

SENSORY GUIDANCE

A Christmas Carol – A Family Show

Rated PG for some language

SHOW DETAILS

LENGTH OF SHOW: 1 hour and 30 minutes (approximately)

INTERMISSION: 45 minutes in

CAST SIZE: approx. 20

SENSORY RATING: Scary Moments, Use of Fog, Some Dim Lighting Moments, Moving Lights

Elm Street understands that kids with Autism Spectrum Disorders have unique and varying sensory issues. Sensory accommodations are balanced with preserving the genuine experience desired by all children and families.

Sensory Friendly Performance Accommodations: Not all aspects of the show may be modified due to their relevance of the story, the show’s artistic integrity, or production constraints. House lights will stay dimly on for the entire show. There will be a few modifications to lighting, sound, and the performance. Elm Street has cut out the use of black-outs, strobe lighting, and loud, abrupt actions. For additional sound reduction, Elm Street provides noise-cancelling earmuffs in our lobby.

Please be Advised: Entering our theatre can be challenging for audiences. Added Elm Street Visionaries will help provide a supportive and welcoming environment. Seating is unassigned, but our Visionaries can assist you with finding a good, safe space to enjoy the show. During the show, audience members are free to talk or move, or “take a break” in our Calm Zone or in the lobby.

Potential Triggers to Prepare for: There is slight fog used throughout the entire show (it has been dialed back for this performance). In Act 1, Scrooge is very mean at the beginning to a lot of people. Marley’s face appears on the projector when Scrooge sees his face on the door. Marley’s Ghost can be scary with his heavy chains and moaning—he also appears through a smoke cloud in the fireplace. At the end of Act 1, Christmas Past calls forth all of Scrooge’s memories, which Scrooge shoos away and then makes Christmas Past disappear by throwing a blanket over him. In Act 2, Christmas Present warns Scrooge of the present with two children “Ignorance” & “Want” who can appear a little zombie-like. Christmas Future’s song “Dancing on Your Grave” can be a little uncomfortable with talks of death and a graveyard scene—there are “Monks” in black cloaks—which can also be scary.

Expectations: Many musical numbers back-to-back with some fun and entertaining dances. Very little dialogue—the music drives this show. The set is minimal, which leaves some elements up to the audience’s imagination. There are many happy moments in the show—it is

Christmas after all—and Scrooge goes through a range of emotions before realizing what he’s missed all these years.

Potential Anxious Scenes Include: Scrooge is scared of Marley and the Ghosts. He dislikes anticipating when they might appear or what they might do. There is a graveyard scene in the Future where there are graves stones and talk of death. Tiny Tim has also died and Bob Cratchit cries at his grave.

Positive Themes: Hope, faith, family, love, redemption—the bad guy learns to be good in the end.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE

Getting Ready:

- Coming to Elm Street can be a special occasion, or a casual family outing, but it’s always fun. Some audience members dress up, some do not—it’s your choice.
- You can bring your own food and drink. The rules are please clean up after yourselves and dispose of trash in a trash can. If a mess is made, you can ask one of our Visionaries to help you.
- What else can you bring? Comfort toys can be brought in if they are quiet during the show. You can bring a camera to take photos before and after the show, but not during. Electronic devices must be off during the show.
- Always feel free to contact us if you have any questions: 678.494.4251 or siobhan@elmstreetarts.org.
- Seats are unassigned, so prepare to arrive early to get appropriate seats, if extra space is needed. Doors to the theatre open 30 minutes prior to the show.

Getting Here:

- Directions? Please check the event on our website for a map of how to get to Elm Street. Elm Street’s Main Auditorium entrance is located off of Towne Lake Pkwy.
- Elm Street shares a parking lot with the city of Woodstock (public parking) and it can get crowded on the weekends.
- Our Box Office is located inside of the double doors (Mainstage Entrance). You can purchase tickets or pick up advance tickets at “Will Call”.
- Bathrooms are located in the lobby. There are three stalls in each restroom—one of which is a handicap stall.

Before the Show:

- People gather in the lobby prior to the theatre doors opening. There is a line for those that have their tickets purchased and ready. Depending on the show, this line can get long as early as an hour prior to the show beginning.

- There will be a station in the lobby for Sensory Support materials such as fidget spinners, stress balls, and noise-cancelling headphones. If anything else is needed, please let a Visionary know and we do the best to try to accommodate you!
- The doors to the theatre open 30 minutes prior to the show beginning. Please be sure to have your tickets ready for the Visionaries to scan.

Entering the Theatre:

- When you are ready to go into the theatre, Visionaries can help you find an adequate area for your family to sit. If extra space is needed, please let a Visionary know.
- Programs will be handed out at the door.
- Concessions are for sale in our Lounge area. Food and drink can be bought and brought back to your seats.
- Some of the cast may come out before the show begins to introduce themselves to the audience. They will stay near the stage and you can go up to them whenever you like—but you do not have to!
- Time to turn off your electronic devices. Remember no photography, texting, or phone usage in the theatre.

Need a Break:

- INTERMISSION: The majority of the shows at Elm Street have a fifteen-minute intermission in between Act 1 and Act 2. Many people leave the theatre to use the restroom or get concessions from the Lounge.
- You do not have to leave your seats if you don't need or want to.
- During intermission, the backstage crew may be moving set pieces and props onstage. This will be visible to the audience.
- If anyone needs a break during the show (before or after intermission), there are 2 options:
 - THE CALM ZONE: This area is designated for anyone who wants to see the show but needs space from the stage and audience. Everyone is welcome in the Calm Zone.
 - THE LOBBY: The lobby is available to those that need to move around and make noise but might be intimidated by the theatre space.

After the Show:

- The cast always returns at the end of the show for a curtain call. Prepare for applause!
- When it's time to leave the theatre, there may be crowding and slow movement. If you would like to, you can wait in your seat for the crowd to thin.
- Photos with the cast are encouraged! Cast will be in the lobby as you leave the theatre.
- If you need extra assistance leaving the theatre, please notify one of our Visionaries.
- Check out Elm Street's website for more information about upcoming Sensory Friendly shows: elmstreetarts.org.