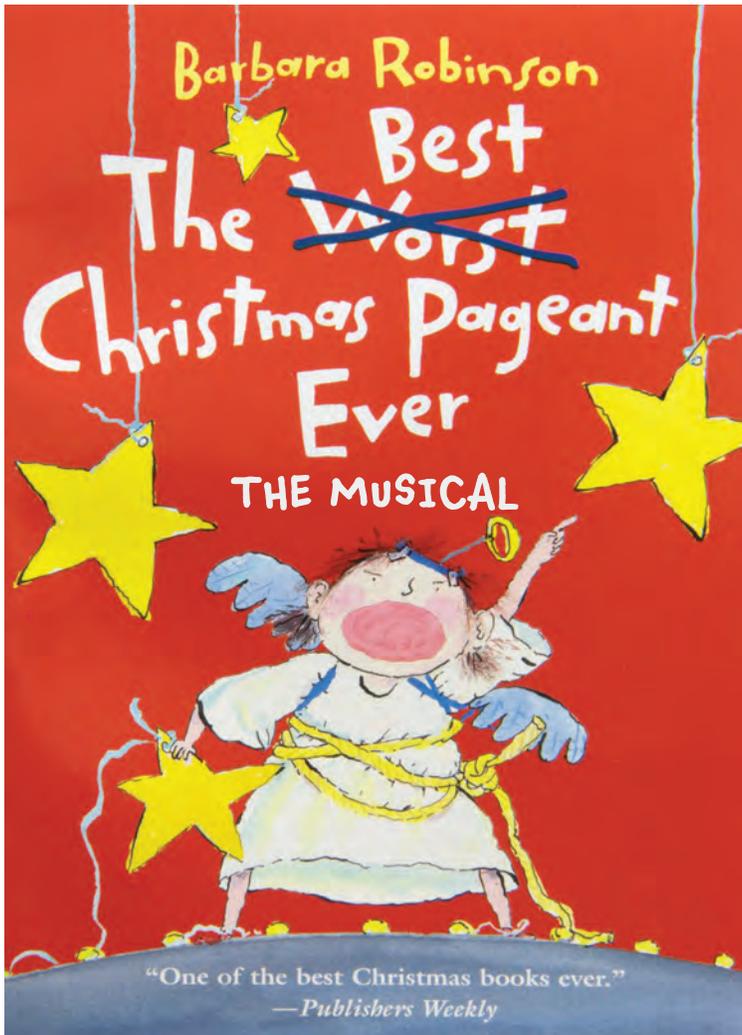


SENSORY-  
FRIENDLY  
PERFORMANCE



## PARENT'S GUIDE

Friday, December 28 at 4 p.m.



# Insert title of show here

By Jahanna Beecham & Malcolm Hillgartner  
Adapted from the book by Barbara Robinson

## About the show

Back by popular demand is Children's Theatre of Charlotte's most-popular show of all time! The Herdmans are ready to wreak havoc! What happens when the "worst kids in the history of the world" find out about free food at Sunday school? Worse yet, what happens when they decide to audition for the annual Christmas pageant? This could be the worst pageant ever... if it even happens! This hilarious and heartfelt musical comedy, adapted from Barbara Robinson's classic story, will have your family laughing and crying as we celebrate the holidays. In this production, Children's Theatre of Charlotte casts age-appropriate roles, many of whom are from its School of Theatre Training, who perform alongside our professional adult cast.

## Show sponsors

Coca-Cola Consolidated, McGuireWoods LLP, Danielle & Adam Burke, Ashley & Matthew Joseph, Laura & Brian Murdock, Tammy Stringer & Richard Viola

## Special thanks



to Julie Higginbotham of Precious Developments. Julie has worked as our consultant in the creation and preparation of our sensory-friendly performances. We're grateful for this valued partnership.

