

# The Children's Theatre OF CINCINNATI

## SENSORY FRIENDLY CHARACTER GUIDE

### NARNIA THE MUSICAL

#### ABOUT THE SHOW

*Narnia The Musical* tells of four English schoolchildren – brothers and sisters – sent away from London during World War II to stay in the manor house of their uncle – who stumble upon (and through) a wardrobe into the magical kingdom of Narnia, held in the power of the White Witch, whose evil spell has frozen the land, so that it is “always winter – and never Christmas.” In this spellbound landscape, filled with creatures of myth and fable, the children face temptation and fear, but learn deep lessons of courage, unselfishness, and wisdom that help them grow in spirit and prepare them for life in our world.



#### **Peter**

Peter is the oldest Pevensie. He is responsible, caring, and wants to do what is best for his siblings.



#### **Susan**

Susan is the second oldest Pevensie. Susan is cautious, kind, thoughtful, logical, motherly, and more serious than her younger sister, Lucy.



#### **Edmund**

Edmund is the third oldest Pevensie. Edmund is selfish and has a tendency to be mean and hurtful. Edmund teases Lucy about her childish ways. Edmund falls under the influence of the White Witch, and betrays his siblings.



#### **Lucy**

Lucy is the youngest of the Pevensie children. Lucy is curious, kind, brave, cheerful, and is the first of the children to enter Narnia.

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## The White Witch

The White Witch, considers herself to be Queen of Narnia. Under her power, it is always winter, but never Christmas, in Narnia. Her imposing stature and magic wand strike fear and terror in the hearts of those under her rule. The White Witch forbids anyone in Narnia to even speak the name of Aslan, her nemesis.



## Tumnus

Mr Tumnus, a faun, is the first person Lucy meets in Narnia. Unbeknownst to Lucy, Mr Tumnus had previously agreed to turn any human he meets over to the White Witch.



## Mr. & Mrs. Beaver

The Beavers are fiercely loyal to Aslan and resist the tyranny of the Witch; they believe in ancient prophecies and accept that Narnia should be ruled by human beings.



## Aslan

Aslan is a talking lion of great stature, and is the rightful King of Narnia, who has been away from Narnia for quite some time. He is the embodiment of all that is good, just, right, and perfect, but he is not a tame lion.



Professor



The Wolves and Ryweth



Mr. and Mrs. Pevensie



Creatures of Narnia



Dwarf



Narnia Mysticals



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# NARNIA THE MUSICAL

## CHECKLIST

1. Ride to the Taft Theatre with family/group
2. Park car/get dropped off
3. Go inside lobby
4. Wait in the lobby until it is time to go into the theater
5. Wait in line to go into the theater
6. Follow the usher and/or my family or my class to my seat
7. Stay in my seat and wait for the show to start
8. Watch the show
9. Clap for the performers
10. Pick my things up
11. Wait in line to walk up the aisle
12. Walk through the lobby and to the car/bus
13. Ride home or back to school

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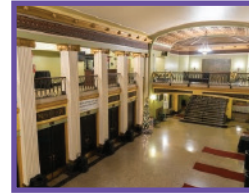
## Getting to the Theatre Checklist



1. Ride to the Taft Theatre with family/group



2. Park car/get dropped off



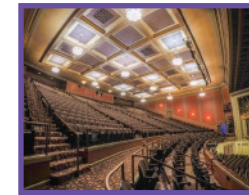
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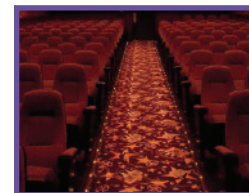
8. Watch the show



9. Clap for the performers



10. Pick my things up



11. Wait in line to walk up the aisle



12. Walk through the lobby and to the car/bus



13. Ride home or back to school



## Going to the Taft Theatre to see ***NARNIA THE MUSICAL***

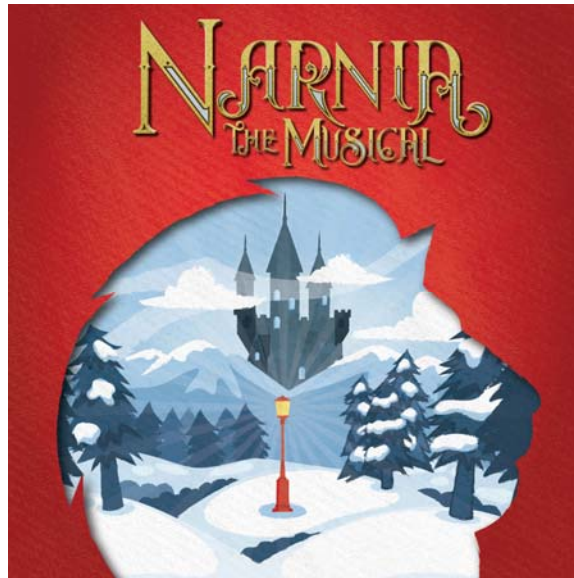


### Going to see **NARNIA THE MUSICAL**

I am going to the Taft Theatre to watch **NARNIA THE MUSICAL**. The Taft Theatre is a place in downtown Cincinnati where people can see different shows.

Actors, who are people dressed in costumes, will sing and act out the story of **NARNIA THE MUSICAL** on the stage. I will get to watch the actors on stage and listen to them talk and sing. There are books and several movies that feature the stories of **NARNIA** (including *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*) but they are different than this production. I can read the books, watch the movies, or YouTube videos, but the show I am seeing will be different.

The show I will see will be a musical production that children and adults will enjoy. The actors will be singing and dancing.



