

Sensory-Friendly Performance Guide

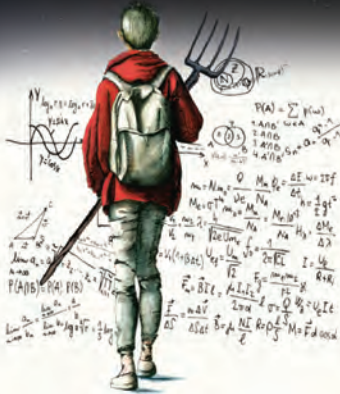


THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

By Simon Stephens

Adapted from the Best-selling Novel by Mark Haddon

Directed by John Schmor



About the Show

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time tells the story of Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old boy with an extraordinary brain. He is brilliant at math, yet struggles to interpret everyday life. After being wrongly accused of murdering his neighbor's dog, Christopher sets out to identify the true culprit, which leads to an earth-shattering discovery and a journey that will change his life forever. John Schmor directs this adventure story that is every bit as uplifting as it is thrilling.

The performance is 2 hours and 10 minutes long, with a 15-minute intermission.

Plot Synopsis

The play begins one night in Swindon, England, when Christopher discovers a dead dog belonging to his neighbor, Mrs. Shears. The dog was mysteriously killed in the yard with a garden fork, and police arrive to investigate. Christopher's father, Ed, warns Christopher not to get involved, but Christopher decides to investigate on his own (when he's not studying for his A-level Maths exam). Christopher writes all of his discoveries down in a book. When Ed finds Christopher's book, he becomes angry and hides the book away.

Christopher goes looking for his book and for more clues at home. In Ed's bedroom, Christopher finds letters from his mother, Judy, who he thought was dead. Christopher learns from these letters that his mother is, in fact, alive and living in London. Christopher also learns that his father killed the dog.

Christopher doesn't trust his father after learning these secrets, so he bravely travels to London to live with his mother. Life in London is difficult for Christopher and Judy, so they return to Swindon—just in time for Christopher to take his A-level Maths exam. The play ends with Christopher passing the exam and realizing that he can do anything he puts his mind to.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a sensory-friendly performance?

A sensory-friendly performance—also called a relaxed performance—is a safe and welcoming theatre experience for patrons who may experience sensory sensitivities. Patrons are invited to make sounds, enter and exit as needed during the performance, and enjoy the show in a positive, inclusive environment.

Is the script for this performance different from other performances?

The script and actor performances are not changed for sensory-friendly performances. All patrons see the same show.

What kinds of changes will be made to the production?

- Lower sound levels for most loud or startling sounds;
- Reduction of overwhelming stage lighting;
- Low lighting in the theatre will remain on throughout the performance;
- Patrons are free to vocalize and leave the auditorium during the performance (and can be re-seated during the show).

Who can attend this performance?

All community members are welcome. As noted, this performance will have specific alterations to create a comfortable, safe and welcoming environment, particularly considering folks with sensory sensitivities.

Individuals at this performance may talk during the performance or may leave the theatre. We are a judgement-free zone! All ticket buyers should be aware of these alterations.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time is suggested for patrons 12 years old and above. Children 5 and under are not permitted.

Can I bring fidget toys or headphones into the theatre?

Of course! We want you and your family to be comfortable. Feel free to bring your fidgets, seat cushions, blankets, and headphones into the theatre.

Can I leave the theatre during the performance and be re-seated?

Yes, upon leaving the theatre, an usher can direct you to the restroom or a Quiet Area. With the help of an usher, you can be re-seated during the show.

Does the theatre have food and drinks for purchase?

The theatre has a concession stand with a variety of drinks and snacks for sale. You are welcome to bring drinks and snacks from the concession stand into the theatre and enjoy them during the show.

How do I purchase tickets for the sensory-friendly performance?

Tickets are available for purchase by phone at (541)465-1506 or on our website: octheatre.org.

What if my question isn't answered here?

If you have additional questions or needs, you can contact the Box Office for assistance by calling (541)465-1506 or emailing boxoffice@octheatre.org.

Who can I contact if I have questions about OCT's sensory-friendly performances?

Email Associate Producer Tara Wibrew (tara@octheatre.org) or Producing Artistic Director Craig Willis (craig@octheatre.org), who are happy to answer any questions.

Seeing a Show at OCT

Ticketing

All tickets for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* are held under the ticket buyer's name and can be picked up at the Box Office when you arrive. The Box Office is located in the Oregon Contemporary Theatre lobby; just turn left when you enter the front door.

Getting to OCT

194 W Broadway, Eugene, OR 97401

Public Transit: take the quickest route to Downtown Eugene and get off at Eugene Station. It is a 2-block walk (approximately 3 minutes) to OCT on Broadway, between Olive St. and Charnelton St.

Driving: From I-5, take I-105W into Downtown Eugene. Continue straight forward when coming off the highway, following signs for Jefferson St. Head two blocks south before going left onto Broadway (where 9th St. would be). OCT is just four blocks east of the W Broadway/Jefferson St. intersection; the theatre is on the south side of the street.

Parking: Some on-street parking is available on several blocks surrounding the theatre. Two city-owned parking garages, fully-lit and with 24-hour security, are located just 1/2 -block west of our home. The garages are accessed from Charnelton St., beneath the Broadway North and Broadway South apartment buildings, respectively. Both garages are open to the public, and they are free on evenings (after 6pm) and all weekend.



Pictured: a scene from the show. Siobhan, the teacher, is on the left, watching Christopher lay down in the center of the floor. Other cast members watch from the far left and far right sides. A projected image of a galaxy appears on the back wall.

Know Before You Go

Relaxed “Rules” at OCT

- We welcome you to move about the theatre or leave to take a break in the lobby.
- You can re-enter the theatre whenever you are ready. An usher will be available to help guide you back to your seat.
- The theatre is a no “shushing” zone! You are welcome to vocalize.
- We welcome you to bring your own sensory comforts (weighted blankets, textured cushions, fidgets, communication devices, etc.).
- Staff and volunteers are on site to assist you. If there is anything we can do to help you have a great experience, please ask!

Some potential triggers and emotional scenes in this show:

- The show uses strong language and discusses adult themes, including death, adultery and sex.
- The production uses music and sounds throughout the show.
- The production uses projections on the walls and floor of the set, which move and change throughout the show.
- Actors often enter and exit through the theatre doors.
- Actors sometimes sit on blocks very close to the audience.
- Some of the characters talk directly to the audience.
- The cast sometimes uses quick physical movement all over the stage.
- Christopher often groans loudly or shouts when upset.
- Christopher finds a dead dog at the start of the show, which appears as a projected chalk outline on the floor.
- Some characters get into loud arguments, including some physical altercations (pushing, kicking) and threats.
- The cast all shouts in the football game scene in Act 1.
- Christopher has a seizure while lying on the floor, reading letters during Act 1.
- Some characters drink alcohol, including using beer and whiskey bottles.
- After the cast has taken their bows at the end of the show, Christopher comes back on stage for one more scene. He explains his math exam, which appears as a projection of white writing with blue lasers on the back wall of the set. There are also laser sounds with the projections.



Thank you for coming to OCT. Enjoy the show!

Pictured: Actor Nate Pereira as Christopher. He is smiling while holding an envelope, wearing a black t-shirt with NASA logo and a red zip-up sweatshirt.