

SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE
PARENT'S GUIDE



Sunday, Oct 12 at 11 AM

Sponsored by



**AUTISM STRONG
FOUNDATION**

2024-25 season - School of Rock the Musical

Based on the Paramount movie by Mike White

Book by Julian Fellowes

Lyrics by Glenn Slater

New Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

SCHOOL OF ROCK is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Really Useful Group.

Presented by:

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

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Children's Theatre of Charlotte is supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources, and The Shubert Foundation.



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 stick means there’s a smaller sensory moment coming up (like a loud sound or a change in lighting). Raising two sticks 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 Social Story walks your family through our facility and what to expect on your visit.

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.

The Sensory Table provides access to weighted toys, fidgets, and headphones for use as needed.

Content Advisory

This is the original Broadway version of the show, and does include some adult language and content. Please see below for examples.

“Sh*t hit the fan” (This word is used once in a song in this phrasing.)

“H*ll no!” (This word is used a few times.)

“Get good and p*ssed.” (This word is used a few times.)

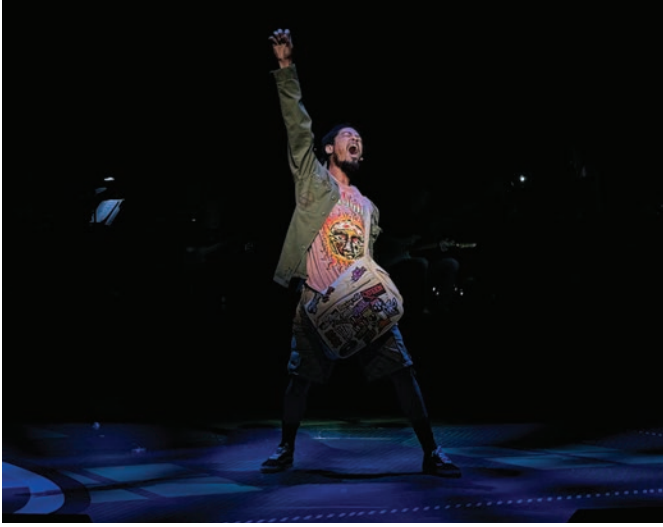
“You’re my son d*mnit!” (A parent says this to their son once.)

“Kick some *ss” (This word is used a few times in songs.)

“Whole d*mn thing” (This word is used a few times in songs.)

“A b*tch...a b*tch!” (This is used once when Rosalie is describing how the teachers perceive her.)

Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments in *School of Rock the Musical*



Welcome to SCHOOL OF ROCK the MUSICAL!!! We'll have you rockin' & rollin' in your seats, just wait and see.....

Sensory-rich moments:

This production is literally full of ALL THE THINGS - yes, we made a rock concert sensory friendly! Please note that it is definitely one of our more energetic productions. There is a live band at the back of the stage, and the students are playing live on stage in this show! Remember, we have sensory support items available throughout the show, including sunglasses. We're here to help you enjoy your experience with us, so reach out when needed!



We won't make you wait to start rockin', so here's No Vacancy to get you started....

What's your favorite kind of music?

Sensory-rich moments:

This production opens with an announcer voice and lighting adjustments for the rock concert. We have adjusted the lighting to soften the effects and limit movement to the stage, but there are some that aim more toward the audience - we have sunglasses if you need them! This scene transitions into the next one with lighting shifts.



Meet Dewey, Ned, and Patty. Patty isn't exactly happy with Dewey right now, but should they really wake him up?

How do we all contribute to our village?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some arguing. It transitions into the next song with an electric guitar.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Can Dewey convince Ned to climb Mount Rock with him? He's surely going to try, and maybe he needs to convince himself a little too.....

What are we most passionate about in life? How do we encourage those passions in children?

Sensory-rich moments:

This song contains multiple mini-moments with lighting/set shifts and some pauses in the song. It ends with singing toward the front of the stage before lighting shifts move us into the next scene.



Ned is about to get a very important call, but who do you think is going to answer the phone?

It just takes a moment to fall into a hole we should avoid.....

