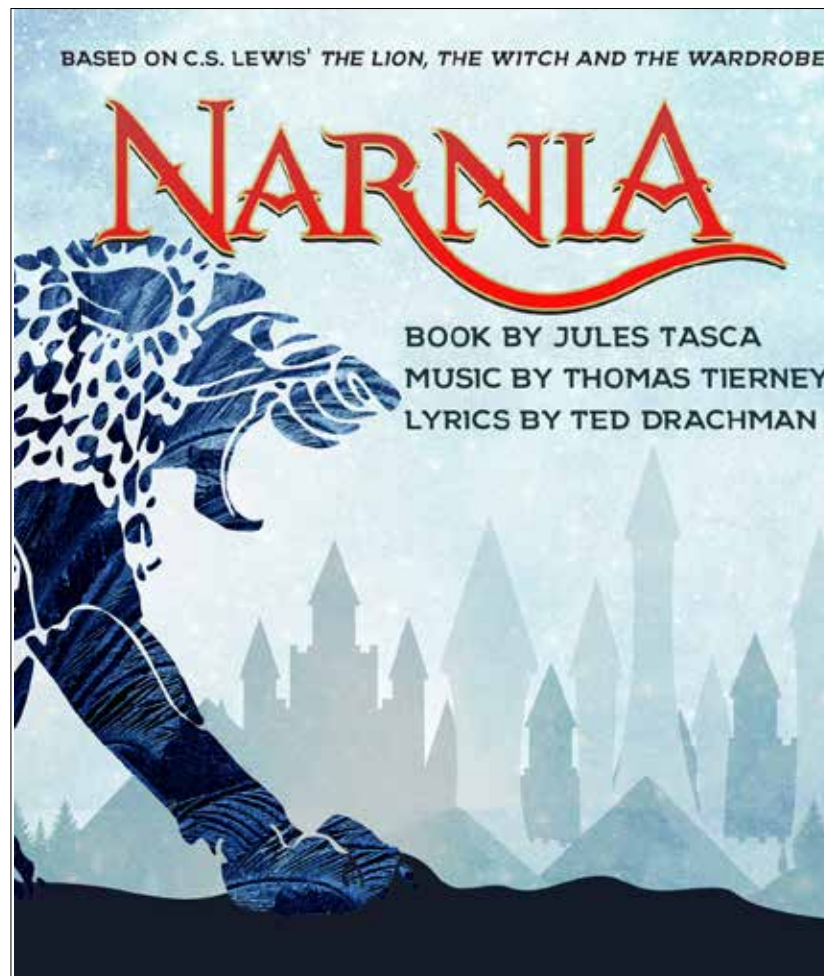


SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE
PARENT'S GUIDE



Sunday, Oct 15 at 2 PM

Sponsored by



**AUTISM STRONG
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2023-24 season - Narnia the Musical

BASED ON C.S. LEWIS' THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE
BOOK BY JULES TASCA | MUSIC BY THOMAS TIERNEY | LYRICS BY TED DRACHMAN
PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH DRAMATIC PUBLISHING, WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS

Presented by:

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Today's celebration is brought to life, in part, by:

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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 stick means there’s a smaller sensory moment coming up (like a loud sound or a change in lighting). Raising two sticks 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 Social Story walks your family through our facility and what to expect on your visit.

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.

The Sensory Table provides access to weighted toys, fidgets, and headphones for use as needed.

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.

Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments in *Narnia the Musical*



Welcome to Narnia! The possibilities are endless, just through the doors of a magical wardrobe...

Sensory-rich moments:

This is an exciting musical! Throughout the show, there are many lighting effects that stay contained on the stage, and we aimed the lighting effects out in the house to the walls and ceiling. We also have sunglasses for you to borrow during the show if you would like to soften the lighting effects more. As always, we have made other adjustments for a more sensory-friendly experience, so look for the notes in this guide and the live cues at the front of the stage to help support you along the way.



Meet Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy! They are traveling to a safer place, but they have no idea what's in store for them there....

