



AST's Sensory-Friendly Performance: What To Know Before You Go

We are so excited to welcome you to Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre's sensory-friendly performance of *Much Ado About Nothing*! The performance takes place on Thursday, July 5th at 2:00 pm in Reynolds Performance Hall located at 223 Beatrice Powell St, Conway, AR, 72035 on the University of Central

Arkansas campus. Crowds will be limited as a reduced number of tickets will be on sell for this event. Volunteers and performers will be trained prior to the event in an effort to be inviting and accommodating to all who attend. Look for volunteers who will be easily identifiable in purple volunteer sashes stationed throughout the parking lot, lobby, and theatre to assist you however necessary.

Outside the Theatre

Accessible parking is available next door to and across the street from Reynold's Performance Hall. Volunteers will be stationed in each parking lot to assist those with mobility impairments or anyone who may need help unloading vehicles.

Inside the Theatre

As you enter the theatre, you will be greeted by volunteers who will guide you and will remain available throughout the duration of the performance to answer any questions you may have. There will be a designated calming zone near the performance area for individuals who may wish to leave the performance at any time. Before the performance begins, an AST associate will give a curtain speech that will inform all audience members that this is a sensory-friendly performance. You can feel free to be yourself here.

During the Performance

- Lighting modifications will be made that include
 - reduced bright lighting
 - low lighting on for the entirety of the performance
 - elimination of flashing lights.
- Auditory modifications will be made that include
 - lower sound level during the performance
 - reduction of unexpected noises
 - glow sticks to be raised as a forewarning for a loud surprise on stage
 - availability of noise reducing headphones

- Seating will be on stage on risers
 - some seating will be available on the floor
 - easy access to get off stage will be available
- Other accommodations include
 - snacks, fidget toys, beverages with a sealed lid, service animals, and other calming items permitted during the performance
 - Freedom to leave seats during performance if needed
 - Space available throughout theatre for standing and movement
 - Exits clearly marked and accessible
 - If you must leave the show, you will be permitted to return to your seat

For further questions or to view more details, visit www.arkshakes.com and click on the accessibility tab. A sensory map, social story, and character guide will be available in mid-June to further prepare you for this experience. We hope to see you there!