SOCIAL NARRATIVE

The Performance

DULUTH

PLAYHOUSE

AT THE NORSHOR
Before the Performance

I will hear a loudspeaker announcement in the lobby at approximately 5 minutes and 2 minutes before the show starts. The voice I hear will tell me how much time is left before I need to be in my seat. The lights may also flicker to let me know the show is starting. I can ask an usher to guide me to my seat if I need help.

I can pick up a program with information about the show when I enter the theatre.

There may also be a Performance Guide that I can also read. The Performance guide will have information about what types of sensory moments (such as loud noises, bright lights, and fast movements) I can expect at different points during the show as well as scenes that may be scary or intense.

The activities in the Activity Space will end 10 minutes before the performance begins. I can visit the Quiet Area before, during, or after the performance.
Finding My Seat

I can follow an usher to see where my seat is.

I can bring anything with me to help me get comfortable in my seat.

I will sit with my group. There will be people I don't know sitting near me who are also watching the show.
Artist Only Zones

In the theatre, there are three zones where I cannot go.

These are:

The Sound Operation Station (pictured above). During musicals, the sound operator works from here.

The Orchestra Pit—which is in front of the stage behind a black railing. This is where the music conductor will be during the show.

The Stage - Only Actors are allowed on stage.
Start of the Performance

Before the show begins, the lights will start to dim. Some lights will be left on in the theatre so people can see where they are going.

I will hear a few announcements in the theatre. Someone will walk onstage to welcome everyone to the show.

They may or may not be in costume. Sometimes, I will see an actor come out and introduce themselves. They will talk about their role in the show and who they are.

When they leave the stage, the show will begin!
The Cast

I will observe acting, singing, and dancing onstage. I will see actors wearing costumes enter and leave the stage throughout the show, and sometimes they may stand or walk close to the audience at the front of the theatre.

The characters are just kids in costume, no need to be frightened.
People in the audience may clap, laugh, or cheer during scenes they enjoy and at the end of the performance. I can join in if I want.

While the Duluth Playhouse Youth Theatre has been able to invite cast members to the lobby to meet patrons in past seasons, we are currently skipping this as part of our COVID safety procedure. We look forward to offering this option again once it’s safer for everyone.
Set and Props

I may see sets rotate and change for different scenes. Large walls and buildings, trees, or furniture may move on and off the stage in different ways.

I may see actors or stage crew members moving things on and off the stage in between scenes.

The actors may hold, play with, or even eat different items throughout the show.

These are called props.

They are specially made for the show and are only for the actors.
Staying Comfortable

There may be moments of intense sensory input (such as loud noises, bright lights, and fast movements) as well as scenes that may be scary to me.

I can choose to use sensory tools like headphones or fidgets to help me feel comfortable at any time during the show. I can bring these tools from home or use items available at the Check Out Station in the Main Lobby.

I can leave the theatre at any time to take a break and return to my seat when I feel ready. I can also get up and move to the back rows or stand in the back of the theatre.

I can visit the Activity Room at the back of the theatre if I need to move around. I will still be able to hear the show from this space.

I can visit the Quiet Area upstairs at any time, where I can stretch, color, and relax.
Intermission Begins

Some performances may have a break, called intermission, between the first and second acts of the show. Intermission usually lasts 15 minutes. All the lights in the theatre will go on when it begins.

I can get up, move around the theatre and lobbies, or use the restroom. I can also visit the Concession Stand, Activity Areas, Quiet Area, or Check Out Station during this time.

Intermission is a busy time in the restrooms and lobbies. I may have to wait in line to use the restroom, the Concessions, or reenter the theatre. The theatre may be the quietest place during intermission, so I can choose to stay in my seat.

For shows without intermission, I can get up at any time to use the restroom or visit the Activity Areas or the Quiet Area. Concessions will only be open before the show begins for shows without an intermission.
Intermission Ends

I will hear an announcement and the lights will flicker when intermission is about to end and the show is about to begin again. The voice will tell me it is time to return to my seat for the second act of the performance. I may also see the lights flicker immediately before the show resumes.

The lights in the theatre will dim again, but some lights will be left on so people can see where they are going.
End of the Performance

At the end of the play, all the lights in the theatre will go on again. The actors will take turns bowing to the audience from the stage.

People may clap or wave their hands to show how much they enjoyed the show. Some may stand and cheer. I can join in the applause and cheering if I want. If the noise is too loud, I can keep my headphones on or cover my ears.

I can plan to leave my seat a few minutes before the end of the performance if I want to avoid the sounds of clapping and cheering or the lines to exit the theatre. I can also wait in the theatre, lobbies, or quiet areas for the crowds to clear before exiting the building.
Exiting the Theatre

I will leave my seat and walk out into the lobby. I can wave goodbye. If I borrowed anything from the Check Out Station, I must return it.

I will go back to the Main Lobby and exit through the entrance I came in. There are several ways to get back to the Main Lobby, depending on where I am in the building. I can ask an usher to help me find my way.

It may take some time to exit the building due to the crowds. There may be lines for the Skywalk Elevator or to pay for parking in the Parking Ramp. I can wait in the building for the crowds to clear before I leave.
ASL Interpretation

Depending on which performance I attend, I may see American Sign Language interpreters standing near the stage translating the words being spoken or sung.

The interpreters use gestures and movements to represent what they hear. Sometimes their faces will match the emotion behind the spoken word.
Questions?
Call the Box Office at 218.733.7555
email belonging@duluthplayhouse.org
or visit www.duluthplayhouse.org/about/accessibility.