

Joseph Sensory Friendly Performance Packet

We are excited to be offering a sensory friendly performance of *Joseph* on May 11 at 3 pm. Included in this packet for your reference is:

- Our SF Q&A (can be found linked from the ticket page)
- The social story (shrunk down to save paper, (can be found linked from the ticket page))
- Web copy from the ticket sales page and Meet Your Seat pages on the website

We will be scheduling training opportunities for staff and faculty, so stay tuned for more information to come!

Additional items to know:

- Ticket prices are the same for this performances as other Joseph performances.
- Seating is reserved in order to accommodate our patrons with accessibility needs, as we do not want to oversell the accessible seats in the Little Theater. If patrons find the day of the show they need to be reseated, we have reserved seats on the aisles that ushers can move patrons to if need be.
- Nichole is manually reserving single seats between groups as tickets are sold to create *buffer seats* to give families the space they need.
- Marketing will send out Know Before You Go Emails on a weekly basis starting on April 5 to patrons who have purchased tickets in the previous week with the sensory friendly information. Hopefully this will help patrons who purchased tickets to this show accidentally a chance to exchange them for a different performance before we run out of inventory. Nichole would like to allow guests to exchange these tickets for free, as this is the first time we are offering this performance.
- All patrons are welcome at this performance, however we should emphasize during sales the modified house rules and make sure patrons understand what their experience will be like. Other venues have found that senior citizens like to attend these sorts of performances because they feel less sensitive about oxygen tanks or needing to get up during the show.
- Both children and adults with sensory sensitives and other disabilities are welcome! Adults with cognitive disabilities and PTSD often attend sensory friendly performances.
- We will be offering a sensory friendly performance as part of our families series next spring – info will be released in the single ticket brochure in June.

If you have any questions feel free to ask, or you can give a patron with questions my extension or email address: 989-631-5930 x 1208, miller@midlandcenter.org.

Thank you for your work with these patrons!



Upcoming Sensory Friendly Performances at the Center
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
Saturday, May 11, 2019 | 3 pm

SENSORY FRIENDLY PERFORMANCES AT THE CENTER

The Midland Center for the Arts is committed to providing a supportive and welcoming environment that makes live theatre and our museums accessible to those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), developmental and physical disabilities, sensory processing disorder, and other sensory-sensitive people and their families.

What are Sensory-friendly Performances?

Sensory-friendly performances feature the same content and performers as other performances of a show, with accommodations, including:

- Lower light and sound levels, with special effects like strobe lights and smoke removed
- House lights kept at a low level to allow movement around the auditorium
- House doors are kept open; audience members are welcome to stand, move around, and leave as need be
- Audience members are welcome to bring their own manipulatives, seat cushions, comfort objects, headphones, electronics, special snacks, and other support items to the show.
- A designated Take-A-Break Space available with quiet activities in the Saints and Sinners Lounge
- Trained volunteers on hand
- A [Social Story](#) that portrays the theatre-going experience with pictures and text
- A meet-and-greet with the actors before the show
- The performance is a *shush-free zone* - audience members can talk quietly or express themselves freely during the performance

What can I do to prepare for the show?

- Review our [Social Story](#) with your family and friends to learn about what your experience at the Center will be like.
- Review the Character Cards to learn more about the show - *Will be available soon!*
- Attend one of our "[Meet Your Seat](#)" open houses, where you can tour the Center and see the auditorium space where the show will take place to help with successful priming for the event. Dates: April 13, 9-11 am, May 2, 5:30-6:30 pm
- Visit the A.B. Dow Museum during our upcoming [Sensory Friendly Morning](#) on Saturday, April 13, 2019, from 9 – 11 am to experience the museum and learn more about the Center for the Arts.

What is the seating area like?

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat will be performed in the Little Theater. You can see the stage clearly from any seat location. The seats rise like in a stadium, and aisles are labeled with letters and the seats with numbers. The seats stretch all the way across the theater with aisles on the ends of the rows. You enter from the top and walk down some stairs to access most of the seats. There are multiple doors to allow

patrons to easily enter/exit the theatre. There will be low ambient lighting throughout the performance so patrons are able to see should they need to move around or exit the theater.

