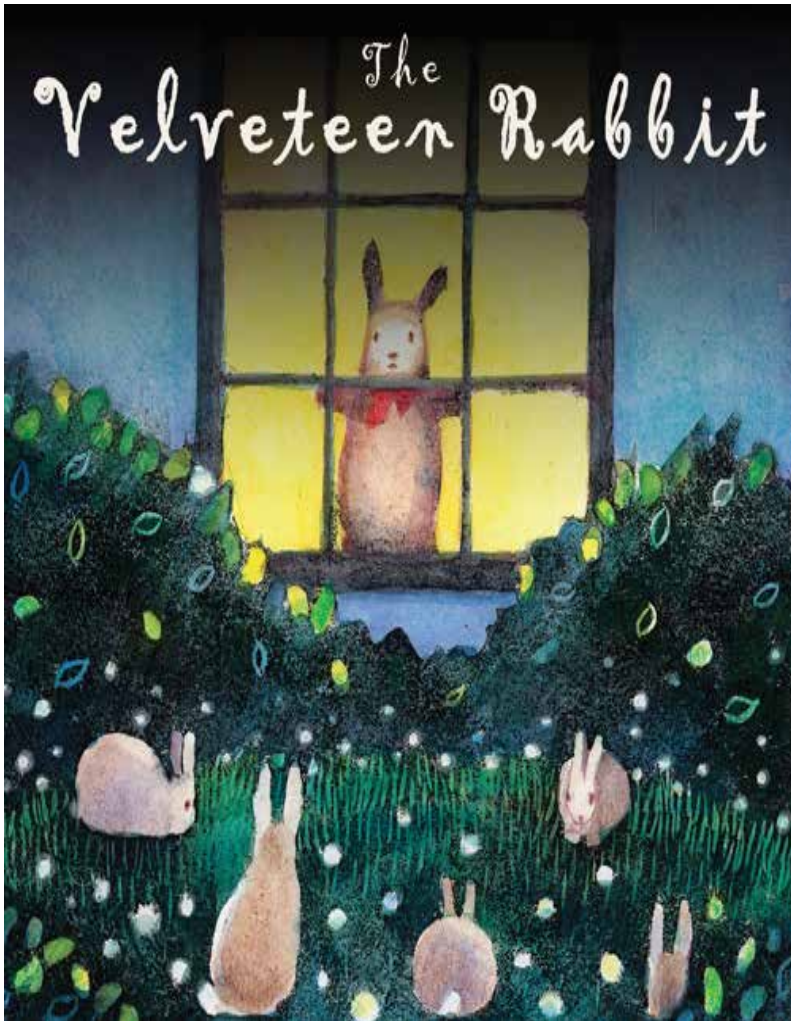


SENSORY-
FRIENDLY
PERFORMANCE



PARENT'S GUIDE

Sunday, December 19 at 4 PM



The Velveteen Rabbit

Adapted by Michelle Hoppe-Long
From the story by Margery Williams

About the show

A little boy awakens Christmas morning to discover a Velveteen Rabbit among his gifts. Adored at first, then cast to the toy box, the Rabbit is snubbed by the other toys for being old-fashioned. Over time, a friendship blossoms. The Velveteen Rabbit learns what it means to be truly loved by the Boy - and the smiles and tears that come from being "real". Adapted from the classic book, this poignant story has charmed generations of families and continues to be cherished by audiences today.

Show support

2021-22 SEASON

Presented by:

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**FOUNDATION FOR
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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.

The Velveteen Rabbit

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 The Velveteen Rabbit



Ah, the Velveteen Rabbit is truly a special rabbit! Get ready for a beautiful story of friendship, fun, and of course, plenty of magic!

How do we use children's stories to teach important lessons in life?

Sensory-rich moments:

The show opens with magical lights, twinkly sounds/music, and vocal effects.



Meet the Boy! Do you think he knows just how much magic is inside that toy box?

You're never too old to believe in magic!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene continues with the lighting, sound/music, and voice effects.



The Boy's Mother loves him so much, and he is so excited about Christmas!

