

Guide for Attending the Sensory-Friendly Performance of James and The Giant Peach

Thank you for attending the F.M. Kirby Center and King's College Theatre Department's sensory-friendly performance of *James and The Giant Peach*. We are very excited about this event and want to make it the best possible experience for everyone. To that end, we'd like to offer some suggestions and provide you with additional information regarding the performance:

FAST FACTS

THE F.M. KIRBY CENTER THEATRE ADDRESS:

71 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA, 18707

PERFORMANCE BEGINS at

July 13 at 11:00 A.M. & 3:00 P.M.

July 14 at 2:00 P.M. & 6:00 P.M.

DOORS TO THE THEATRE OPEN at

July 13 at 10:30 A.M. & 2:30 P.M.

July 14 at 1:30 P.M. & 5:30 P.M.

RUNNING TIME is approximately 75 minutes

- ❖ A social narrative, written specifically for this event, is available at <https://www.kirbycenter.org/Media/files/SocialNarrative.pdf>
We encourage you to take advantage of this tool to help your child or adult become comfortable with this new experience.
- ❖ A character and language guide is available at <https://www.kirbycenter.org/Media/files/CharacterandLanguageGuide.pdf>
- ❖ Preferred sensory supports, preferred items (i.e.: stuffed animals, pillows, blankets, etc.), and other small coping tools (i.e.: fidgets, chewy tubes, weighted blankets, etc.), are allowed in the theatre. You may also bring preferred seating supports (i.e.: wedge cushions, inflated seat cushions.), as this is a 75 minute show.
- ❖ Please avoid sending iPads or tablets, except those that are used for communication purposes and/or behavior management systems. Due to Copyright Law and contract restrictions, Photography and Videography are NOT PERMITTED inside the theatre. We want to enjoy the show while still respecting the theatre's policies. There will be opportunities to get pictures before and after the performance.
- ❖ We've worked hard to tailor our lights and sounds to our audience, but please consider your child's or adult's sensory sensitivities and plan accordingly. If you feel your child or adult could

benefit from added supports such as noise cancelling headphones, earplugs, sunglasses, etc., please feel free to send them along, as they are allowed in the theatre. A small amount of earplugs/headphones and sunglasses will be available day of performance.

- ❖ In order to accommodate dietary restrictions preferred snacks and/or drinks from home are permitted. Full meals such as pizza or fast food are not allowed.
- ❖ To provide a friendly, supportive environment, and to make this performance enjoyable for everyone, the F.M. Kirby Center has held sensitivity training sessions for the entire F.M. Kirby Center Box Office and House Management staff, and cast of *James and The Giant Peach*. We will also have trained volunteers, some of whom have experience working with individuals with sensory needs assisting ushers and house staff.
- ❖ The chandelier lobby will be set up as an activity/energy area and back of the main theater will be set up as a quiet area, staffed with a sensory specialist as well as professionals and volunteers with a wide range of experiences, all of whom have participated in training provided via the specialist. Restrooms will be designated and volunteers will be able to guide you to their location. We strongly encourage parents and caretakers to be aware of any early warning signs of difficult behavior and act accordingly. Our trained volunteers are ready and willing to help however they can!
- ❖ Please note that the volunteers are not caregivers themselves. They cannot be used to sit with someone while you go elsewhere, they cannot assist with toilet transfers, and individuals cannot be left unattended in the quiet areas.
- ❖ Our program is designed to be a welcoming and inclusive environment. Individuals of all abilities and all behaviors are welcome.

❖❖ All materials – Fast Facts, Social Narrative, and Character Guide are also available at the F.M. Kirby Center.



❖❖ We look forward to seeing you! 😊