

Fences Sensory Guide

Welcome to our Sensory Friendly Season

Our sensory friendly season ensures an atmosphere where people of all abilities can be comfortable and get the most fulfilling experience out of our shows. The 7:30 pm performance on April 10 will be identical to other performances of the show. But we have created a list of instances in the play to let patrons know when an intense moment is about to happen, offering the chance to prepare accordingly. These accommodations make it possible for disabled community members to attend the theater without fear of judgment or an unexpected trigger happening onstage causing distress. We recommend this performance for Autistic people, people with PTSD, Sensory Processing Disorders, and anyone who thinks that having prior warning would help them! We can also offer social stories, which help patrons get to know the theater and what to expect before even stepping foot into the building.

For more information, visit our sensory friendly website at

<https://www.trinityrep.com/accessibility/>. Thank you for your support of Trinity Rep's commitment to accessibility for all!

If you are interested in hearing more about our sensory friendly programming, email education@trinityrep.com.

General Notes

- The play deals with racism, trauma, and domestic violence.
- Actors will be using aisles.
- Music plays loudly during the transitions.
- This play contains mature language including racial slurs.

*Sensory Friendly Consultation by
Daniel Perkins*

Inclusive Terms for Audience Members

Below are definitions of different things you might encounter during this Sensory Friendly performance. We hope to create a space where everyone can enjoy theater in their own way.

- **Stimming:** This is a technique used by some patrons to cope with excitement, nerves, over-stimulation, and fear. This can manifest as hand wringing, flapping, spinning, rocking, clapping, etc.
- **Sensory overload:** A feeling of overwhelm experienced by many patrons that is caused by overstimulation of their sensory processing systems.
- **Repetitive speech:** Also referred to as echolalia, is when some patrons may repeat phrases, quotes, or speech to aid comprehension or as a calming technique.
- **Tics:** Are involuntary and often repetitive physical movements and/or vocalizations.
- **Non-verbal communication:** Some patrons may need to use sign language, or augmentative and alternative communication techniques (AAC) using technology to communicate.
- **Touch sensitivity:** Some patrons may be uncomfortable with touch, where others may need weighted vests or blankets to feel comfortable.
- **Fidget tools:** Community members may use fidget tools during the performance to relieve stress and anxiety so they can enjoy and focus on the show. Examples of fidget tools are stress balls, fidget cubes, squishies, etc.
- **Sensory Guide:** This is what you are reading right now! Flip this paper over for a guide through the potentially overwhelming moments in the show. Some patrons may need to use a flashlight to read the guide during the show due to darkness in the theatre. Flashlights are available in the lobby.
- **Warning lights:** There are two colored lights hung on either side of the stage that will glow 5 seconds before any of the potentially overwhelming moments noted on the other side of this sheet and will stay on until the moment has ended. During the preshow announcement, someone will point out the location of the lights.
- **Survey:** Please check your email for a post-show survey. Your feedback is important to us as we work to improve accessibility.

Warning: SPOILERS AHEAD

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TRIGGER LIST		
Type of Cue	Cue Line	Description
The bolded moments below are particularly harsh or intense and will have a warning light on 4/10/24		
Lighting	After the cast says "Enjoy the show."	There is a blackout.
Content	Troy: "Alright then. Case closed."	Rose changes clothes in full view of the audience.
Lighting	After Troy says, "It's the truth."	A bright light goes on.
Lighting	After Troy says, "I done told you what I'm gonna be doing."	There is a faded blue light that comes up before it becomes a bright light.
Sound	Rose: "See if that straighten you up. Cause you ain't right this morning."	Gabriel enters the aisle singing loudly.
Sound	After Gabriel says "I got to chase them out of here."	Gabriel screams loudly.
Sound	Rose: "And don't you leave no mess in there."	Rose screams loudly as Troy scares her.
Sound	After Troy says, "You gonna show how you can cut them boards right now."	Cory saws the board loudly.

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Sound	Cory: "Mr. Stawicki done already hired somebody else 'cause I told him I was playing football."	Troy throws the board down, making a bang.
Sound/Lighting	Troy: "I can't give nothing else."	The phone rings loudly in a dim light.
Content	After Bono says, "Well, that's what you call it when you just take off like that."	There is a discussion of domestic violence.
Sound	After Lyons says, "Fourteen's kinda young to be out on your own."	A phone rings.
Content	After Lyons says, "Yeah, okay Rose."	There is a discussion of racism and murder.
Content	After Bono says, "I got to go get mine."	There is a significant amount of yelling between Cory and Troy, and Cory throws his football pads and then his cleats on the floor. Gabe has a sensory overload moment.
Lighting/Sound	After Troy says, "Don't you strike out."	There are loud drums before a blackout happens.



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Act II

Lighting/Sound	After the announcer says, "Please remember to turn off your cell phones."	There is a dim light accompanied by loud music.
Content	Rose: "But you take too."	There is a moment of domestic abuse and a physical altercation between two men.
Content/Sound	Troy: "Don't you strike out."	Rose has a breakdown which includes a bit of yelling.
Content	Troy: "I won't be gone long."	There is a brief discussion involving ableism.
Content/Sound	Rose: "Now you done went down there and signed him to the hospital for half his money."	The phone rings loudly and there is a brief discussion of death in child birth.
Content/Sound	After Troy says, "Just give me some room to breathe."	Troy's emotions are heightened, and there is some yelling. Troy throws his coat on the floor in anger and frustration.
Sound/Lighting	Troy: "Then you come up and knock on the front door."	There is the sound of police sirens and a radio broadcast accompanied by a dim light.
Sound	Lyons: "Hey Rose."	Lyons knocks on the floor loudly.
Content	Troy: "I told you to leave your mama out of this."	There is a intense physical altercation between a father and son.
Lighting/Sound	Troy: "Come on."	There is a abrupt blackout with loud music before it gives away to a bright yellow light.
Sound	Rose: "but I took on to Raynell like she was all them babies I had wanted and never had."	The phone rings loudly.
Content/Sound	Gabriel: "You get ready now."	Gabriel begins a loud ritual that includes yelling.