

# SF FAMILY TREE

— sensory friendly • relaxed performances —

## Performer Preparation for Sensory Friendly Shows

We thank you for participating in our sensory friendly programming. We know that you will find it deeply rewarding to see how your work touches the lives of those who seldom feel welcomed. With your help, we can make Denver the most sensory friendly community in America. The Lone Tree Arts Center is a leader in presenting live performance for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, autism, sensory processing disorder, or other conditions, as well as their families. All patrons are welcome to experience theater, music, and other performances in a safe, friendly, and non-judgmental environment.

## Performance Modifications

In order to make the experience safe and comfortable, some slight modifications may need to be made. From an audience perspective, patrons are told that they can move around or leave the performance as needed, and we provide quiet areas in and around the lobby for those who need to 'take a break.' Typical performance modifications include the following.

- The **house lights will remain half-up** during the performance, rather than completely off.
- The **volume of the performance** will most likely need to be reduced.
- **Startling or sudden sound or lighting effects** will be reduced or removed.
- **Strobe lights are not permitted.**
- There will be a **quiet area** outside the audience chamber available for those who need it.
- You should anticipate and be prepared for **audience movement and vocalization.**
- In some cases, shows may be **shortened or condensed.** Depending on the show, a sensory friendly performance might be 45 – 60 minutes. This is not a hard and fast rule, and it depends on which kind of program we are offering. We'll confirm with you during the contracting process.
- Delaying the start of the program past the published time can cause undue anxiety for some patrons so **we encourage you to begin on time.** If that's not possible, we will make a short curtain speech at the start time to reassure everyone that the show will begin soon.
- **We always make a curtain speech,** welcoming everyone, giving them assurance that moving around or making noise is fine, and that we have a quiet space for them to retreat to if they need it.
- Lone Tree staff are happy to **discuss any concerns** with you and give recommendations on appropriate modifications. We may ask you specific questions about your work to identify any triggers to avoid (such as strobes, snare drums, intensely frightening scenes, etc.).
- **We encourage all of our sensory friendly artists to visit the lobby before the show** to let our patrons see you and realize that you are real people, not necessarily the characters you play.

## Audience Behavior

Our goal is to create a relaxed and inclusive atmosphere where patrons can feel comfortable during the performance. We also want our performers to be aware of and prepared for some atypical audience responses.

- Patrons may **exit and re-enter the performance space** throughout the show.
- Patrons may **shout, call out, or make other noises**.
- Patrons may make **repetitive or unusual movements**.
- Patrons may bring **edibles, fidget toys, headphones, or other items** that help will help them remain calm.
- Audience members will be told to **wave hands rather than use applause** to show appreciation to artists.
- **Trained ushers and staff** will be on hand to assist with patron needs.
- Often, there will also be a **trained therapy dog** present with an usher.

For more information contact:



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