Life can be scary - how do we help children process through these circumstances?

Sensory-rich moments:

This production begins with war sounds and news announcements, all of which have been turned down. There are video projections in the back a mild lighting shift with music to open the scene, and there are set shifts that move into a simulated train moment before shifting into the next scene.



The children's uncle, the Professor, lives in Marbleton Manor, and it's truly a magical place for, well, almost everyone.

Where do you look for doors and windows of opportunity?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a mild musical number with smooth set changes. It moves on to the next moment with a mild lighting shift.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



This is Mrs. MacReady. Do you think the children are happy to meet her? If not, no worries - magical things are about to happen...

It's important to build a village around our children, especially during tough times.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a mild arguing scene with some harsh care-giving before a bigger scene change with bigger lighting and set shifts and magical music.



Welcome to Narnia! This is Mr. Tumnus - he's so curious to meet Lucy!

People come from all kinds of interesting places with interesting stories - it's fun to learn about those we meet!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene moves into the next with magical music, a set shift, and some mild shouting.



Edmund meets the White Witch. She's getting some ideas and is ready to talk Edmund into joining in on her plans....

How do we decide who should be friends and who should be foes?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some mild shouting and sound effects to start, then it moves into a more active musical number with more magical sounds, lighting shifts contained on the stage, and ensemble actors with masks. The scene ends with a lighting and set shifts, some music with sound effects.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Lucy is enjoying tea and cakes with Mr. Tumnus, but what will happen when she finds out his true plan?

What can we do to build strong relationships with new people?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a mild ballad with lighting shifts and images contained on the set. It transitions into the next scene with a set change and danger music. There are masked actors with marching and knocking sound effects as well.



Susan and Peter fall through the wardrobe, too! Will they stay, or will they take Edmund and Lucy back home?

How do we decide whether or not to go on the adventure in front of us?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a surprise fall and a shouting moment, and it transitions into the next moment with more danger music and a set change.



Oh no! What happened to Mr. Tumnus' home?

Helping others stay safe is a big responsibility!

Sensory-rich moments:

This brief scene moves into the next with a set shift and brief shouting.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



The Beavers are very protective of their forest, but who is this Aslan they keep talking about?

How do you learn the ins and outs of new places you visit?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some bickering and lighting shifts before moving into a ballad with more lighting shifts. There is a second short musical number with more lighting shifts and singing at the front of the stage. The scene transitions into the next one with a more significant set change, mystical music, and marching sounds.



Edmund goes to see the White Witch. Do you think it goes the way he has planned?

What do we do when we realize someone isn't trying to be our friend?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains growling and howling sound effects, some shouting, and a falling moment. There is also a more intense musical moment with lights fading in and out (not strobes) that are contained on the stage. It moves into the next scene with a set change and dramatic music.



Look, it's Father Christmas! He doesn't exactly have toys for the children though....

Gifts can come in all different shapes and sizes.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some mild bickering and a brief scared moment, followed by an energetic surprise with music. It moves into a joyful musical number with lighting shifts. The scene moves into the next one with music and set/lighting changes.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Uh-oh, something is very wrong in Narnia....at least that's what the White Witch thinks...

Where do we look for signs that things are changing?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene opens with mild shouts and nature sound effects. There is also a brief pain moment and some magical sounds, and the scene moves into the next with music and lighting/set changes.



Spring is here - Narnia is so beautiful!

Every season brings different kinds of beauty!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a brief "Ew" moment before moving into a jolly musical number with mild lighting shifts that stay contained on the stage. At the end of the song, there are lighting effects on the walls and ceiling out in the house to transition to the next scene - **keep an eye out for some new friends for the children to meet! They'll be walking down the stairs on both sides of the house, so please be sure to stay safe and out of the aisles.**



The Beavers introduce the children to more safe friends....but the biggest and best friend is yet to come!

We often grow our village when we meet friends of friends.

