



## POTUS Sensory Guide

### Welcome to our Sensory Friendly production of *POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive*

Trinity Rep's Sensory Friendly performances ensure an atmosphere where people of all abilities can comfortably experience our shows.

The October 16 evening performance will be identical to other performances of the show. However, a warning light will go off before any intense light and sound cues. We have also created a list of instances in the play that may be upsetting to patrons, 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](mailto:education@trinityrep.com).

**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:** A technique used to cope with excitement, nerves, over-stimulation, and fear. This can manifest as hand-wringing, flapping, spinning, rocking, clapping, etc.
- **Sensory overload:** An overwhelmed feeling caused by overstimulation of sensory processing systems (hearing, sight, etc.)
- **Repetitive speech:** Also referred to as echolalia, is when someone repeats 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 people may need to use sign language, or augmentative and alternative communication techniques (AAC) technology to communicate
- **Touch sensitivity:** Some people may be uncomfortable with touch, while others may need weighted vests or blankets to feel comfortable
- **Fidget tools:** People may use fidget tools to relieve stress and anxiety and/or stim. 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. You may need to use a flashlight to read the guide during the show due to darkness in the theater. 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**



## POTUS Sensory Guide

### General Content Warnings

- This production contains strong profanity including frequent use of vulgarities and slang, depiction and discussion of sexual situations, depiction of substance use, discussion of abortion, partial nudity, and the onstage use of a (prop) gun.
- Actors will use the aisles of the Dowling
- During each transition into the next scene, loud music will play over speakers

TRIGGER LIST		
Type of Cue	Cue Line	Description
<b>**The bolded moments below are particularly harsh or intense and will have a warning light on (10/16/2024)**</b>		
Sound/Lights	The woman giving the pre-show speech says, "Enjoy the show"	Loud music plays, followed by an abrupt bright light.
<b>Content</b>	<b>After Harriet says, "c-nt"</b>	<b>Harriet and Jean discuss sexism.</b>
Sound	After Jean says, "is there Harriet?"	Jean loudly slams a door.
Sound	After Jean says, "Oh, shut up"	Chris lets out a small scream.
Sound	After Stephanie says, "Ok"	A toilet flushes multiple times.
<b>Sound</b>	<b>After Harriet says, "Of course you still want the president's endorsement"</b>	<b>A television loudly turns on.</b>
<b>Content</b>	<b>After Harriet says, "So is everyone"</b>	<b>Harriet and Jean make some comments that can be seen as Islamophobic.</b>

## POTUS Sensory Guide

Sound	After Jean says, "No one."	Stephanie comes in screaming.
Sound	After Margaret says, "Well, there is no typical Chris"	Chris' phone loudly vibrates throughout the scene.
<b>Content</b>	<b>After Margaret says, "But also, I hunt!"</b>	<b>There is a discussion about hunting, which involves animal cruelty.</b>
<b>Content</b>	<b>After Margaret says, "Before reelection"</b>	<b>Margaret and Chris discuss systemic oppression, particularly that against women of color.</b>
Sound	When Jean says, "For the last time, he's not going to pardon you"	Bernadette howls loudly.
<b>Sound/Content</b>	<b>After Bernadette says, "Okay, so here's the thing"</b>	<b>There scene becomes chaotic, including screaming, shouting, and fighting.</b>
<b>Sound/Content</b>	<b>After Margaret says, "What is this?"</b>	<b>Stephanie accidentally takes hallucinogenic drugs she believes are Tums. This begins an intense trip throughout the remainder of the show. This scene also includes discussion of abortion and the loud sound of a portable paper shredder.</b>
<b>Sound/Content</b>	<b>After Dusty, "Don't you think?"</b>	<b>There is a loud, chaotic chase scene that ends with a loud crash and phone smash.</b>

### Intermission

### Act II

Sound	After the announcer says, "Please silence all cell phones..."	Dusty loudly yells and sobs.
<b>Sound/Content</b>	<b>After Chris says, "We need to notify the vice president right now"</b>	<b>There is a small moment of loud simultaneous action before it ends with a loud rant from Chris.</b>
Sound	After Harriet says, "I can't hear the TV,"	The television volume grows louder.

## POTUS Sensory Guide

Sound	After Harriet says, "But"	Stephanie lets out a small scream.
Sound/Lights	<b>After Harriet says, "Oh nice, Hilde, you eat your herring with that mouth?"</b>	<b>Two scenes happen at once, sometimes overlapping with each other. There are loud door slams and bright lights.</b>
Content	After Chris says, "Guys, guys, GUYS"	A body is shown being carried in.
Sound/Lights/Content	<b>After Harriet says, "Light on three. One, Two"</b>	<b>The last moments of this scene are filled with chaotic actions, simultaneous speeches, loud music, drug use, dim lights, and a loud echo with radio sounds.</b>