



A Parent's Guide to Sensory-Friendly Performances

Barbara Robinson
~~The Worst~~
The Best
Christmas Pageant
Ever



Sunday, Dec. 11 at 4 p.m.

Show sponsors Rodgers Builders | SteelFab, Inc. | Bryan and Jami Farris | Tom and Gina Lawrence
Rosalind and Jerry Richardson | The Hensley Family, in loving memory of Jacque Ashford



Take a peek into the story of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever:* *The Musical!*

What happens when the worst kids in the history of the world find out there are free snacks at Sunday school? They decide to audition for the annual Christmas pageant! The Herdmans have taken over the holiday and insist on playing all the good parts. It's disgraceful! They've never heard the Christmas story, and have no idea who Mary, Joseph or the wise men are. Will the pageant be canceled? Will the other kids even participate? Will this be the worst pageant ever? This musical comedy, adapted from Barbara Robinson's classic book, finds its way to Children's Theatre of Charlotte just in time for the holidays.



A bit about sensory-friendly performances at Children's Theatre of Charlotte

Sensory-friendly theatre is an approach to the audience experience that “softens” the environment. What does that mean exactly? Well, in general, we want to make theatre available to everyone, including those who may need more flexibility to help manage all of the sensory experiences that come along with attending a performance. Here are some of the adjustments we make to create a more sensory-friendly environment:

- We keep the theatre lights low instead of turning them off.
- We lower sound levels when needed.
- We sell fewer tickets so families have more room to move around.
- We provide fidgets, headphones and weighted toys to help children feel more organized and settled.
- We place a staff member at the front of the theatre with glow sticks to give families a warning when sensory-rich moments are nearing (like a loud sound or a change in lighting).
- We provide a quiet room if children need to leave the theatre to feel more settled or regroup during the show.

We've also provided several guides to help prepare your family for your visit to Children's Theatre of Charlotte: a visit guide that walks your family through our facility, a child guide to go with each performance and a coordinating parent guide like this one to help parents support their children's learning and experience in the theatre. We want you to have the opportunity to enjoy the theatre with your family, so with that, please enjoy the show!

*Yours truly,
Your friends at Children's Theatre of Charlotte*

Learning opportunities and **sensory-rich moments** in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical*



Things seem very peaceful at the church, but that won't last for long!

Sensory-rich moments: This show is full of movement and commotion whenever the Herdmans are involved!



Meet the Herdmans. They really make an entrance!

Can you think of someone you know who's not everyone's favorite person?

Sensory-rich moment: The Herdmans enter the scene and bring lots of chaos!



Mrs. Bradley is about to ask her family to do something big. What do you think it could be?

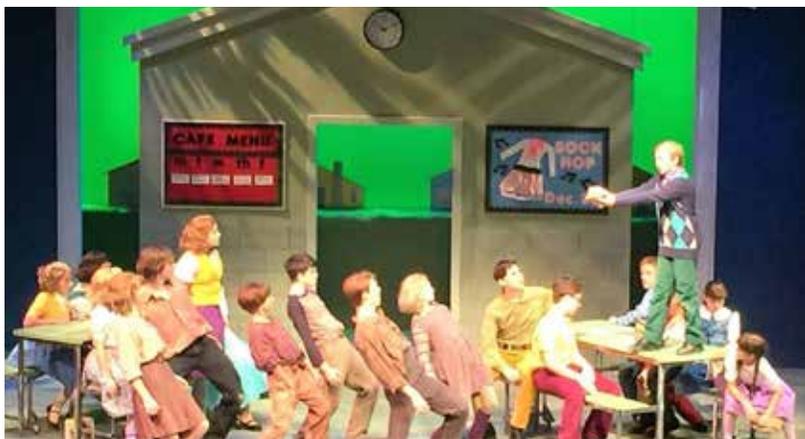
Has someone ever asked you to do something you really didn't want to do?

Sensory-rich moments: This scene has a doorbell and a ringing phone.