Will seats be reserved?

Yes; there will be reserved seats for all sensory friendly performances. If you need recommendations in regards to seating, please contact the Ticket Office. If you are uncomfortable in your seat, please ask an usher if you can be moved to a different location.

At least one of my party uses a wheelchair. Can you accommodate us?

Yes; a limited number of accessible seats are available. Please inform the Ticket Office of any mobility issues or other seating requirements when purchasing your tickets. Please note there is not an elevator in the Little Theater.

When will the theatre open/how early can I arrive?

The lobbies will be open one hour before the performance. The seating area will open 30 minutes before the performance.

How long is the performance?

The performance happens in three sections. The first act is about 45 minutes long. The intermission is 15 minutes long. The second act is about 45 minutes long.

Is photography or videography allowed in the theatre?

No photography or videography is permitted inside the theatre. You are welcome to take pictures in the lobbies or the Take-a-Break space.

Are ushers and ticket staff trained to assist individuals with sensory sensitivities?

Yes; our staff and volunteers have been trained to welcome and assist persons with ASD and other sensory sensitivities.

Who can I talk to if I have questions?

Feel free to contact our Katie Miller, our Community Engagement Manager, with questions via [email](#) or call 989-631-5930 x 1208.



Joseph and the

Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Sensory Friendly Performance

Tips and Reminders

1. THANK YOU! Thanks for helping us out with this performance. Your time, empathy, and energy are GREATLY appreciated!
2. As ushers and volunteers, you are here for three reasons:
 - a. Create a safe environment for our patrons in case of an emergency
 - b. Support the parents, loved ones, and caregivers of the individuals we are serving who may be on the spectrum, have a cognitive or physical disability, or PTSD
 - c. Create a welcoming environment for all individuals attending the performance

By doing these three things, we will create a great experience for everyone who walks through our doors!

3. Modifications to the show/auditorium
 - a. Lights: Only one lighting cue has been removed from the show. The house lights will sit at 40% during the run.
 - b. Special effects: We have eliminated the fog machines but are still using haze to help with lighting effects. We have also eliminated the confetti cannons at the end.
 - c. Cast members in the audience: The actors will no longer be on the stairs in the audience during the Megamix at the end; they have been repositioned to the floor areas in front of the stage.
 - d. Doors: The top three doors to the auditorium on each side will remain open during the performance to allow patrons to exit and return to the theater as they need to during the course of the performance.
 - e. Movement/talking: This is a judgement-free and shush-free zone! Individuals may need to use comfort items, headphones, talk to themselves or their caregivers, or get up and move around, rock in place, stretch, etc to remain focused to enjoy the performance. This behavior is not out of the norm and is not rude or disrespectful.
4. Supporting the patrons
 - a. Ushers: Please greet each patron or family that comes in for seating. Please ask them if there is any way you can support them during this experience or if there is anything you need to know. Let them

know you will be at your door in case they need assistance.

- b. Each usher plus a lobby volunteer and a volunteer in the Take-A-Break space will have choice boards in hand to use to communicate with an individual if need be. Some individuals may be non-verbal and will use your choice board or their own board or iPad to communicate, or may be distraught and not able to verbalize what they need.
- c. Mom and dad/caregivers know best, and will likely be right behind their child or loved one if they are leaving the auditorium. If you need to support a child without a caregiver
 - Remember to keep your body open and able to move in a non-threatening posture, give 1-3 feet of personal space
 - When talking with a child on the spectrum, use concrete and simple language, and avoid high-level questions
 - If they are headed to the door to the brick lobby, give them a logical reason to stop i.e. They need to go to the car = You need car keys, so let's wait for mom or dad
 - Focus on feelings – not “What’s wrong?” but “how are you feeling?” or use a statement like “Let’s go to a safe space”
- d. Alternate spaces
 - Benches in lobby are “waiting spaces”, not time out spaces. The show will be on the TV in the lobby if it is easier for an individual to watch from the lobby.
 - Take-A-Break space is house right and down the stairs. This room has beanbag chairs, carpet, and quiet calming activities if families need that time away from the performance.
- e. Restrooms
 - The bathrooms just outside the little theater have automated flushers on the toilets; some individuals might need manual toilets. The ones by the Take-a-Break Space are manual, as are the ones down the hallway by the visual art studios.
- f. Meet and Greet
 - The cast will line up on the house right side of the lobby after the show to meet and greet, so those who would like to leave right away can exit through the glass doors without getting caught in a traffic jam
- g. Intermission
 - Intermission may be a bit confusing for those who have never been to the theater or don't participate in sports with a halftime. Be prepared to answer questions.
- h. Concessions
 - One concession stand will be open for this performance.
- i. Entering/exiting the building
 - We are encouraging patrons to walk around past the Auditorium doors to enter/exit the building, rather than through the gift shop/museum space if they parked in the Eastman parking lot.