### **Getting to the Taft Theatre**

I can ride to the Taft Theatre with my family. We can get dropped off or park in a parking lot or a garage close to the Taft Theatre. There are a few different places to park. If I am riding a bus, it will drop our group off at the front of the theater. My teachers, parents, or guardians can look at the website to see where to park. My parents/group can tell me what we plan to do.



When we get to the Taft Theatre, we will go inside the building. We can wear a mask if we want to, but we don't have to wear one. We may have to pass through metal detectors and let someone look in our bags first.





At each door, there will be volunteers. They will be wearing special name tags. They will greet us at the door and can help answer questions and show us where to go. I can say “hi” or “good morning” or “good afternoon” to the volunteers.



### **In the lobby**

Inside the lobby, we will see other people who are coming to see NARNIA THE MUSICAL and people who volunteer or work at the Theatre. There will be closed signs hanging up to remind me when I should not touch something or if an area is closed. There are two levels at the Taft Theatre.



There will be lots of people coming to see NARNIA THE MUSICAL, so I need to stay close to my parents/group so that I stay safe. It is also important for me to stay calm and wait my turn if I need to. I can bring some things from home in a bag to do while I wait. If I think it might be too loud in the lobby, I can cover my ears or pack headphones to wear.

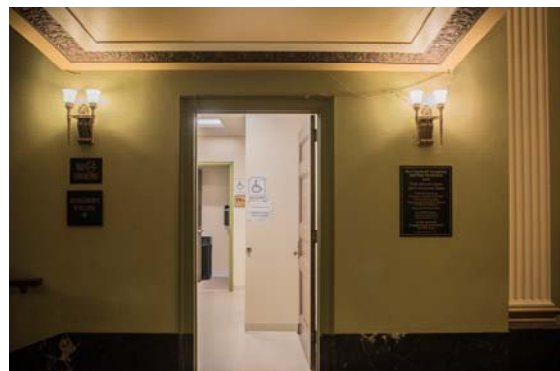
The doors to the Theatre will open approximately 30 minutes before the show begins. If I am early, I will have to wait to go inside the Theatre. While I wait, I can look around the lobby, go to the restroom, eat a snack, or play with the things I brought from home.

### **Food and Drinks**

I am allowed to bring snacks and drinks from home and take them inside the Theatre. During the weekend, they will be selling snacks and drinks at the Taft Theatre before the performance.

### **Restrooms**

If I need to use the restroom, there are three restrooms available to the right of the lobby. The restrooms are hand flush and have paper towels that I can use to dry my hands. If there are a lot of people who need to use the restroom, I may need to wait in line. I will try to be patient and wait my turn to use the restroom.





## Quiet Areas

For this performance, there isn't an official quiet area available for me if I need to take a break, but I can come out to the lobby with my parents or guardians. I can tell my parents/group that I need to take a break, and we can go to this area. During the weekend shows, I can also get a Sensory bag from the Box Office before the show, with headphones, a character guide, and a fidget toy. To receive a Sensory bag, an adult in my group will leave their ID with the Box Office. After the show, we will turn in the Sensory bag, and my adult will get their ID back. I can keep the fidget if I want to keep it.

## Entering the Theatre

When it is time to go into the Theatre, I will enter with my family/group. When I go inside the theater, I will see lots of seats. Each seat has a letter and a number. The seats are all facing the stage. All the people who sit in the seats to watch the musical are called the audience. The usher will show me how to get to my seat. I can look on the Taft Theatre's website to see a map of the Theatre. I may get a program from the usher that tells me more about NARNIA THE MUSICAL. While I wait for the show to start, I can look at my program to learn more about the actors. There will also be some TV screens to look at with details about the show and The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati, along with trivia and quizzes for fun.



The stage is where the actors will perform. I will stay off the stage and down with the audience. It is important to sit in my chair during the show so that the people sitting behind me can see the stage.



## **Watching NARNIA THE MUSICAL**

When it is time for the show to start, there will be a short announcement, and the lights will go down. The curtain will go up, and I will see the stage and the actors. The actors will be wearing different costumes to help tell the story. They will be wearing makeup and hats. They are pretending.

The actors will come on and off stage during different parts of the show. Lights will be used on the stage to make it look like daytime and nighttime. Sometimes, a light will shine on one part of the stage if there is something important for the audience to see. I can follow the light with my eyes to look at the important things. I will hear music and special sounds that help tell the story. I can cover my ears or wear headphones if the sounds are too loud. During this production, there will be sword-fighting, but it is all pretend.

If I need a break during the show, I can tell my parents/teachers, and they can walk with me out of the theater. If I take a break, I can walk around in the lobby. I can also visit the restroom. I can come back to watch the rest of the show when I am ready.

The musical will last about 70 minutes or a little over one hour.

There are different scenes in the show. I can learn more about these scenes and characters in the Timeline and Character Guide.



At the end of the show, the curtain will close, and the audience will clap for the actors. The actors will take turns coming onto the stage so the audience can clap for them. I will clap my hands to show the actors that they did a good job. The actors will take a bow or curtsy while the audience claps. Sometimes, when the audience really likes the show, they stand up to clap. This is called a standing ovation. This shows the actors that they did a great job! The actors will take a final bow together when the clapping slows down. The curtain will close, and the lights will come back on in the theater. This will mean that the show is over.

I will look around my seat and make sure that I pick up all my things before I leave. If I'm wearing a mask, I will keep my mask on and walk to the aisle and wait with my family or group to walk out of the theater. There will be lots of people leaving the Taft Theatre at the same time. I will try to be patient while I wait my turn to walk up the aisle and into the lobby. I can stop at the restroom if I need to on the way out of the theater. I will walk with my group/family with our masks on through the lobby and to our bus or car.



\*Photos courtesy of Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, MEMI, Cal Harris, Mikki Schaffner, and The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati.