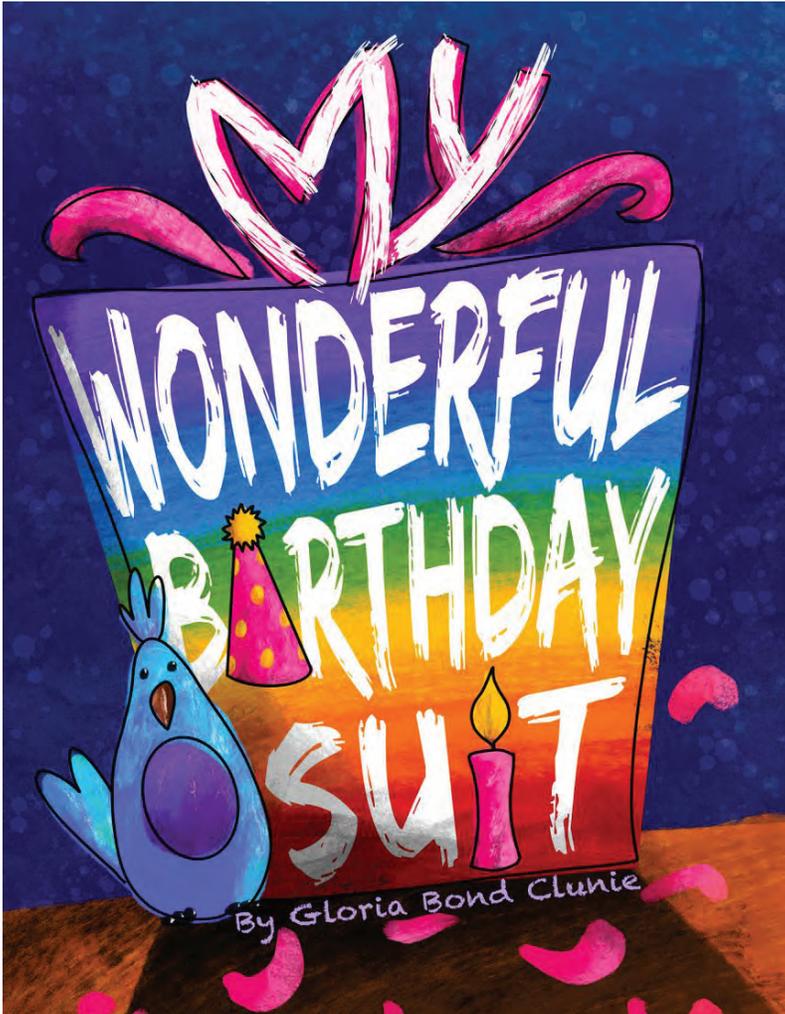


SENSORY-
FRIENDLY
PERFORMANCE



PARENT'S GUIDE

Sunday, October 10 at 2 PM



My Wonderful Birthday Suit

by Gloria Bond Clunie

About the show

Rainbows, moonbeams and a bit of birthday magic make for a super-fun party! But friendships are questioned when judgements and comments about skin color slip out. This spectacular story told with music, an awesome puppet named Bobo the bird and the wonder of a magical Thinking Tree will give everyone something to ponder. Each of us is a gift “wrapped” in our own unique way but it’s what’s on the inside that truly makes us special. This powerful conversation-starter proves that you’re never too young (or too old) to be kind.

Show support

2021-22 SEASON

Presented by:

BANK OF AMERICA 

Today’s celebration is brought to life through the generosity of these partners:

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* Indicates donations made to The Linda Reynolds Endowment Fund for Kindness and Wonder.

Children’s Theatre of Charlotte receives support from [the Infusion Fund](#), a partnership between the City of Charlotte, Foundation for The Carolinas and generous donors to support the arts and cultural sector.



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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.

My Wonderful Birthday Suit

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).
- 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 My Wonderful Birthday Suit



Meet Oobladee - she's a lovely girl who is on "this side of the moon," and she's ready to tell you a wonderful story about a birthday party and how her best friends meet!

When is your birthday?

Sensory-rich moments:

This show opens with an opportunity for you to interact with Oobladee by helping answer some questions! You'll hear some light music, singing, chimes, and some magical and twinkle sounds. There are soft lighting changes throughout the beginning section.