Sensory-rich moments:

This brief scene contains a mild fight threat and moves into the next with shouting, adventure music, and a roar. There is a short but significant strobe lighting effect that stays contained at the back of the stage. There is also a quick set shift as the next scene begins.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Finally, the great Aslan is here!

How do we give others a warm sense of safety and security?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene opens with a quick surprise set change with some shouting. Aslan is a very large puppet, and there is always a voice effect when he speaks. This scene contains a hopeful musical number with lighting shifts.



Aslan can't save Narnia on his own, but is Peter worthy of the challenge?

Have you ever surprised someone else by being strong and brave?

Sensory-rich moments:

There is a fight scene here with simulated injuries and the death of a character. It contains scarier music, a howl, and some shouting. Aslan returns, and the scene ends with a short song before coming to a hard stop with lighting shifts for the end of Act 1.



Time for a quick intermission! Take a break if you need one, we have more adventures in Narnia, right through this magical wardrobe...

Sensory-rich moments:

We will bring you back into the story live so you'll be ready to experience the rest of the show!



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Welcome back to Narnia! Edmund is still traveling with the White Witch, and she is not happy....

How do we help children process their emotions when things don't go their way?

Sensory-rich moments:

Act 2 opens with some shouting and moves into a song about murder with significant lighting shifts and physicality. It starts off a little goofy and grows in intensity with the masked cast members joining the stage, projections on the set, shouting, and more intense lighting effects contained on the stage. It ends with a lighting shift and shouting.



Things are getting more intense, and now Aslan has a few things to say to Edmund....

How do we show children that their decisions don't have to define who they are?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a roar as Aslan enters, and it moves into a ballad with lighting shifts. There is brief bickering before the scene shifts to the next with music.



Aslan and the White Witch finally come face-to-face...

How do we model standing up for ourselves and those around us?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene begins with music and set shifts. There are lighting shifts and multiple roars as a big musical number begins. The song builds in intensity with more lighting shifts that stay contained on the stage. Some of those lighting shifts are strobes aimed at the floor - we have sunglasses if you need them! The scene transitions with a set change.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Aslan leads the plan to help save Narnia.

How do we decide who should lead group efforts to fight for justice?

Sensory-rich moments:

This brief scene moves into the next with a thunder and lightning moment - the lightning is contained on the stage and aimed at the floor - remember we have sunglasses available to support you!



The children find out how Aslan saved Edmund from the White Witch...

Sensory-rich moments:

This is the most intense scene of the production - it contains scary music, creepy chanting/singing, loud and quiet contrasts, shouting, and a simulated murder. There are multiple lighting shifts, including a strobe light effect on the floor of the stage and a black-out moment on stage before a big conclusion. The house lights stay on the whole time, and we have sunglasses if you need them!

The scary parts start with the thunder and last for approximately 5 minutes and 20 seconds.



Narnia mourns Aslan's death.

How do we celebrate those around us so they know how much they mean to us?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a sweet ballad. When the music begins, ***cast members will be walking down the stairs on both sides of the house again, so please be sure to stay safe and out of the aisles.*** There are some soft lighting shifts, and the scene ends with a surprise moment with a thunder clap, a black-out and lighting shift only on stage, and a fast set shift.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



The battle begins....and wait until you see who joins the children to help...

Sensory-rich moments:

This is an extended scene with multiple short moments and fight scenes supported with a narrator, quick cast shifts, lighting changes, and rally cries. There is a horn blown with a set change surprise that leads into a hopeful song. The battle scene concludes with roars a black-out only on stage, and the narrator will take us through to a ballad and the concluding scene of the production. We won't tell too many more secrets, so enjoy these exciting moments...



What a wild adventure for these 4 siblings! Their uncle may be the only one who truly understands it all.

When was the last time you told a story and said "you had to be there?"

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene opens with a set change and moves into the concluding ballad with the whole cast. There is a brief black-out only on stage before they return for bows - let them know how you liked the show!

Thanks for joining us at Children's Theatre of Charlotte for this special performance. We hope to see you at our other sensory-friendly performances in the future.



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