

Get ready to see

ROALD DAHL'S WILLY WONKA

at Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University



A social story to help families prepare for a visit to the theater

WHEELOCK
FAMILY
THEATRE

BOSTON
UNIVERSITY

I am going to see a play called
Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka at Wheelock
Family Theatre at Boston University.



When I get to the theater, we will walk
through the lobby.



It might be crowded.

I can take deep breaths and be patient
as we move through the crowd.



In a play, people on stage tell a story -
right in front of us!

These people are called actors.



When I sit down in the theater I will see
the set. A set is an imaginary place,
built on the stage, to show where the
story happens.



The set for this play is hundreds of
cardboard boxes painted purple and
white. When we use our imagination,
these boxes can become many things!
Like a Chocolate Factory!



This play is about a boy named Charlie Bucket who is played by an actor named Jamie.



Charlie lives with his two parents and his four grandparents in a small shack. A shack is a small, rundown home.



On the other side of town is Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory. Ricardo Holguin plays Willy Wonka and The Candy Man.



The actors playing Charlie's parents and grandparents also play other characters in the show such as reporters & parents to other characters in the show. We see them change costume on stage many times.



Lisa Kate Joyce plays Mrs. Bucket, Mrs. Gloop & a Reporter.



Matthew Zahnzinger plays Mr. Bucket & Mr. Salt.



Carolyn Saxon plays Grandma Georgina,
Ms. Beauregarde, & a Reporter



Lisa Yuen plays Grandma Josephine, Ms
Teavee, & a Reporter



Gary Ng plays Grandpa George &
Phineous Trout



Neil Casey plays Grandpa Joe & a Reporter



Members of our youth ensemble play kids in Charlie's town...



...as well as Oompa Loompas in Willy Wonka's Factory. Oompa Loompa's are people that help run the chocolate factory.



This play is a musical and sometimes the story is told through singing...



...and dancing!



There are also live musicians playing the music. They are under the stage in what is called "the pit". Our pit has an opening at the front of the stage.



Sometimes the sounds and music can get loud. If it is too loud for me I can always cover my ears...



...I can hug or hold hands with my mom or dad, or with someone else who came with me to the theater.



If I need a break I can go into the lobby...



...or to a quiet, cozy space nearby.



If I need something to hold onto I can ask an usher for a squishy toy.



I will know that the play is about to start when the lights in the room get darker and the lights on the stage get brighter.

The audience will get very quiet. It is important that I try to be quiet during the show so I can hear everything.



In this story Willy Wonka is holding a contest for 5 lucky children to tour his factory. To win the contest you must find a golden ticket hidden in a bar of chocolate.



The first child to find a golden ticket is Augustus Gloop played by the actor Michael Mansour.



The next golden ticket winner is Veruca Salt played by the actor Carly Williams.



The third golden ticket winner is Violet Beauregarde played by the actor Lily Park.



The fourth golden ticket winner is Mike Teavee played by actor Leo Ruckenstein.



The final golden ticket winner is Charlie!

All of the golden ticket winners, except Charlie, are mean and selfish but the actors playing these characters are really nice in real life!



In the final scene of Act One there is a burst of confetti. The confetti will come from either side of the stage and there might be a medium to loud noise (a big PUFF) just before you see the confetti.

I know that everyone is happy and safe.



During the show there may be smoke on stage. This is a special kind of smoke called haze that is used in plays. It is made backstage by a device called a haze machine.

I know that everyone is safe.



This play has lots of bright and colorful lights to help us see the actors and understand the story. Sometimes the lights change brightness and colors very quickly.

This can be scary or hurt my eyes, but I know that I can shut my eyes tight when this happens.



When we first see Willy Wonka in Act Two he will appear through a wall of boxes. The boxes will come out suddenly revealing Willy Wonka. Some of the actors on stage may react loudly.

I know that everyone is safe.



At one point in Act Two parts of the set will move closer towards a group of actors, making it seem like they are trapped in a very small room. The lights will also shift. The actors will react as if they are stuck and cannot get out.

I know that everyone is safe.



At one point in Act Two Augustus Gloop will fall into the chocolate river and get swallowed up into a pipe leading to another part of the factory. The actor is only pretending.