## What to expect at a sensory-friendly performance

Sensory-friendly theatre is an approach to the audience experience that "softens" the environment. What does that mean exactly? In general, we make the 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. Below are some of the adjustments Children's Theatre of Charlotte is making to create a more sensory-friendly environment tailored to each show:

- Lights in the theatre will stay low during the show, instead of turning all the way off.
- We will lower the sound levels when needed.
- We sell fewer tickets for the sensory-friendly performances so families have more room to move as needed.
- We provide fidgets, headphones and weighted toys to help children feel more organized and settled.
- Someone will be at the front of the stage with glow sticks to help give families a warning when sensory-rich moments are nearing. Raising one light means there's a smaller sensory moment coming up (like a loud sound or a change in lighting). Raising two lights means a more intense sensory-rich moment is about to occur.
- We provide a quiet room if children need to leave the theatre to feel more settled or regroup during the show.

## Support materials for you

We provide several guides to help prepare your family for your visit:

The **visit guide** that walks your family through our facility.

The **child guide** goes with each performance.

The **parent guide** like this one helps 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!

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



These church kids are sharing their favorite things about Sunday School, but wait until you hear what Charlie Bradley likes most about it.....

*How do we talk about people who are different from us?*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene moves into a very busy introduction to the Herdman children. The production is full of commotion whenever the Herdmans are involved!



Meet the Herdmans! They really know how to make an entrance!

*There's usually more going on when we see "bad" behavior in other people.*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains lots of lighting changes, shouting, and chaotic movement all over the stage.



The Bradleys discuss the annual Christmas pageant over dinner, but who's going to be in charge this year?

*How do we handle it when there are changes to our expectations?*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains doorbell rings, phone rings, and a somewhat busy musical number.



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Charlie Bradley has had enough of the Herdmans' bullying! He's ready to stand up for himself and the other church kids.....

*How do we help our children figure out the right way to stand up for themselves and others?*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains some bullying, shouting, and lighting changes during the song.



Helen is having a hard time giving up control over the annual Christmas pageant!

*How often do we ask for help when we need it?*



The Herdmans decide to check out this thing called "church."

*How do we talk to our kids about safety when they see other children doing things that are unsafe or unhealthy?*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

Imogene is smoking a fake cigarette in this scene.



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



It's time for pageant auditions! This might not go as Mrs. Bradley planned.....

*It's not always easy to include everyone!*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains an active musical number with lots of lighting changes.



The church ladies are putting together baskets for the needy, but who is brave enough to take one to the Herdmans' house?

*How do we show our kids what it means to truly care for someone else?*



It's time for the first pageant rehearsal. It seems to start out alright, but do you think the Herdmans will let it stay that way?

*Do you think the Herdmans really want to be involved in the pageant? Why or why not?*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains a busy group "fight."



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Beth's friends are really unhappy with her and her mother!

*How do we help kids manage friendships?*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene ends with Beth shouting out toward the audience.



Mrs. Bradley is worried about whether she's doing the right thing by including the Herdmans in the pageant....

*Doing the right thing isn't always easy!*



It's time for the second pageant rehearsal. What will happen when the Herdmans learn more about the Christmas story?

*Teachable moments can come at any time - they can really change someone's perspective!*

**Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene contains a very busy musical number with loud shouting, busy movement, and lighting changes. Imogene is smoking a fake cigarette again, and the scene ends with fake smoke from a "fire" in the church.



## Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



This Christmas basket means more to the Herdmans than anyone realized.....

*Being kind and caring for someone else is always the right thing to do!*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene starts with a loud Herdman entrance and contains a brief “fight” among the children.



It’s time for the Christmas pageant! How do you think it will turn out?

*How do we balance our expectations with what actually happens around us?*

### **Sensory-rich moments:**

This scene starts with church bells ringing and contains a few shouting moments. It transitions into a busier ending musical number.

Thanks for joining us at Children’s Theatre of Charlotte for this special performance.

We hope to see you at our other sensory-friendly performances in the future.

For details, visit: [ctcharlotte.org/online/article/sensory-friendly-performances](http://ctcharlotte.org/online/article/sensory-friendly-performances).



[ctcharlotte.org](http://ctcharlotte.org)