The Herdmans are everywhere, even in the school cafeteria. *Bullying is not good. Who can you talk to if you feel like you're being bullied?*

Sensory-rich moment: This scene has a lot of movement, volume and dancing on the tables.



Wow! Charlie is brave! *What can you do to stick up for yourself? Who can help you do that?*

Sensory-rich moment: The movement, volume and dancing continues.



What's a pageant? The Herdmans are about to find out.

Who can you talk to if you think someone is planning on doing something bad?

Sensory-rich moment: Imogene comes out smoking a fake cigar.

This is an example to something the Herdmans do that is not safe for kids.



Time for pageant auditions.
Who will end up in the cast?
*Do you think Mrs. Bradley should include everyone in the pageant?
Why or why not?*

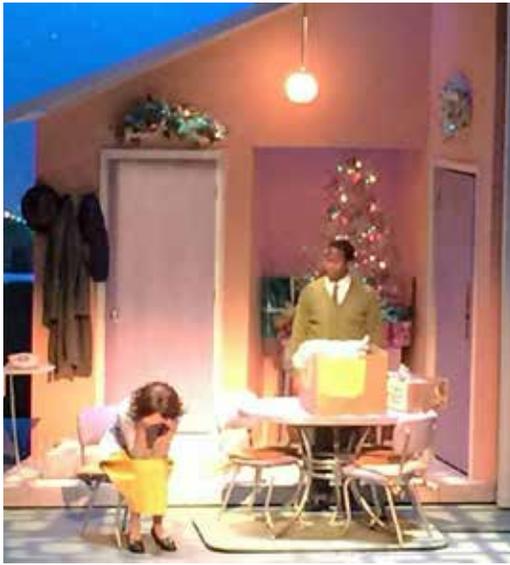
Sensory-rich moment: The Herdmans sing loudly and pretend to be physically aggressive at times.



It's so kind of the church to make baskets for the needy, but who will deliver the one to the Herdmans?
*Do you think everyone deserves kindness around the holidays?
Why or why not?*



The pageant rehearsals have begun. How do you think it's going so far?
Do you think the Herdmans really want to be part of the show?
Sensory-rich moment: The Herdmans pretend to beat some of the children.



Did Mrs. Bradley make the right decision to direct the pageant? *It can be hard to do the right thing when it is so hard. What would you do?*



It's time to rehearse again and learn about the real Christmas story. This one may end up with a surprise, though. *What do you know about the real Christmas story?*

Sensory-rich moment: The Herdmans sing *Die Herod Die!*, and there's a lot of movement, dancing and shouting during the song.



This rehearsal ends with a fire in the church, but who do you think caused it?

Have you ever gotten into trouble for something you didn't do?

Sensory-rich moment: This is the end of *Die, Herod, Die!* A fire starts and fake smoke comes from the kitchen door.



Time to deliver the Herdman's Christmas basket from the church. What happens next just might surprise you!

Have you ever had to reach out to someone who's not your friend? What happened?



Mrs. Bradley has to talk to Rev. Hopkins about something important.

Do you think Mrs. Bradley is sure everything will work out OK? Why or why not?



It's time for the pageant. Is Mrs. Bradley ready? What about the rest of the cast?

What do you know about the Christmas story and what happens in the Nativity scene?

Sensory-rich moment: Gladys loudly enters the scene and pushes the other children.



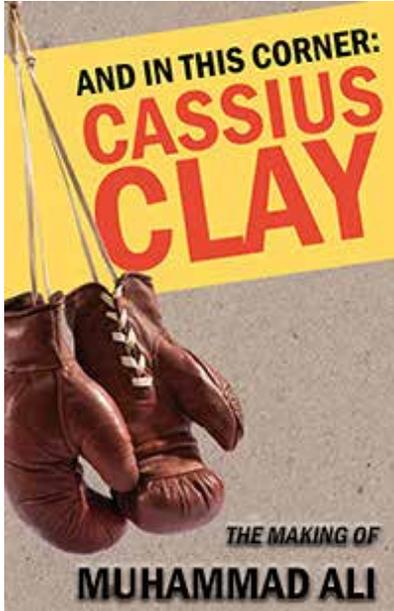
This might be the best Christmas pageant ever! What do you think?
Sensory-rich moment: The show concludes with an active group number.