Image: Joseph's face is in the upper right hand corner, and the stripes represent his coat of many colors.

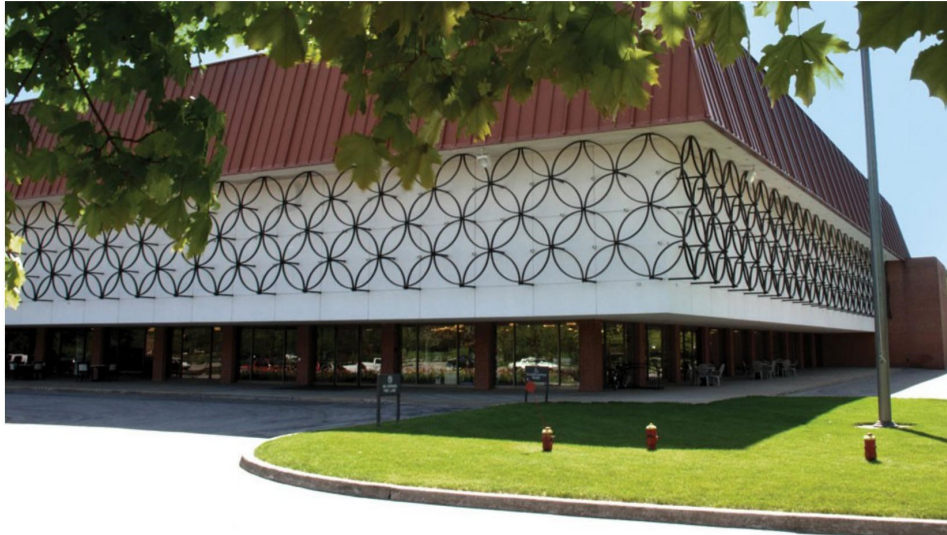
Social Story: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

For the sensory-friendly performance on
May 11, 2019

Presented by Center Stage Theater at the Midland
Center for the Arts



I am going to see a show at the Midland Center for the Arts.



This is the parking lot at the Midland Center for the Arts. We will park our car here and walk to the doors.



These are the glass doors we will go through to enter the building.



We will immediately turn left to go to the ticket office. We will not walk through the doors right in front of us.



This is the Ticket Office. We might have to wait in line to buy our tickets or pick up our Will Call tickets here.



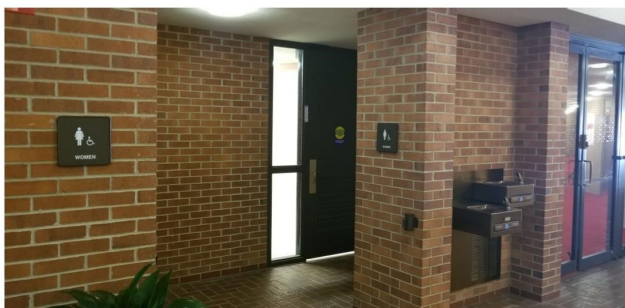
We will walk to the left through the Brick Lobby to find the Little Theater.