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene opens with a soft phone ring sound effect and lighting shift. It moves into the next scene with soft music, lighting and set shifts, and increased actor movement on stage.



Meet the families of Horace Green Prep School! They may not be ready for their new substitute teacher.....

Parents really do have the best intentions when it comes to their children.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene opens with increased movement on stage with soft music in the background. It moves into a school choir song that builds with the music and also incorporates some opera tones. It ends with full-cast singing filling the stage and transitions with soft music, marching, and set shifts.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



It's Ned's....we mean Dewey's....first day on the job. What will Ms. Mullins think of him?

How do we handle it when people are different from what we expect?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a brief shouting and crying moment and transitions into another formal ballad song. There are lighting and set shifts during the song, and it transitions into the next scene with the completed set change at the end of the song.



Dewey meets his class and gets started. How do you think he's doing?

Everyone has their own way of doing things - does unconventional always mean wrong?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains the final portion of the previous song, and there are references to drinking alcohol. There is also a "yuck" moment when food is spit out into the trash. Dewey isn't always the kindest to the students, but they stand up to him throughout this show! This scene transitions into the next with light music and set/lighting shifts.



Ned is "working" from home today...

What's your favorite way to procrastinate?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a Guitar Hero simulation with some flashing lights contained on stage that have been dimmed/slowed slightly. There is also a musical number with more significant lighting shifts contained on stage. Remember, we have sunglasses if you need more support! There is a hard stop with shouting before the song concludes with additional shouts to move into the next scene.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Wait...what? These kids can play music? Game on for Dewey.....

Talents come in all shapes and sizes and can even be shaped into new contexts!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a pre-recorded symphony song with opera singing. There is some boisterous cymbal playing that we will help soften. It transitions into the next scene with a soft school bell and a mini-scene before moving into the classroom setting with brief music.



Horace Green is about to discover all things rock & roll.....

It just takes one person to see something great in us to bring us into a whole new world!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains the first long song with everyone playing live on stage! There are slight lighting shifts, and the singing pauses frequently for dialogue and for singing "auditions." The song builds to the end with more lighting/movement on stage before a hard stop. The scene transitions with a short reprise and lighting/set changes.



The kids have their homework from Dewey, but what will their parents think of it?

Learning isn't just about subjects that get graded. How else do we support each others' interests and growth?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a strong ballad with soft lighting shifts and strong emotions. It builds throughout and ends with strong ensemble singing at stage front, and the scene transitions with lighting and set shifts.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Music is all about inspiration. Dewey even shares his own creation with the class!

How do we encourage safe spaces to share creativity?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains energetic rock song imitation. It transitions into the next scene with lighting and set shifts with music in the background.



Teachers have to gather for regular meetings. Dewey has a big ask.....what will Ms. Mullins say?

Sometimes the things that make us uncomfortable about other people are the things we wish we could see in ourselves.....

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a strong school ballad with soft lighting shifts. It transitions quickly into the next scene with lighting and set shifts, along with the student band rocking out in the classroom.



The band is working on their song, but they need to figure out what rock music is all about.....

Music can be so helpful in feeling all the feels!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene opens with the band playing live and moves into the strongest song of the show. This is also the scene/song with the strongest language noted at the start of this guide. The song contains a lot of activity, musician solos, lighting shifts contained on the stage, and singing at stage front. There is a quick shift at the end of the song with lighting to move into the next scene.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Oh no, is the “field trip” cancelled?

Where there’s a will, there’s a way.....

Sensory-rich moments:

This is a mild scene that transitions into the next one with electric guitar music and lighting/set shifts. A school bell starts the next scene.