Thanks for joining Children's Theatre of Charlotte for this special performance!

Visit ctcharlotte.org for more information about other sensory-friendly performances available to you and your family this year!



Don't miss our upcoming sensory-friendly performances!



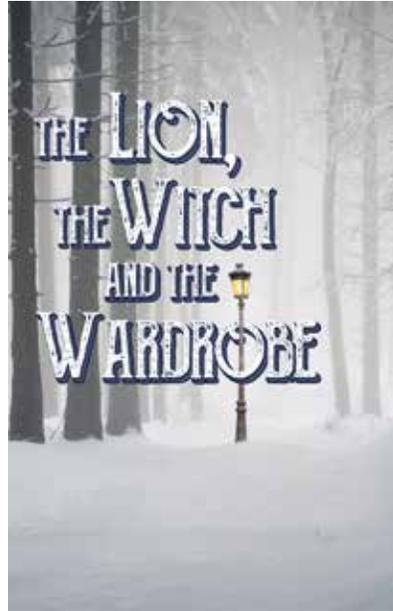
And In This Corner: Cassius Clay
Saturday, February 17 at 11 a.m.
McColl Family Theatre
Ages 4 and older

by Idris Goodwin

At the sound of the bell, young Cassius Clay Jr. takes his first step into the ring and starts becoming the man the world will one day know as Muhammad Ali.

This vibrant historical drama takes the audience through the iconic boxer's early life in Jim Crow-era Louisville, Kentucky.

And in This Corner: Cassius Clay goes an extra, exhilarating round by exploring how remarkable communities inspire people to greatness.



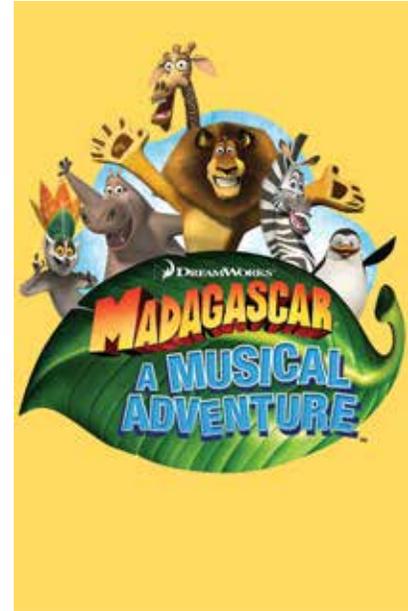
The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe

Saturday, March 17 at 11 a.m.
Wells Fargo Playhouse
Ages 8 and older

From the story by C.S. Lewis
Dramatized by
le Clanché du Rand

Travel through the magical wardrobe to Narnia in this clever two-person adaptation of C. S. Lewis' acclaimed tale. Lucy and Peter recount their adventures, portraying each character they met in the faraway land of Narnia.

Join the two siblings on their journey as they battle the evil White Witch, meet the mystical Aslan and attempt to save Narnia in this intimate and unique theatrical experience!



Madagascar - A Musical Adventure

Saturday, April 21 at 11 a.m.
McColl Family Theatre
Ages 4 and older

Based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture Book by Kevin Del Aguila
Original Music and Lyrics by George Noriega & Joel Someillan

Join Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, Gloria the Hippo and, of course, those hilarious, plotting penguins as they bound onto the stage in the musical adventure of a lifetime.

Based on the smash DreamWorks animated motion picture, Madagascar – A Musical Adventure follows all of your favorite crack-a-lackin' friends as they escape from their home in New York City's Central Park Zoo and find themselves on an unexpected journey to the madcap world of King Julien's Madagascar.

Tickets start at just \$12.

Guarantee your family a wondrous experience by ordering today at ctcharlotte.org/sensory-friendly-performances

Please share your experience by leaving a comment or review on our Facebook page at facebook.com/ctcharlotte