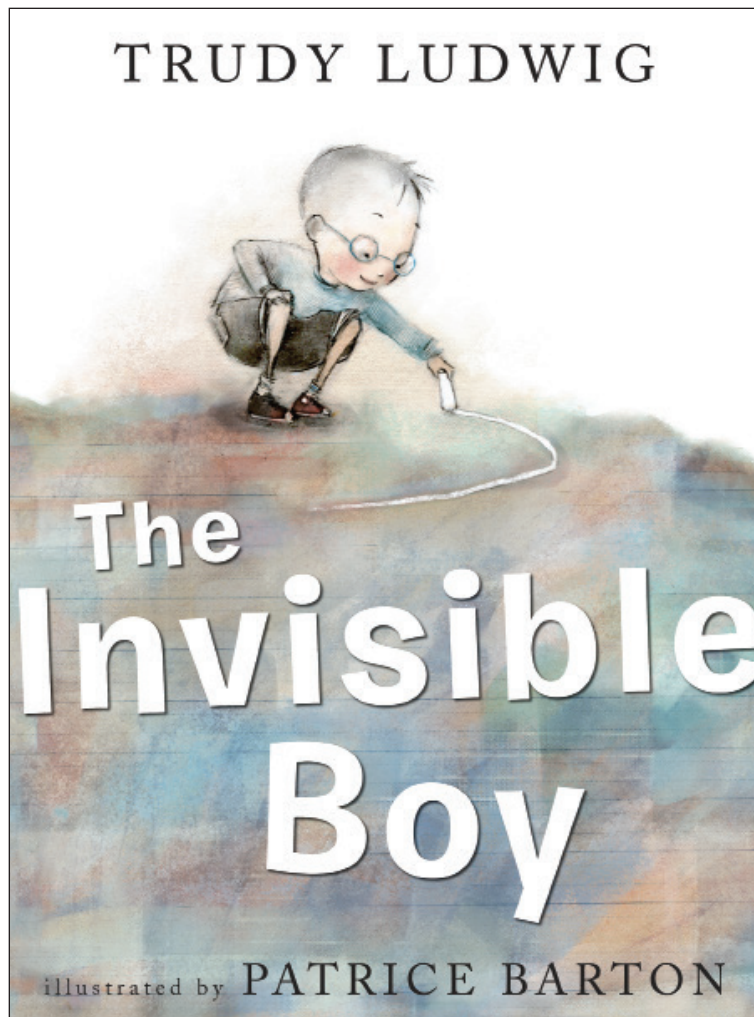


SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE
PARENT'S GUIDE



Sunday, October 26 at 4 PM

This production is a part of



2025-26 season - *The Invisible Boy*

The Invisible Boy

Book and lyrics by Christopher Parks

Music and lyrics by Josh Titora

Written by Trudy Ludwig and illustrated by Patrice Barton

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



Dorlisa & Peter Flur

Linda Reynolds

Tammy Stringer & Richard Viola

Stephen & Stephanie Sorenson

Children's Theatre of Charlotte is supported, in part, by the City of Charlotte, and the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources. Additional support is provided by the Shubert Foundation.



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 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.

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.
We hope to see you at our other sensory-friendly performances in the future.



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