

**SENSORY-  
FRIENDLY  
PERFORMANCE**

**PARENT'S  
GUIDE**



**Sunday, Feb 16 at 4 PM**



# The Night Diary

Based On The Book By Mo Willems  
Published By Hyperion Books For Children  
Script By Mo Willems And Mr. Warburton  
Lyrics By Mo Willems  
Music By Deborah Wicks La Puma  
Dramaturgy By Megan Alrutz

## About the show

When a persistent pigeon decides he must drive the bus, he'll stop at nothing to get behind the wheel. Laugh your way through and get ready to shout "No!" as celebrated author Mo Willems' award-winning book comes to life on stage.

## Show support

2022-23 SEASON

Presented by:

**BANK OF AMERICA** 

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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.

### 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 *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!*



Welcome to this exciting production! Meet 2 of our friends who are going to show you how you can be part the show!

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This is a super fun, super energetic production! Throughout the show, there are a lot of lighting effects on stage and in the house. We are adjusting the lighting out in the house to the walls and ceiling, but we also have sunglasses for you to borrow during the show if you would like to soften the lighting effects further. As always, look for the notes in this guide and the live cues at the front of the stage to know when these will happen.



Meet the Pigeon - he's having a bit of a tough day.....

*How do we process tough things that don't feel fair?*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene opens with mild music and lighting effects in the house before the set opens up. There is a musical number with a few breaks in the song. The lighting shifts build through the song but stay contained on stage.



Look - it's a sign! But what does this sign mean for Pigeon?

*Where do we look to find information we need?*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains some louder vocalizations and a few sound effects. It transitions into the next scene with lighting shifts on set and into the house. It also contains vocal sound effects as it transitions into the next musical number.



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Meet the Bus Driver - she really loves her job, and so does the Pigeon....

*It's important to find things we love to do!*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains a musical number with lighting effects, including two brief on-stage strobe-like moments - these will be offset with the house lights staying somewhat on, and remember that we have sunglasses available for you to use if you need them.



The Pigeon REALLY wants to drive that bus, but he'll have to settle for his imagination for now...

*Pretend play is a great way for kids to get to do things they're not quite big enough to do.*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains vocal play sound effects and lighting shifts into a ballad. The musical number contains lighting shifts and soft BUBBLES out over the audience! It transitions into the next scene with a spotlight moment and lighting shift before the bus vocalizations begin again.



The Pigeon is gearing up to ask the Bus Driver a big question, but not before some passengers arrive.

*It's hard to wait when we have something important to say!*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains some shouting moments before moving into a big musical number - this is your big moment to help answer the Pigeon's question! This number contains lighting shifts, some louder vocalizations, and a ballad moment in the middle.



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Well, the Pigeon doesn't get to drive the bus, but what does he want to do instead?

*How do we offer alternatives when someone can't get exactly what they want?*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene briefly revisits the big song with lighting shifts, a brief strobe-like moment that stays on stage, and loud vocalizations.



Oh no - what's wrong with the bus?

*How do we help each other deal with stressful situations?*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains more prolonged panic shouting that begins when the actor says "you heard the driver" and lasts for almost 10 seconds. It moves into a musical number with lots of lighting shifts. The song ends with brief colored flashing lights against the back of the set as well.



OK, the Bus Driver has things under control and is going to fix the bus....but is the Pigeon done panicking yet?

*It's hard not to join in with someone else's energy, isn't it?*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains another extended panic moment - this one starts when the actor says "isn't not panicking nice" and lasts for about 21 seconds.



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Pigeon tries so hard to drive the bus - can he do it?

*You'd be surprised at all the ways we can adapt everyday activities!*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains mild sound effects and some mild shouting and transitions into the next song with lighting shifts.



Bus Driver has a great idea - what will the Pigeon think of it?

*Sometimes it just takes one person to believe in us, and we can do anything!*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains a musical number with lighting shifts that builds through to the end. There is an audience engagement moment as well.



The bus is fixed and the Pigeon found his thing!

*You never know when you're going to find your thing!*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains some vocal sound effects and a brief musical number.



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Oh look - it's another sign! Oh no....

*One "no" doesn't mean another "yes..."*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This final moment contains another "no" song - you get to help answer the Pigeon's next question! It contains more lighting shifts and a final set shift leading into the end of the show and the curtain call.

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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