I know that everyone is safe.



At one point in Act Two actors will sit on two conveyor belts and pretend to be riding a very magical boat. The music, lights, and movement of the set will make it seem like everyone is danger...



...Willy Wonka will also laugh very loudly and scary at the end of this section.

I know that everyone is safe.



At one point in Act Two Violet Beauregarde chews a piece of gum that she shouldn't have. She then inflates into a giant blueberry.

I know that this is only a costume, that the actor is only pretending, and everyone is safe.



At one point in Act Two Charlie & Grandpa Joe drink a fizzy lifting drink and pretend to fly around a room in the factory. This room will have real bubbles on stage.

They get very close to a fan and pretend to be in real danger. They discover burping is a way to float safely to the ground.

I know that everyone is safe and that burping is very funny. I can laugh if I want.



At one point in Act Two we visit a room in Willy Wonka's factory where they sort different types of nuts. Our puppet designer Sam created squirrel puppets out of socks and ping pong balls.

I know these are silly and I can laugh if I want.



Veruca Salt, really wants a squirrel for herself and falls down the hole in the floor, where they sort the nuts.

I know the actor is only pretending to fall and everyone is safe.



Veruca's father, Mr. Salt, also gets rolled off stage and I will hear the sound of a crash.

I know this is only a sound effect, made on a computer, and the actor is safe.



At one point in Act Two Mike Teavee will shrink to only 6 inches tall because of an invention in Willy Wonka's factory.

We used a puppet to show the difference in size from the actor playing Mike and the smaller version.

I know everyone is safe.



Throughout act two the Oompa Loompas will appear to help move pieces of the set and tell the story.

At times they may appear in lighting that is slightly dark or scary.

I know they are only pretending and everyone is safe.



The sounds may be loud and the action may be startling. If I need to I can cover my ears or leave the theater and take a break.



At the end of a scene or song some people will clap. Clapping tells the actors that I liked their performance.



If I want to clap I can.
If I don't want to clap I don't have to.

This play is performed with an intermission. This is a break in the play where I can leave the theater to walk around the lobby, use the restroom...



...get a drink of water, or have a snack.



At the very end of the play all of the actors will come out on stage and bow.
This is called a curtain call.



I can clap. Clapping tells the actors I liked the show.

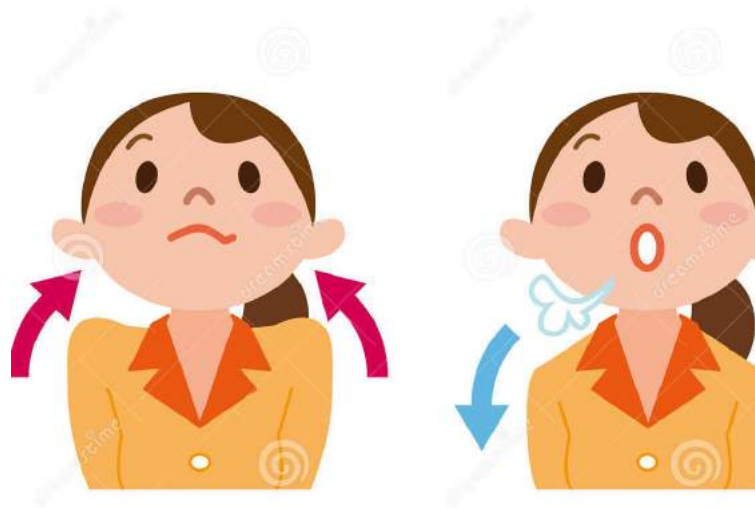
If I really like the show I can stand up and clap. This is called a standing ovation.



If the sound is too loud, I can always
cover my ears.



If I feel anxious or upset I can take deep
breaths to help me stay calm.



I can hold hands with mom or dad or with
someone else who came with me to the
theater.



After I move through the lobby I will leave Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University.



Going to the theater is very exciting!

I hope I will have a great time when I go to see *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka*.



For more information about access and inclusion at Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University please contact Jeri Hammond, Director of Education, Outreach, and Community Engagement, at JeriH@bu.edu or 617-353-1459.