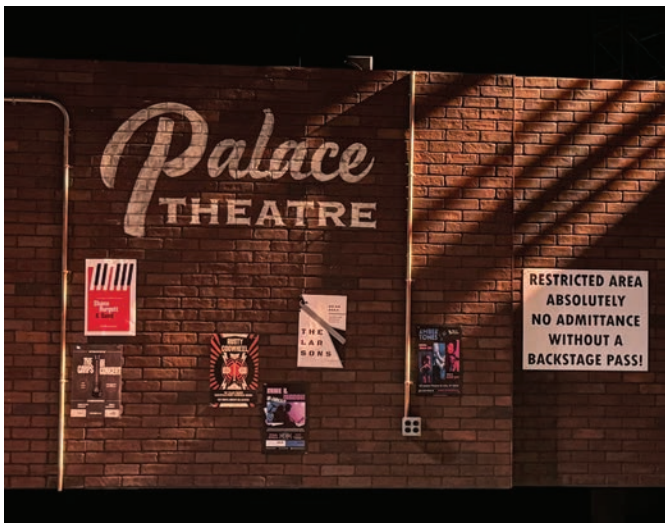


Dewey proves to be even sneakier than we thought.....

Where’s the line when it comes to advocating for children? Is there one?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains sneaky music and frequent lighting/set shifts. There is a moment with a flashing light aimed at the floor that has been softened/slowed, but remember we have sunglasses available if you need additional support! The scene transitions into the next one with lighting/set shifts.



Whew, they made it to Palace Theatre! But will they qualify for the Battle of the Bands?

It takes bravery to do scary things. How do we encourage each other to be brave?

Sensory-rich moments:

This is a brief scene that transitions into the next with set/lighting shifts.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Uh-oh, will the kids be able to audition??

Sometimes we have to pull out all the stops to get what we want....

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some shouts and kids pretending to be sick. There is a very fast transition into the band playing their song, followed by cheering and a reprise of 2 songs. The second reprise ends with singing at stage front with a blackout on stage going into intermission.



Wow, what a great first act!!! Enjoy a quick intermission - we'll bring you back into the show shortly!



Welcome back! Now that the kids have qualified for Battle of the Bands, it's time to rehearse!

We have to work hard for the things we want in life!

Sensory-rich moments:

The second act starts with a blackout lighting shift on stage with music, then lights up. The cast moves into a fun musical number that builds in energy with more lighting shifts and incorporating the student musicians. It ends with all the students at stage front for a quick shouting ending. The scene transitions with lighting and set shifts.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Time for another teacher meeting. The news of the parents' night is unsettling to Dewey...

There's always a moment when we know we've been caught with our hand in the cookie jar....

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a big spit take (ew!) and transitions into the next scene with lighting/set shifts and music.



The kids are as shaken by parents' night as Dewey is!

When a village rallies together, it really means something....

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some shouting and a short acapella solo. There are also cheers and a short silly song. There is a soft school bell to start the transition with a mini-scene, which continues with a lighting/set shift and music.



Dewey takes Ms. Mullins out to try to convince her to let him take the kids on their field trip.

*How far are we willing to go to get what we want?
How do we determine the lines we shouldn't cross?*

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains the other more overt language noted at the start of this guide ("b***h), as well as simulated drinking alcohol. There is a true ballad here as well with soft lighting shifts and a kiss at the end of the scene. The scene transitions with lighting/set shifts and music.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Ned is about to find out some news he's not going to want to hear....

How do we react when we find out we've been deceived?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene a shout and a pretend sudden illness. It transitions into the next scene with music and lighting/shift changes.



Dewey needs to make sure everything is still a go...

Sensory-rich moments:

This is a brief transition scene that references alcohol and moves into the next scene with lighting/set shifts.



Zack wrote a song!

When kids share their creations with us, we should stop and pay attention!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene starts with practicing a new song before running it with the whole rock band. It moves into the full song with all the energy and lighting that comes with it. The song is interrupted quickly with the entrance of the parents to transition to the next scene.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Well, the parents came at exactly the wrong time....and there are other visitors no one expected!

When we're caught in our own mess, how do we learn from it...or get out of it?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains shouting and accidental references to inappropriate behavior. It includes a song with lighting shifts, and the song builds into chaotic movement. The song ends with a shout and panicky activity. It transitions into the next scene with lighting shifts.



Ms. Mullins gets a surprise vote of confidence and a surprise change in her perspective....

Doing the right thing might not always be as obvious as we would think.