Ah, and here's Bobo, Oobladee's special friend! Whenever you hear a squeak, you'll know that Bobo has something to say.....

What things make you happy? When do you think about them?

Sensory-rich moments:

There are squeaks from Bobo and chimes here, as well as a sound from the Thinking Tree.



Oh, this is the Thinking Tree! What a wonderful place to think! Oobladee has some thinks to think today....

Do you have a good thinking place? Where is it?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some sounds from the Thinking Tree, as well as some singing and soft lighting changes. There is also a doorbell transitioning into the next scene, as well as a soft honking sound.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Oobladee just got a HUGE delivery! What could be inside?

Do you like surprises? What's your favorite thing to get in the mail?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some noise as Oobladee brings the box down the ramp. There is also some music, dancing, magical sounds, a doorbell, and soft lighting effects on the stage.



Meet Oobladah - he's Oobladee's best friend on this side of the rainbow! Doesn't he look wonderful?

How do we help children develop friendships?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains an exciting reunion, more magical sounds and soft lighting shifts, and chimes.



Hmmmm, Oobladah is about to find out about... another best friend?

How do we help children navigate friendships?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some dingy sounds.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Wow, that's a really big...what is it exactly? Wait and see what Oobladah thinks it is and what he wants to do with it....

Do you like to guess what's inside a present? Have you ever been right?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some magical sounds and soft lighting effects on the stage. It also begins to introduce feelings of jealousy.



Now it's time for Oobladah to have a think. Let's see if his "think" helps him figure out how to handle the birthday party.

How do we help children think through their feelings and figure out what to do next?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some magical sounds, tones from the Thinking Tree, some lighting shifts/effects, and some singing. It moves into a scene where balloons are being blown up and let go, but they do not pop or make much sound.



Oobladah decides to help, but how will they figure out what to do?

How do we help children figure out how to do new things?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some excitement and a surprise scare, a soft sound from the door, and clapping to turn the lights up and down on the stage.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



The birthday girl is here! Meet Shebopshebe! Oobladah finally gets to meet her, but how will he react?

It's normal for children to feel jealousy. How do we help them work their way through their feelings?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a birthday surprise with a lighting shift and shouts, as well as an excited reunion.



Oobladah is having a hard time getting to know Shebopshebe. How are these three going to become best friends?

How do we handle it when our differences are criticized instead of celebrated?

Sensory-rich moments:

There are also sound effects and from chimes, Bobo, and the Thinking Tree. There are some other softer lighting shifts. This scene also introduces issues around racism.



Even Shebopshebe gets a chance for a good think in the Thinking Tree. These thinks keep getting bigger and bigger, don't they?

How do we help kids express their tougher emotions, like being sad, scared, or anxious?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains soft sounds and lighting shifts, as well as some singing. There are also some emotional worries, and the scene transitions into more intense racism issues.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Oh dear, Oobladah can't quite figure out how to see Shebopshebe as the wonderful new friend that she is. I think there's a REALLY big think coming. What do you think he will learn while he's in the Thinking Tree?

How do we learn to really listen to each other and learn to celebrate one another?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene includes lighting shifts and background sounds, and the feelings around racism come to a height. There is also some boisterous laughter and a few mild surprises.



Wow, that was the biggest think yet! How will Oobladah and Shebopshebe work this out?

Changing our perspectives is one of the hardest things we'll ever do, and one of the hardest to model for those around us!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a big moment with a slowed strobe light, moving lights on the set, lots of silly sounds, and lots of activity. It then transitions back into the typical flow of the show with some surprise moments.



Wow, things are really looking up for these new best friends, aren't they. But wait, there's one more lesson for Oobladah.....

Respect may be one of the most important lessons for us to learn, as well as teach our children.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains excited moments and some sound effects.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Goodness, these friends have been learning so much! Don't forget, there's still one more surprise for everyone!

If you could have any present, what would it be?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene closes the main part of the show and transitions to the close with music, singing, and lighting shifts. There are lighting effects as well as the set goes dark. But wait, there's more....



Now, it's your turn again! Oobladee, Oobladah, and Shebopshebe want to hear more from you!

You are each truly a special present for all of us here at Children's Theatre of Charlotte! :)

Sensory-rich moments:

The set will light up again with music and singing, then the cast will be asking the audience to participate and share their thoughts.

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. To view the digital playbill for this show, visit our website or [click here](#).



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