

# MEET ALICE: A New Musical

A guide to help families prepare to see a play at  
Wheelock Family Theatre



A publication of the Wheelock Family Theatre  
Access and Inclusion Program

I am going to see a play called ALICE at Wheelock Family Theatre. In a play, people on stage tell a story — right in front of us! These people are called actors.

*Image with lots of characters on stage (Party scene??)*

When I sit down in the theatre, I will see the set.

A set is an imaginary place built on top of the stage.

The set for *this* play is a giant wooden climbing structure.



The actors will talk, sing, dance, and use puppets to tell the story.



Just before the play starts, the lights in the room will get darker. The lights on the stage will 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.

When the play starts, I will see five children around a bright light. If the light is too bright, I can look away or cover my eyes.



This play also has a lot of singing and other kinds of music.

If it is too loud, I can cover my ears, hold my Mom or Dad's hand, or hug my Mom or Dad.



This is Maritza. She is the actor playing Alice. In this play, Alice will meet a lot of different people and creatures.

Alice will have many adventures.

*Pictures of different characters*



The people and creatures in the play may act angry or scary or sad sometimes. This is okay.  
They are just actors *pretending* to be angry or scary or sad.

*Picture of Alice's mother looking cross.*

Even though I might be scared, I know that these actors are nice people and they will not hurt me.

*Smiling picture actress who plays mom?*

At the end of a scene or a song, some people will clap.  
Clapping tells the actors that I liked their performance.  
If I want to clap, I can.  
I don't have to clap if I don't want to.



If the clapping is too loud, I can cover my ears, hold my  
Mom or Dad (theatre buddy)'s hand, or hug my Mom or Dad  
(theatre buddy).



If I need

something to hold onto/help me feel calm?, I can ask the usher for a squishy toy.

*Picture of squishy toy*

During the play, I may need to take a break.

If I need to take a break, I can go back into the lobby, or go to a quiet, cozy area.





In the middle of the play, we will have a break.

The break is called Intermission.

During the break, many people will stand up to go back to the lobby.

*Picture of the lobby full of people.*

I can ask for a snack or a drink.

I can eat or drink in the lobby or outdoors.

But there is no eating or drinking in the theatre.

*Maybe show people buying snacks?*

I can ask to use the bathroom if I need to.

If I am thirsty, I can ask to use the water fountain.



After the break, everyone will come back to the theatre and sit down in their seats. It will get darker and quieter again, just like at the beginning of the play.

It is important that I try to be quiet when the show begins, so that I can hear everything.



The actors will come back onstage to finish telling us the story.



In one part of the play, some lights on the stage will flash on and off. If the light is too bright, or if this is hard to watch, I can look away or cover my eyes.



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



Many people will clap a lot so the actors know how much they liked the play. Sometimes people will stand up and clap.



If I want to clap, I can.

I don't have to clap if I don't want to.





When the play is over,  
we will go back to the  
lobby and leave  
Wheelock Family  
Theatre.

*I love this picture, but it's a stock photo and we don't have permission. Do you have any good Wheelock shots of kids/people waving goodbye?*

Going to the  
theatre is very  
exciting! I hope  
we will have a  
great time at  
Wheelock Family  
Theatre!