A child's imagination is such a beautiful thing - how do we encourage children to think, ask questions, and make wishes?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains lighting shifts, set shifts, and background music/sounds.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Nana has quite a big job - keeping the Boy from getting into all the Christmas presents too soon....

Patience is so hard for us all, especially when we know there are surprises all around!

Sensory-rich moments:

In this scene, there are some lighting shifts and excited moments. There is also an alarm clock sound.



The Nursery Magic Fairy is here to make sure the Boy and the Velveteen Rabbit have a proper meeting. They're ready to play already, but how long will it last?

It's so hard to predict which toys will become the favorites for our children!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains more music, magical lights/sounds, including a bell sound, as well as playing and dancing around the stage. There are also mechanical toys moving on stage.



The Boy loves the Velveteen Rabbit, but something happens when he really thinks about what makes the Rabbit so special....

*Why do favorite toys/items become favorites?
Which ones are a surprise?*

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains various lighting and sound effects, and there are some toys getting tossed lightly. There are also "talking" toys.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



The Boy has decided that the Velveteen Rabbit is real, so now it's time for a full day of playing and adventures!

Our friends don't have to be real to everyone to be very real to us - that's what our imagination is for!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains background music, excitement, and a set shift with lighting effects.



Let the adventures begin! The Velveteen Rabbit is the perfect playmate for all the exciting things the Boy imagines!

Pretend play is as fun as it is important to our development.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene opens with a shout, a running charge, a bigger play sound effect, and pretend play with swords and fighting. It continues on with adventure music, set shifts, play shouting, lighting effects to simulate a dragon, and dry ice fog that stays mostly on stage.



Even Mother joins in on the fun. She really knows how to play, even if she still needs to teach about proper manners....

Is it hard to really dive in and pretend with our children?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene continues to use dry ice fog, and there is more pretend shouting, fighting, and a pretend death scene moment. The scene transitions to the next one with lighting and set shifts, along with light music.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Uh-oh, someone needs to rescue the Velveteen Rabbit! It's a good thing, because the Boy speaks new life into his best friend....

Our world around us is as real as we're willing to let it be.

Sensory-rich moments:

In this scene, there is a worry moment, soft lighting shifts, and magical sounds with set shifts.



The Boy and the Velveteen Rabbit do everything together, even though Rabbit is showing signs of being loved so well.

Worn, loved toys hold the best memories!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains lighting shifts and magical sounds.



The Boy says the Velveteen Rabbit is real, but what do other rabbits think about that?

How do we support differences in each other?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains lighting shifts and projections on set. There is also some verbal bullying and sadness. The scene transitions to the next one with a more significant lighting change.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



The Boy is very sick. What will the Velveteen Rabbit do to help him?

What comforts us when we get sick to help us get back on our feet?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains emotional moments, lighting shifts, soft background music and sound effects, and more talking animals. There is also a more significant, brief lighting effect.



The Boy is feeling much better! While he gets ready for his trip, what does Mother decide to do to keep him healthy?

We sometimes have to make hard decisions that help us stay safe and healthy.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains stressful moments, soft music/sound effects, lighting shifts, and set shifts.



Oh, dear! The Velveteen Rabbit is so tired, but he's not ready to leave the Boy just yet....

How do we help children handle sad moments?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains strong emotions and sadness, and it implies that the Velveteen Rabbit is going to die (he doesn't). There are lighting shifts and sound effects. There is also a very significant, magical moment with lights, music, dancing, vocal effects, and set effects.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



The Nursery Magic Fairy really does make things real! Now, the Rabbit has to learn to be in his much bigger world.

Where can we find the good during tough experiences?

Sensory-rich moments:

Through the remainder of the show, we have a real rabbit! The rabbit is always held/secured. This scene contains projections on set.



The Boy is growing up, but what will he do when he remembers his friend when he sees Rabbit? Wait and see what the Boy thinks about this new, bigger world around him....

It's fun to remember our favorite toys and experiences as we grow up, isn't it?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains magical lighting and sound effects, as well as projection effects on stage. The production ends with music, magical lights/sound effects, vocal effects, projections, and set shifts.

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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