

FAQ's

Q. What is a sensory-friendly performance?

A. A sensory-friendly performance is a production that has minor adaptations to accommodate theater-goers with sensory-input disorders. That may include people with a range of cognitive abilities, and those with autism or anxiety. At this performance, you will notice a more relaxed atmosphere as far as "house rules"—people may get up and move around when necessary, leave the theater to access a set quiet area with sensory toys and bean bag chairs, use electronics, earplugs or headphones, assistive devices, etc. There is no expectation that the audience will remain quiet during the performance. Our staff, cast, and volunteers will be available before, during, and after the performance to assist theater-goers and answer questions. Our goal is to create a judgment-free environment where people with sensory needs and their friends and families can access a theater production more fully. We hope for all who attend to feel comfortable, supported, and free to express themselves.

Q. What kinds of changes will be made to the production?

A. The actual scripts will not change, but some of the technical elements will be adjusted slightly. House lights will remain at half in the theater during the performance, as well as all lights outside of the theater in the hallways to allow for safe movement. There will be no black outs between scenes. Abrupt sound and light effects will be lowered. If there is a potentially jarring moment in the script, there will be a signal to the audience practiced before the show begins to give audience and their caregiver time to be ready to prepare theater-goers with sensory sensitivities.

Q. Who is welcome to attend this performance?

A. ANYONE!!! While this performance is designed for children and adults with sensory-input disorders and their families and friends, all individuals, regardless of their sensory needs, are welcome. We have many young audience members at the Lake and they can feel free to take advantage of the adaptations a sensory-friendly performance provides. The experience is a bit different than a traditional performance and all ticket buyers to this performance will be informed of these adaptations.

Q. My theater-goer has difficulty with new places and transitions. Is there anything I can do to help him/her prepare for this new experience?

A. We have developed a social story to introduce Little Lake's unique space which can be accessed on our website. There is also a plot synopsis and character breakdown for the production. As the show gets closer, more specific set and costume pictures will be available. Rapunzel is at 11 AM on June 24, but the house will open at 10 AM for those that wish to get comfortable in the space before the show begins. You are also welcome to come and meet the cast and check out your seat at an earlier date. You can arrange a visit at sara@littlelake.org.

Q. What if my theater-goer makes noise during the show?

A. No problem. Our cast and staff will have had training so that they know what to expect in terms of noise and movement in the audience.

Q. If my theater-goer needs to step out for a break, is that ok? And will we be able to return to our seat?

A. Absolutely. There will be signs and staff on hand directing you to the quiet area, restrooms, and exits. You are encouraged to return whenever you are ready. Please keep in mind that actors will be sharing the walkways during the show, but with the house lights up there shouldn't be a traffic problem!

Q. How long is the show?

A. The show runs 60-70 minutes long.

Q. Are there snacks available for purchase?

A. There will not be snacks available for purchase, but if it helps your theater-goer, please feel free to bring snacks and beverages in spill-proof containers. We'd appreciate it if you tried to avoid nut-containing snacks, or especially messy or gooey snacks that might be difficult to clean up before the next performance.

Q. Can I bring fidget toys, headphones, electronics, or other items that may help my theater-goer stay calm?

A. Please do. We encourage you to bring any items that might make the experience more comfortable and enjoyable. A light sweater or jacket may be a good idea in case the air conditioning is working too well! Also, if your theater-goer uses a service animal, wheelchair or has other mobility issues, please mention it when making your reservation.

Q. Who can I contact if I have specific questions about the sensory-friendly performance?

A. Feel free to contact Sara at sara@littlelake.org or the box office at (724) 745-6300.