

# THE BEST SUMMER EVER

## PARENT GUIDE



### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR *THE BEST SUMMER EVER*

- 1** The performance takes place in the Eve Alvord Theatre. Seating is stadium style, on long benches. There is an aisle on each side of the theatre, and a quiet room on the back right.
- 2** The show is approximately 60 minutes in duration and takes place without an intermission.
- 3** There are a variety of instruments played live including a piano, an accordion, wood blocks, a bass clarinet, a Latin guira, bongos, a triangle and others. Some of the instruments are used as the actor moves across the stage, however the majority of the music is played where the piano is located, downstage left. If a member of your group is auditorily sensitive it is suggested that you choose seats farther from the instruments.

### SHOW CONTENT CONSIDERATIONS FOR *THE BEST SUMMER EVER*

- 1** Sometimes in the show the actors will ask the audience questions. While people usually try to remain quiet during a theatre show, when the actors ask the audience questions it's ok to answer them out loud.
- 2** At times during the show instruments are used to represent voices of people or animals
- 3** The actor who plays Maurice has a physical difference with his arms. He explains this well at the beginning of the show, however this could be something patrons discuss ahead of time.

### KEY TO SYMBOLS



Visual intensity



Auditory Intensity



Suspense



Emotional Intensity



Audience Interaction

SCENE	SENSORY CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Opening		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Musical Introduction plays overhead</li> <li>-Live music (drums and piano) plays onstage</li> </ul>
Countdown to Summer		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Live music plays</li> </ul>
Brainfreeze		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Maurice interacts with audience</li> </ul>
Summertime	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The audience is invited to sing with the actor as he plays a steel drum</li> </ul>
Funeral, a Lie, Meeting Joyce	   	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Maurice Interacts with the audience</li> <li>-Soft sound effects of a crank and applause</li> <li>-Maurice recalls a fight between his siblings</li> <li>-There is a discussion of eating a chicken which may be intense for some patrons</li> <li>-There is audience interaction with an actor playing the accordion and asking the audience to sing along</li> <li>-It is suspenseful when Maurice's father finds the chicken in the car</li> </ul>
Folktale	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-There is lots of music during this scene</li> <li>-The folktale is somewhat suspenseful, mentioning trolls with fangs</li> <li>-At the conclusion of the folktale there is "angry" loud music and an abrupt lighting change.</li> </ul>
Emily's Story	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Maurice describes a car accident between his sister's car and an ice cream truck. This is also demonstrated with props.</li> </ul>
Fireworks	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-There are soft firework sound and lighting effects</li> </ul>
Marv Goes to Camp		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-This scene begins with loud piano music</li> </ul>
Scary Story	   	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The lighting is dark on stage with a flashlight on one actor's face, and a light shining on a blanket to create the silhouette of the other actor</li> <li>-There is suspenseful music playing and the content of the story is suspenseful and a little scary</li> </ul>
Marv's Letter from Camp		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Throughout this scene, when Marv mentions Norway, one of the actors on stage blows a loud animal horn</li> </ul>
Last Story	  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-This scene describes Maurice's grandfather having a heart attack and the family's trip to the emergency room. His grandfather ultimately survives, however it is emotional and intense.</li> </ul>

# ALVORD THEATRE

- Roped-off Area
- Movement Area
- Open Seating
- Technology Area