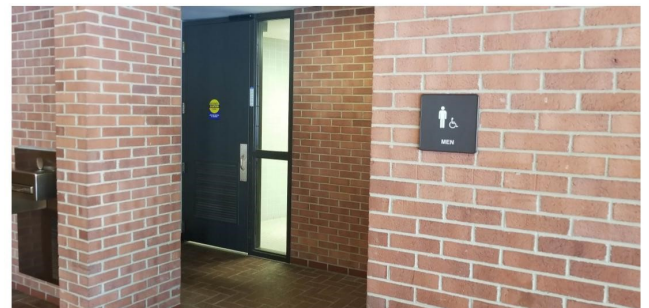
We might stop for a snack or drink at the concession stand. Snacks and drinks are behind the silver counter. A sign with the item prices hangs above the concession stand.



On our way to the Little Theater are the Men's and Women's restrooms. These restrooms have toilets with automatic flushers. Restrooms with manual flushers are located by the art studios and by the Take-a-Break space.



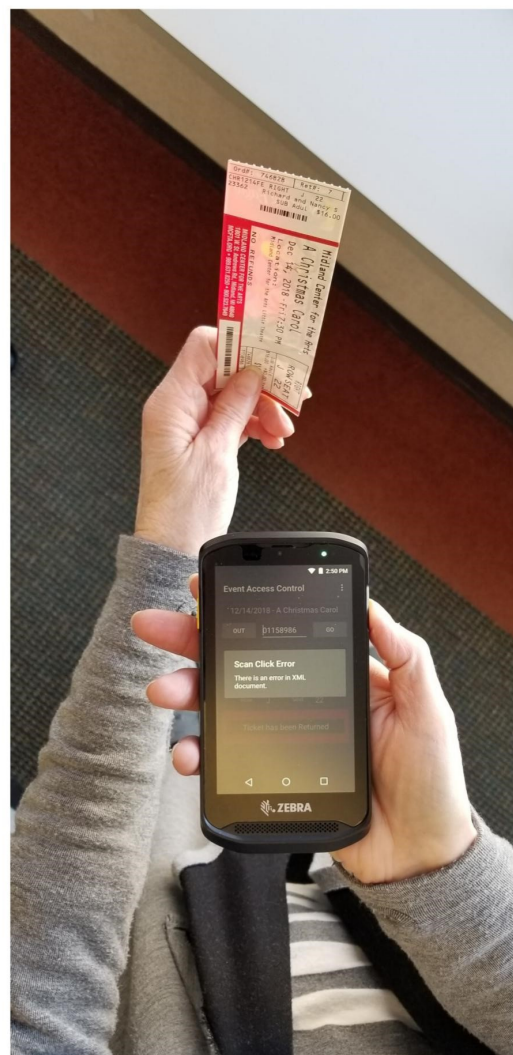
Women's restroom entrance



Men's restroom entrance



These are the glass doors to the Little Theater lobby. When we are ready to go into the theater, an usher will scan my ticket with this device. The ticket scanner makes a “whoosh” noise that sounds like a light saber from Star Wars! The usher will tell me to go to the right or the left to find our seats.



This is the lobby of the Little Theater. The carpet is red. There is artwork hung on the walls that I can look at. We can walk either to the right or left to go find our seats in the theater.

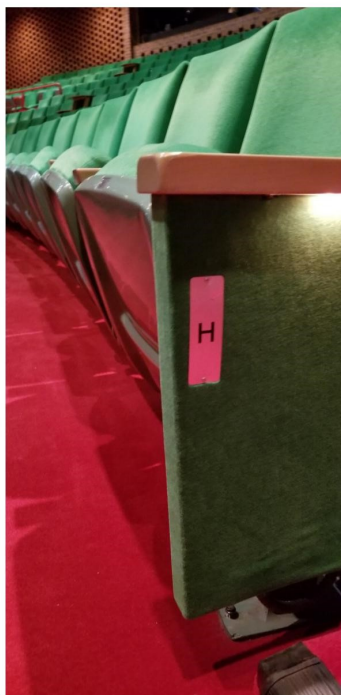
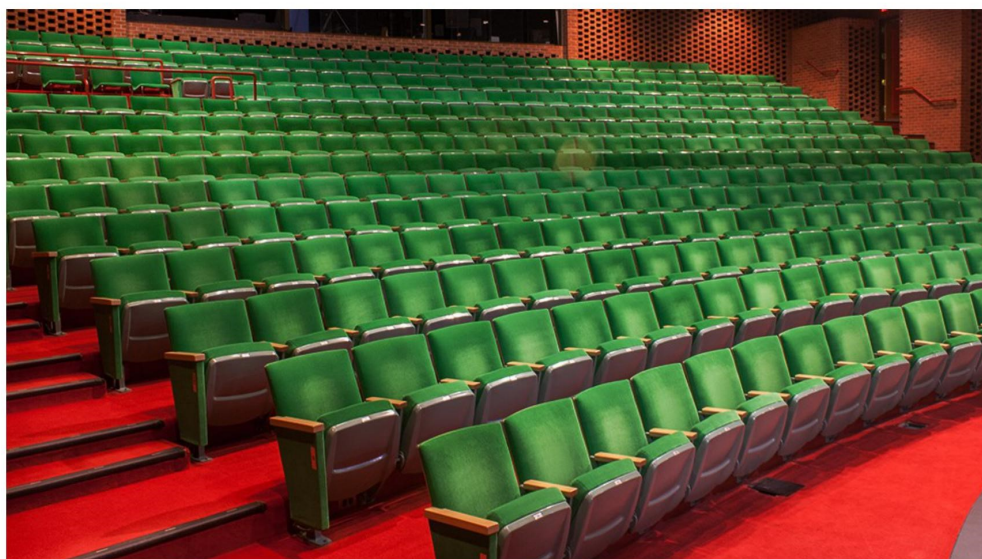


These are the doors to the seats in the theater.
There will be a volunteer usher at each door. The
usher will hand me a program as I enter the
seating area.



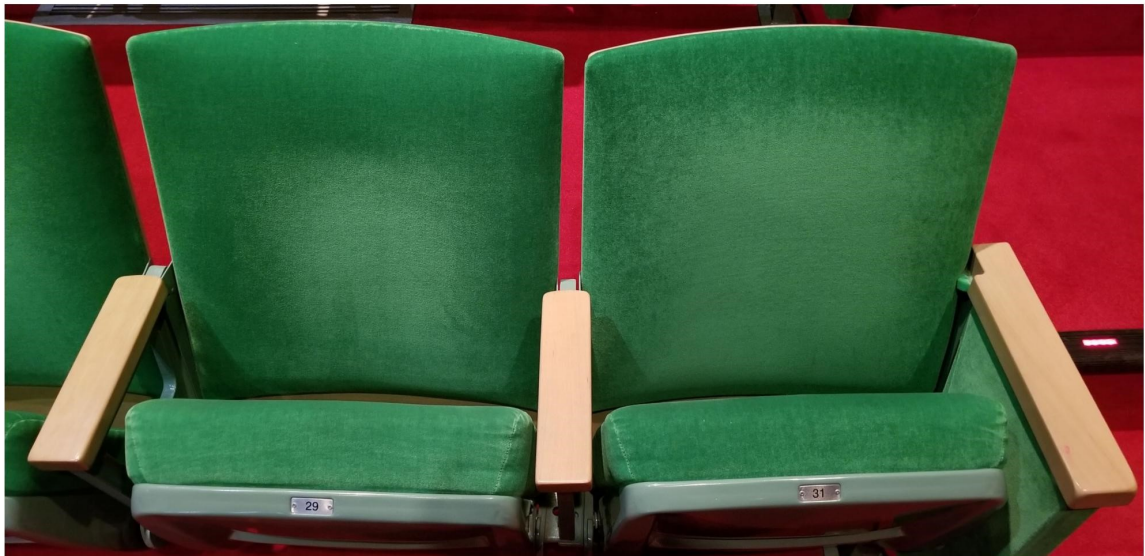
A program from the Center for the Arts

These are the seats. They are green like an apple! When I enter the theater, we will look for our row by letter. I may have to walk up or down some stairs to find our row. We will then look for our seats by number.



Rows have letters on them. Seats have numbers on them.

When I sit, I keep my feet on the floor and do not kick the seat in front of me. Many people will come into the theatre and locate their seats while I wait for the show to begin.



The lights dim when the show is ready to start. If the sounds of the show or people coming in late are too loud, I can wear ear protection or cover my ears.

I stay in my seat during the show if I can. If I have a question, I will ask it very quietly.

