when we're pretending. How do we celebrate our imagination instead of being embarrassed by it?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains an embarrassing moment, a swift light shift, and a bullying moment.



Oh no, Brian is hiding again, but for a totally new reason this time.

How do we help kids understand that they're not alone and they're not the first ones to be embarrassed?



There it is....some hope for Brian.

It's important to help kids see through to the other side of their struggles, especially when they know someone else has made it through, too!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a quick transition into the next scene with lighting, set, and music shifts.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Back at school, it's time for some "team" choices again. How will it work out for Brian this time?

Just one child can make a situation more inclusive. How do we help our kids be that one?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene starts with a louder "announcement" and contains some music and lighting shifts.



Uh oh, Brian is on the table again! Watch what happens this time, though....

It's important to recognize individual children's strengths and find ways to highlight them within their peer groups.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a super fun, busy musical number that builds through the end of the scene. There are more active projections, more notable lighting shifts, and a big ending.



Brian is ready to take a stand. How will the other students react?

It's so hard to stand up for someone the first time, but it gets easier every time. How do we help kids be brave and take that chance?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a bully moment and some lighting shifts as the final musical number begins.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Wow, Brian really looks hopeful now. He doesn't have to be The Invisible Boy anymore!

It just takes one person to do one thing, even a small thing, to make the biggest difference for someone else!

Sensory-rich moments:

This final scene contains a song that builds in energy, and there is a fun, brief cast engagement moment with the audience. It ends with the news announcer and lighting shift as the production closes.

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:

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical

Sunday, December 8 @ 4 p.m.

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs

Sunday, January 12 @ 4 p.m.

Akeelah and the Bee

Sunday, February 16 @ 7 p.m.

GRIMMZ Fairy Tales

Sunday, March 8 @ 4 p.m.

Dragons Love Tacos

Sunday, April 26 @ 4 p.m.

Save 10% with a Choose-Your-Own subscription. Create your own lineup of three or more shows. Also, enjoy free ticket exchanges, plus a discount on any shows you add to your ticket package.



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