Sensory-rich moments:

This mini-scene contains a brief shout and transitions into the next scene with music and lighting/set shifts.



Patty is all the way over it, but how does Ned feel now?

We all have limits to what we can handle, and boundaries can be a wonderful thing.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains shouting before transitioning into the next with soft music.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Dewey is shocked by these surprise visitors.....

How do we show up for those who have shown up for us?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene opens with a quick entrance then moves into a ballad. The song builds to the end and contains some lighting shifts, and the scene transitions into the next with lighting shifts and a reprise of "Stick It To the Man."

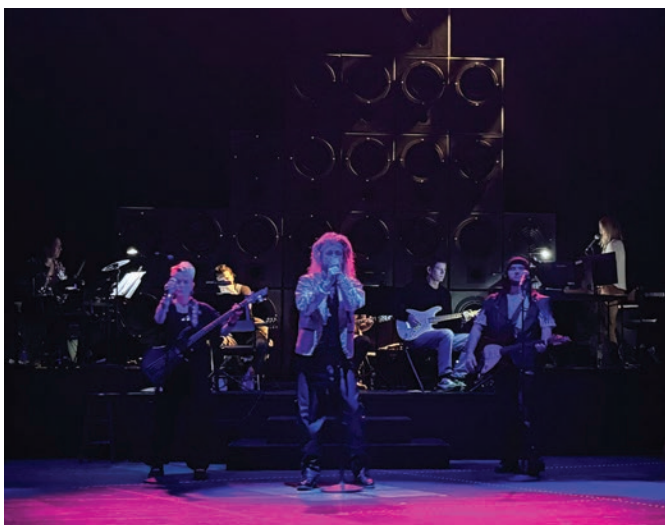


Patty is still so angry. How is Ned feeling about everything?

We're allowed to change our perspectives as we learn and grow and reflect!

Sensory-rich moments:

This mini-scene contains shouting as it transitions into the next scene with a blackout on stage and an audio voiceover. There are also lights that come out into the house on the walls and ceiling. We have sunglasses if you need them!



It's time for the Battle of the Bands! We couldn't let you go without bringing back No Vacancy to get us started off.....

Gotta love when your musical favorites become "classics" to the next generation... :)

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene is very similar to the opening musical number - lighting effects will be contained on stage, and lights aimed out at the audience have been softened. The song is shorter than the first time, and lighting/set shifts transition into the next scene.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



It's now or never, School of Rock is up next! They have some last minute changes, but will they be stopped before they can get started?

It's hard to choose our battles as parents, but sometimes not choosing the battle is what helps kids the most.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some shouting and transitions into the next scene with significant lighting shifts, sweeping lights that come out into the house on the walls, and an announcer voice recording to get back into the concert.



Here we go, get ready for an amazing concert from the School of Rock!!!! Feel free to dance and clap along!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains full rock concert lighting effects, but they have been softened and redirected to contain them on the stage. We have sunglasses available if you need them! This is also a longer song with multiple musical solos by the students, and they're playing live! There are fog effects that will be reduced. When the song ends, the lights on stage will go dark and there is a set shift, then the lights come on quickly to start the next scene.



It's the moment of truth, did School of Rock win the Battle of the Bands? And what will happen when the parents catch up to them?

How often do we say all the things out loud so kids know just how much we love them?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some fun chants, some shouting, and an announcer recording. There's another kiss, and the scene transitions into the next scene with another chant, lighting shifts, and set shifts. The next scene goes back into concert mode.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



You gotta love getting called back in for an encore....

You don't have to win to be REALLY good at something!

Sensory-rich moments:

This musical number is similar to the previous one, in that there are increased rock concert effects all around! There are more musical solos from the live musicians, some fog effects, and increased singing at the front of the stage. The end of the song will transition into a live introduction curtain call.



Now let's meet the actual cast in this live-introduction curtain call! Let them know how much you loved their hard work and exceptional talent!

Sensory-rich moments:

This is the final moment - the live band at the back of the stage is playing live throughout the bows, and the student musicians will play one last time for you all. Lighting effects are used, but not to the extent as they were in the previous 2 songs.

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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