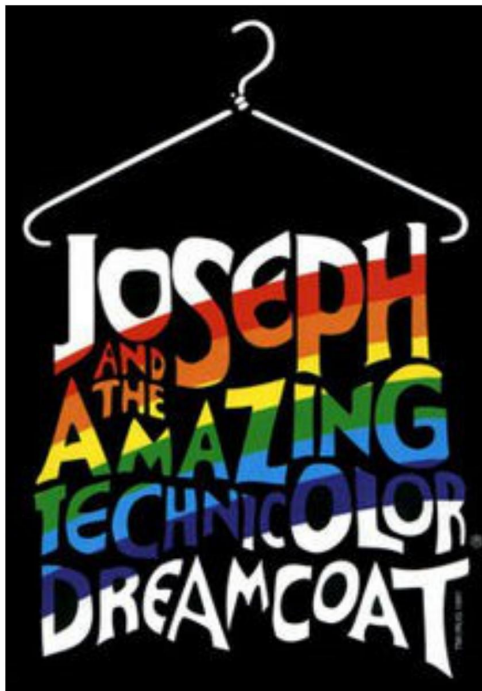
If I need to use any calming tools I brought with me, I can do so in theater.



If I need to take a break, I can leave the theater and go to the Take-a-Break space, which is on the right side of the theater and down a set of stairs. There are quiet activities I can do and comfortable bean bag chairs to sit in.



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is a musical, which means that the actors on the stage sing and dance to tell the story. There are very few parts of this show that are only spoken to the audience.



This is the original logo from the first production of the show on Broadway.

This show has different styles of music, some of which I may like or may not like. If I don't enjoy a particular song, I just need to wait a few minutes for the next one.



After each song, the audience may clap and cheer for the actors. If I am not sure when to clap, I can wait for other people to clap and then join in. If the clapping is too loud, I can wear ear protection or cover my ears.



At the end of the show, the actors will come on stage and bow to thank the audience for coming to see them. The audience will clap and cheer for them. If the clapping is too loud, I can wear ear protection or cover my ears.



After the actors have left the stage, we will stand up and leave the theater. This may take a few minutes, as there are lots of people leaving at the same time. It is OK to wait in my seat as others leave.



I will leave the Little Theater and the Center for the Arts the same way I came in. I can talk about the show with my family and friends when it is done and we are leaving.



Welcome to Midland Center for the Arts, and the Center Stage Theatre production Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. My name is Katie Miller and I am the manager of community engagement here at the Center and I am so happy that you are here with us today for this sensory-friendly performance!

Let's talk for just a moment about what today's performance is going to be like. First of all, the show you will see today is almost exactly the same as every other performance of this show- we've just made a few small tweaks to make it easier for those with sensory sensitivities to enjoy. We will also keep the house lights on at a low level and the theater doors open, just like they are now, throughout the show, in case any audience member needs to get up, move around, or leave the auditorium for any reason. If you do need to leave, you are welcome to come back to your seat at any time during the performance.

We do have quiet spaces in our lobby and a Take-a-Break space on THIS side of the theater with some comfy seating and quiet activities in case anyone needs to step away for a few minutes. Our ushers and volunteers are here to answer any questions or assist you at any time.

We will have a 20-minute intermission, or a break in the show, after about 45 minutes, which is a great chance to use the restroom and get a snack, and then we will come back to our seats for the 2nd half of the show. There will also be a chance to meet the cast on the left side of the lobby after the show if you would like to say hello.

Please remember that this is a judgement-free and shush-free zone during this performance – we want EVERYONE to have the opportunity to enjoy this show in the way that works for them. Thank you for understanding and supporting this show and future accessible programming here at the Center- and there is definitely more to come!

Before we begin the performance, we would like to ask that you please take a moment to turn off your cell phone, and we remind you that the use of recording devices, including cameras, is prohibited. We would also like to thank our series sponsor, Dow Chemical Employees'

Credit Union, and our program sponsors, Feeny Chrysler Dodge Jeep, the Great Lakes Loons, Ace Hardware and ReMax of Midland, for their support of community theatre.

And now, please enjoy... Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat!