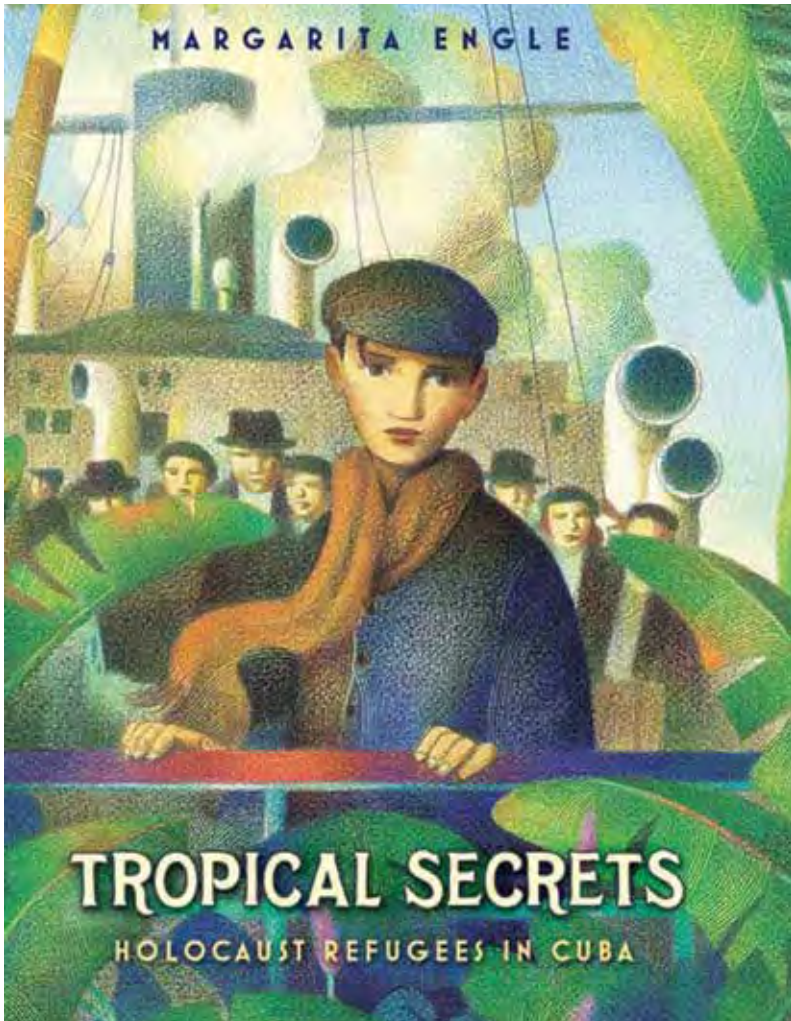


SENSORY-
FRIENDLY
PERFORMANCE



PARENT'S GUIDE

Sunday, November 14 at 4 PM



Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba

By Margarita Engle | Adapted for the stage by LM Feldman

About the show

11-year-old Daniel has escaped Nazi Germany and finds himself alone on the shores of Havana, Cuba. He meets a spirited girl with some painful secrets of her own. Through their unlikely bond, she introduces Daniel to the language, music and history of Cuban culture. However, once Cuba enters the war these two young friends are faced with some dangerous choices that will ultimately test their friendship. Part of The Kindness Project.

Show support

2021-22 SEASON

Presented by:

BANK OF AMERICA 

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

Linda Reynolds

Travis and Lise Hain

The Leon Levine Foundation – Sandra and Leon Levine

A very special thanks to Dorlisa, Arella, and Peter Flur for their generosity and support of The Kindness Project, an initiative rooted in creating plays like this one for young audiences that are grounded in actively displaying kindness towards each other.

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. This project was supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources.



Infusion Fund
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**FOUNDATION FOR
THE CAROLINAS**

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).
- 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 Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba



Welcome to the show! This is an amazing story about strength, history, and most importantly, kindness!

Sensory-rich moments:

This production tells an intense story. It contains live percussion throughout it to express a variety of emotions. In this guide, each scene with live percussion will be rated from 1-4, with 1 being the softest moments and 4 being the loudest/most intense moments. Please watch for the glow stick cues to know when these moments will begin, in addition to other sensory-rich moments that will occur throughout the production.



Meet Daniel! He may be young, but he has quite a story to tell you.....

How do we help children cope during stressful times?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains various soft lighting and sound effects, as well as single drum beats (level 1) to emphasize moments in the story. There are also soft sound effects provided by the ensemble.



Paloma has her own story to tell. This is the start of a wonderful friendship, even if it doesn't seem like so at first.

We all have a story to tell. How do we truly listen to each other's experiences?

Sensory-rich moments:

The story becomes more intense, but the percussion and sound effects stay relatively stable (level 1). This scene transitions into the next one with more musical percussion (level 2), music, light shifts, and more active movement.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Daniel made it to....Cuba? He doesn't seem quite ready for this, but he's about to make some surprising friends.

How do we help build a village when we need one the most?

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.



David and Paloma are ready to help Daniel get started while he waits to head up to New York. Is he ready for this?

What are some of the "giants" you work to overcome?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a bullying moment with authority figures and brief percussion moments (level 1). There is also some music, light percussion (level 1), and soft lighting shifts that start the transition into the next scene.



Daniel is trying really hard to connect with his new village, including learning new ways to think about things, like music and stars...

Kindness is so important, always!

Sensory-rich moments:

There is a silly, dramatic moment that gets louder, and there is a more emotional moment as Daniel talks about stars. There is more live percussion toward the front of the stage (level 3), along with some lighting shifts, both in the scene and in the transition to the next one.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Welcome to Carnival! It's all so exciting, but Daniel can't keep from remembering something...

Our memories can pop up at surprising times, even when we seem so distracted from them all.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene is very active and contains music, live percussion (level 3-4), some shouting, and puppet heads on sticks that enter with a surprise moment at the start of this scene. As the activity level increases, there is a fast shift to an emotional quiet with the sound of a somewhat muffled gunshot.



After Carnival, everyone reflects on their different views on how things work in the world. "The world runs on kindness..."

What do we teach our children about how to treat one another?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains emotional perspectives within both storylines, and a lighting shift with soft music occurs when Daniel pantomimes throwing his flute out into the ocean toward the audience. He also begins drumming



Daniel and Paloma are becoming stronger friends. See how she is listening so closely to what he is saying, even if she doesn't understand his language?

It is such a gift when someone shares a personal story with us!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains emotional memories and connections, as well as some ensemble sound effects and brief live percussion (level 1). There is a lighting shift and light live music to simulate the ocean with the cast at the front of the stage to transition scenes.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Daniel and Paloma have gotten a little older, and Daniel is doing his best to fit into this new world. Wait until you see his amazing musical discovery.....

How does music make you feel?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene starts with some light percussion (level 1) and has a teasing “hitting” moment. There is music, a lighting shift, increased intensity, and a cheering moment



The boat in the sea is always on their minds, but now, there’s a war. Is Daniel safe? What does this mean for everyone?

How do we stick up for each other when it counts the most?

Sensory-rich moments:

There are ensemble sound effects in this scene, as well as a scary moment when Daniel thinks he will be arrested. This scene becomes more intense and emotional before transitioning into the next scene with a more abrupt lighting shift and shout.



Another opportunity to hear someone’s story leads to a rescue mission and a plan.....

Investing in one another always leads to opportunities to help one another.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains emotional stories, a frantic adventure, and a lot of hope. There are lighting shifts, live percussion (level 2-3, and various sound effects throughout the scene. It becomes quiet and emotional before transitioning into the next scene.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Daniel and Paloma are so excited after having saved their new friends! Daniel even decides that he's feeling brave now - watch what happens next!

How do our successes help build us up for the next ones?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains building emotional moments with the cast sitting at the front of the stage with lighting shifts, then pretending to step into the ocean at the front of the house. It transitions into the next scene with percussion (level 2) to simulate a train.



Daniel is ready to make a plan to save everyone on the ship, but he's about to find out the truth about El Gordo....

The truth isn't always easy to hear, but we can choose what we do with it.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene becomes very emotional and contains the most intense percussion of the show (level 4). It builds and feels somewhat chaotic, and it accompanies a silent but emotional outburst from Daniel before quieting into the next scene.



It's time to make a deal...and a plan?

There's always a way to make things right, especially when your village is ready to move with you!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains brief moments of shouting and transitions into a much busier scene with ensemble sound effects and a good idea.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Hope in action? Game on, they're going to give it everything they have to save everyone on that boat!

How do we model a passion for helping others boldly and bravely?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene builds energy and activity with shouts, percussion (level 2-3), coin money sounds, and some direct audience engagement. It comes to a relatively quick halt in several moments, including in the transition into the next scene.



Wow, Daniel has a really big question for his new favorite musician. What do you think he will say?

If we don't ask, we'll never know if we could get a "yes!"

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene resumes its energy and excitement and continues to build until the transition into the next scene. Percussion (level 3) continues with more music and excited shouts.



It's the moment of truth - did they do it? Can they convince El Gordo to save the people on the ship?

How do we share our successes with each other?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains cheers and more percussion (level 3) with storytelling directly out to the audience.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



The people are finally off the ship, but what about Daniel's family?

How do we handle it when things don't turn out the way we want them to?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene is very emotional and transitions into the final scene softly.



But now, it's Daniel's turn to help.

We can learn something from everything, as long as we're willing to look for those opportunities.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene is quiet with some percussion (level 1), soft ensemble sound effects, and lighting effects. The cast moves to the front of the stage at the end, the lights fade out, and then the lights come up with music and percussion (level 3) for 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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