

SENSORY-
FRIENDLY
PERFORMANCE



PARENT'S
GUIDE

Sunday, Oct 2 at 6 PM



Annie

BOOK BY THOMAS MEEHAN
MUSIC BY CHARLES STROUSE
LYRICS BY MARTIN CHARNIN
ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY MARTIN CHARNIN
BASED ON "LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE"® | BY PERMISSION OF TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY, LLC
ANNIE IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (MTI).
ALL AUTHORIZED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI. WWW.MTISHOWS.COM

About the show

Set in New York City against the backdrop of the Great Depression, little orphan Annie does her best to hang on 'til tomorrow come what may. After enduring hardship at the hands of evil Miss Hannigan, a new family breathes hope into the heart of everyone's favorite spunky hero.

Show support

Presented by:
BANK OF AMERICA 
2022-23 SEASON

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

Omid & Julie Ahdieh
Rob & Kate Buckfelder
Travis & Lise Hain
Bruce & Anita LaRowe
Ann & Scott Manning
Brian & Laura Murdock

Producing Partner



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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).
- 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



Welcome to Annie!

Sensory-rich moments:

The show opens with a longer musical introduction from our live orchestra, ending with the stage lights going out and the screen going up.

This is a fun production with great music from our live orchestra. We also get to see 2 real dogs - they're very well trained, and we will be using the glow sticks to let you know when they are SUPPOSED to bark. That being said, they are real dogs, so there's a small chance we may get a surprise bark that we can't anticipate and cue for you. :)



Meet Annie and the Orphans! They may make a unique family together, but what does Annie have planned?

What's your definition of family?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene opens with a brief nightmare moment and contains some bullying, emotional moments, and a lovely ballad. There are also some lighting shifts throughout the scene. It transitions into the next scene with a bell sound and suspenseful music.



Meet Miss Hannigan.....

When you meet someone who seems rough around the edges, how do you consider the rest of their story?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a surprise and portrayed bullying/abuse. Miss Hannigan also blows her whistle throughout this production, which we will help soften for this production. There is also an active musical number with more movement/sounds from props, lighting shifts, and the scene transitions into the next with Miss Hannigan and her whistle.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Meet Mr. Bundles! See how he becomes part of Annie's big plan.....

Everyone needs an escape now and again!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains shouting and Miss Hannigan's whistle, and it transitions into the next scene with a brief reprise of the orphans' musical number with light and scene changes. Miss Hannigan will continue to portray abuse/bullying throughout the production.



Annie is about to see what life is like outside of the orphanage....

Even a seemingly small adventure can be enough to inspire us!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene opens with car sounds and the ensemble calling out to each other. Keep an eye out - you'll get to see the first small dog on stage, and there will be a bark offstage.



Meet Sandy!!!

Animals have a special way of connecting with us!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some bullying and a beautiful ballad. Sandy will also bark on cue, and there will be a threat to Sandy to put him to sleep. It transitions to the next scene with lighting/scene changes.

Sandy will be on stage periodically throughout the production. Be sure to keep him safe by staying in your seats, OK?



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Welcome to Hooverville!

Here's another example of family!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene portrays struggles of homelessness and contains a fun ensemble musical number with lighting shifts. It transitions out with lights going dark and Miss Hannigan's whistle. Sandy is back on stage, and he will be sitting toward the front of the stage for a while. Again, please stay in your seats so Sandy stays safe and in character. Thank you!!



What does Miss Hannigan really think about her job?

Everyone has a story, and it's so important to hear them all!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains Miss Hannigan's bad behavior and her whistle, as well as a surprise moment leading into a strong ballad. It builds energy to the end with lighting shifts, some chaotic moments, and a hard stop before lights come up with a soft buzzing doorbell.



Annie is back "home" now, but for how long?

How do we make it through our current situations while we wait for things to change?

Sensory-rich moments:

This is a mild scene with a brief excited moment and a more brief portrayed abusive moment. There is a soft buzzing doorbell leading into the next moment.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Meet Grace Farrell - she's about to change Annie's life!

You never know when your next blessing is right around the corner....

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene is mild as well, with the exception of a few slightly louder moments and, of course, Miss Hannigan's whistle. It transitions into the next scene with a brief, strong reprise of Miss Hannigan's song and lighting/scene changes.



Annie is about to learn about a completely different way to live....

Every lifestyle has its strengths - what are yours?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a lively musical number with a lot of movement, and it builds with the ensemble through to the end. There are lighting shifts throughout as well.



Oh look - it's Mr. Warbucks! What will he think of Annie?

How do first impressions hold as we get to know new people?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene is mild with a funny laugh moment. It transitions into an engaging musical number with an active set and ensemble. It transitions into the next scene with lighting shifts and a softer musical moment.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Is Annie's world about to change for good?

Who stands by us to bring us new opportunities?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene opens with radio show audio effects, as well as the soft buzzing doorbell. There is also a brief screaming moment.



Miss Hannigan has her own family - do you think they'll be different from her?

Do all family members behave the same way?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains bullying moments. There is also an active musical number with lighting shifts that builds through to a softer stop, then builds again to the end. The scene transitions into the next one with a musical exit and lighting/set change.



Mr. Warbucks has a big question for Annie....

We can't control how others respond to our actions.

Sensory-rich moments:

This mild scene contains a brief shouting moment, a slightly defensive moment, and soft lighting shifts. It transitions to the end of the first act with a brief musical reprise, lighting shifts, and a screen coming down in front of the set.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



It's time for a brief intermission, then we'll tell you the rest of the story!

Sensory-rich moments:

We will bring you back into the story live so you'll be ready to experience the rest of the show!



Mr. Warbucks really is trying everything, including a radio spot. Look for your chance to be part of this scene.....

There are so many ways to get a good message out into the world!

Sensory-rich moments:

The second act opens with the screen rising and lighting shifts. It contains a brief reprise of a song, interesting sound effects, and a brief frustration moment. It moves into a full song that shifts to the orphans and transitions with Miss Hannigan's whistle.



Is this couple really who they say they are? Wait and see.....

Things aren't always what they seem.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains another whistle from Miss Hannigan, fake crying, a brief silly fight, and a busier reprise of a song containing a lighted sign and lighting effects. It transitions into the next scene with lighting and set changes.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Do they have big news about Annie's parents?

Our stories don't always go the way we plan...

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a sweet ballad with lighting shifts. The music builds slightly as the scene transitions into the next with another lighting shift. It moves into a light second musical number that builds with the ensemble and ends with more active lighting shifts.



Will everyone believe that these are Annie's parents?

Aren't you glad there are so many ways to verify facts?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a few brief shouting moments and building energy, along with some soft music and light/set changes to transition into the next scene.



Is this Annie's last day with her new family?

The ending may not always be what we think.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene begins with lighting shifts and soft song. It has a few louder and more chaotic moments as well.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



What a beautiful family they all make together!

Family is always evolving

Sensory-rich moments:

The story ends with a big jazzy ensemble musical number with lighting shifts. Sandy makes another appearance here, too!



Bonus musical performance during the curtain call! :)

Sensory-rich moments:

The cast will come out in groups, including Sandy - feel free to wave, clap, snap, dance, or enjoy however you want! They're glad you came to see this show! :)

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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