



Sensory Friendly  
Performance:  
Sunday, July 21st  
at 2:00 p.m.

## Social Story



I am going to Northwestern University to see the musical *Hans Christian Andersen*.



I will come to see the show by walking or taking the bus, train, or car



# Ethel M. Barber Theater

When I get to Northwestern, I will enter the Ethel M. Barber Theater.



(A map is at the end of the social story for my family)



# Lobby

When I enter the lobby I will meet Rachel, and other teaching artists. There will be facts on the windows and a small craft. There will also be a box office, concessions stand, and ushers to scan my ticket.



Hi, I'm Rachel!





# Bathrooms and Water

There are two bathrooms (one male on the north end of the lobby and one female on the south end of the lobby) and two water fountains in the lobby.



# Seating

At 1:45pm, the doors to the theatre will open. I can go and find a seat anytime before 2:00 pm, when the show starts.

My ticket will say which seat I will be sitting in. If I need help finding it, an usher can help me.



# Stage

The play will happen on stage. I will not go on stage. I will stay close to my seat, but can get up and move around near my seat if I need to.



IMAGINE

# Quiet Space

If I ever need a break, I can always go to the lobby to walk around or sit down. There will be some toys and a teaching artist. I can also step outside the building.





# Pre-Show Scenes

Before the show begins, two actors will act out some silly skits to remind you to not use your phone for texting, photos and videos, and phone calls. They will be destroying fake phones during the skits, and there will be some pre-recorded sounds like text messages, a phone call, and a blender.



During the second skit, one of the actors will ask someone in the front row to take a video of him. If this is me, I can say yes please or no thank you.



# Welcome Announcement

Before the show begins, a staff member will welcome me to the show. They will tell me what makes this show special.



The lights will dim, and the play will begin. The lights will never go all the way off.



# Glow Wand

Sometimes the show can be a little surprising. A staff member will be standing near the stage and will hold up a glow wand before anything surprising happens.



If I am feeling nervous, I can cover my eyes or ears, or  
I can hug the person I came with.





## Entrances & Exits

During the show, the actors will be using four different entrances and exits. Two of them are under some of the seats and may be near me. They will not touch me.





# Music and Sounds

This show is a musical, which means there is lots of singing and live instruments. There are also sounds that are played through speakers, water leaking, birds chirping, and thunder. If the music and sounds are ever too loud, I can cover my ears.



# Movement

There will be lots of high energy dancing and movement that happens during the songs.



# Lights

There will be many different lights with different colors that change during the play. If the lights are ever too bright, I can close my eyes.



# Actors

There are 8 actors in this play. The actors are wearing costumes and pretending to be characters. Some of them play many characters.





# Christian Andersen

Christian is a boy in Denmark who loves to tell stories. His stories are so good that the King of Denmark is paying for him to attend the Royal Academy in Copenhagen.



# Princess Caroline

Princess Caroline is one of the princesses of Denmark and Christian's first friend at school. She is kept a secret from the country because she is in a wheelchair. The actor who plays Princess Caroline also plays Ariel.



# Head Mistress Thagar

Head Mistress Thagar is the tough teacher at the Royal Academy. She is very strict, but cares for her students very much. The actor who plays Head Mistress Thagar also plays the Sea Witch.



# Hans Andersen

Hans Andersen is Christian's father. He is a cobbler, and he loves his son very much. The actor who plays Hans also plays Gregors and the King.





# Anne Marie Andersen

Anne Marie Andersen is Christian's mother. She is very caring and wants the best for him. The actor who plays Anne Marie also plays Mrs. Madson and the Queen.



# Princess Vilhelmina

Princess Vilhelmina is one of the Princesses of Denmark. She has many princess duties and has a lot of pressure finding someone to marry. The actor who plays Princess Vilhelmina also plays the Match Seller and Princess Caroline's Nurse.



# Guilder

Guilder is one of the students at the Royal Academy. She, along with Crantz, narrates the show and will sometimes 'pause' the action to say some things to the audience. The actor who plays Guilder also plays the Chimney Sweep and Gerda.



# Crantz

Crantz is one of the students at the Royal Academy. He, along with Guilder, narrates the show and will sometimes 'pause' the action to say some things to the audience. The actor who plays Guilder also plays the Royal Guard and Newsboy.



# The Band

The band are a group of musicians, who play the music for the show.  
You will see them at the back of the stage.





# The Little Mermaid

In the show, Christian tells the story of The Little Mermaid. There will be lots of lights, loud pre-recorded sounds, and big puppets. I will be warned with a glow wand before this moment.



IMAGINE

# Clapping

At the end of the play, the actors will come onto the stage and bow.  
The audience will start clapping. If the clapping is too loud, I can  
cover my ears.



# Meet and Greet

If it isn't raining after the show, I can meet some of the actors and take a picture with them..



# Going Home

I will then exit the lobby and go home with my family.



**IMAGINE**



# Map

I will be going to the place circled in red on this map of Northwestern's campus to see *Hans Christian Andersen*. The address is 30 Arts Circle Drive Evanston, IL 60208.





# We can't wait to see you!



This social story was created by Rachel Seidenberg.

