

MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS

Book by Robert Kazlaric Music & Lyrics by George Howe
Based on the novel by Richard & Florence Atwater



Get ready to see

MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS

at Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University

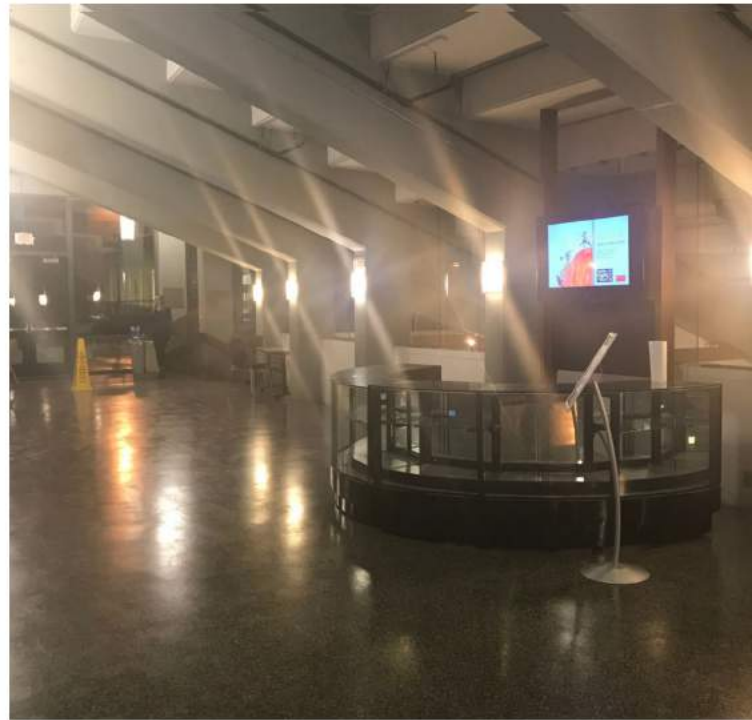
A social story to help families prepare for a visit to the theater



I am going to see a play called
MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS 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 looks like a town!

This set can be many different places. Sometimes it's a barber shop, a theater or the South Pole.

It also opens up to become the Popper's home!



This play is about a house decorator named Mr. Popper who has big dreams of adventures.

His life changes when there is a surprise delivery in the mail.

Be careful on that ladder, Mr. Popper!



The story of this play is told through songs and dancing, not just speaking.



The music in this play is done right on stage!

I will see how many instruments they use.

Sounds for the play are also made here like a doorbell!



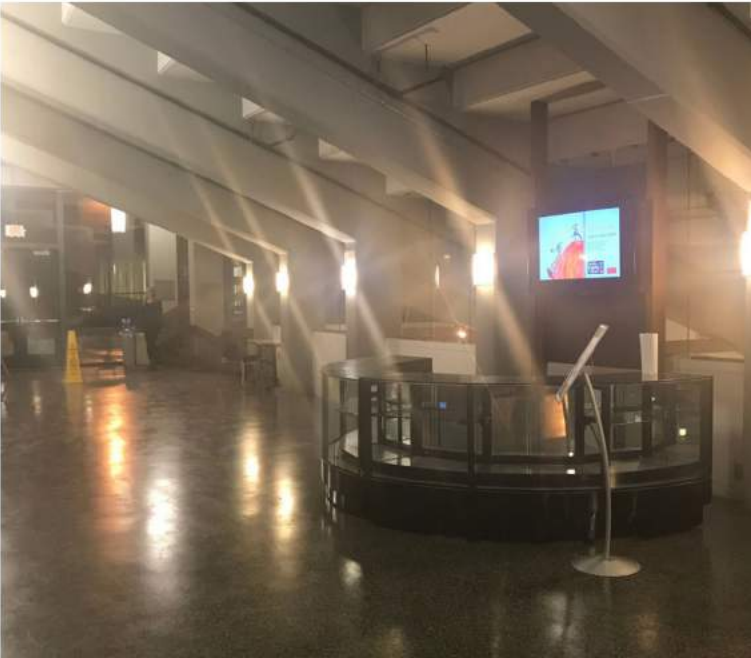
Sometimes the sounds and music can get loud. If it is too loud for me I can always cover my ears...



...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 the play can be heard.



You've met Mr. Popper, now let's meet the other characters in this play!

First is Mrs. Popper, Mr. Popper's wife. She reminds her husband about their money troubles, but is still **always** supportive of his dreams.



This play has four other actors. Each actor plays multiple characters.

Their names are Yasmeen, Lisa, Russell, and Todd.



I can tell when an actor becomes a different character because their clothing changes.



Yasmeen plays a bus passenger, a zoo curator, and a police officer.



Lisa plays a neighbor (Mrs. Callahan), a delivery person, and a theatre producer (Mr. Greenbaum).



Russell plays a radio announcer, a barber, a bus driver, and a reporter.



Todd plays Admiral Drake, an explorer who visits the South Pole. Mr. Popper greatly admires him.

Todd also plays a neighbor, a police officer, and a Swedish Seal Trainer.



There are a few other very important characters.

THE PENGUINS!

They are sent to live with the Poppers by Admiral Drake.



The parent penguins are named Captain Cook and Greta.



The babies are named Nelson, Columbus, Louisa, Jenny, Scott, Magellan, Adelina, Isabella, Ferdinand, and Victoria!



These are not real penguins.

The penguins are played by actors using puppets and making them dance!

I can see all the ways that the actors move them to make the penguins look real.



I might be sad that the penguins are not real.

I will remember that penguins are wild animals that don't belong in houses or theatres. They belong in nature or in a zoo with people to care for them.

Penguins can't be pets or on stage.



In the show, some silly things happen.

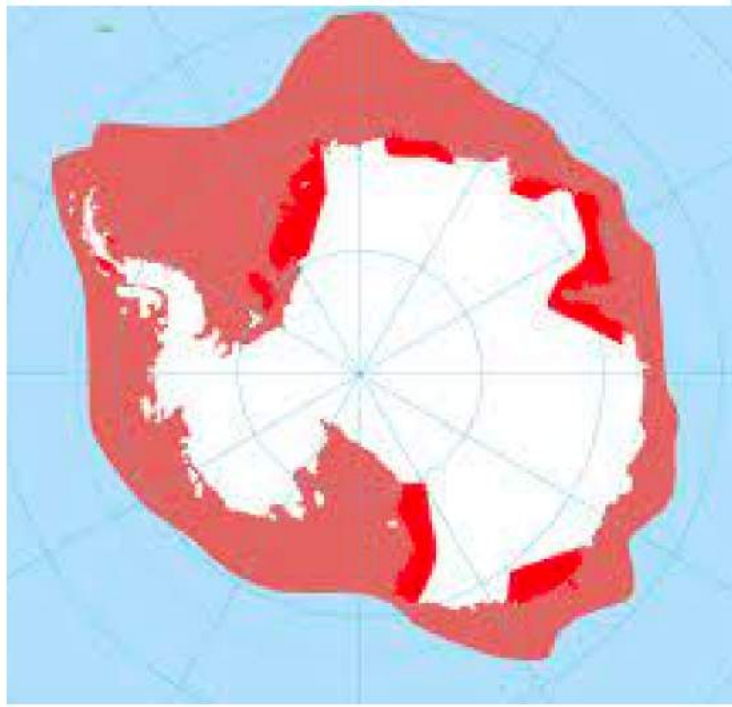
The penguins are sent in the mail and sleep in an icebox, which is a refrigerator.

I know that this is pretend. It is very dangerous to send animals in the mail or keep them in a refrigerator.



This is where real Emperor penguins live.

Animals should always be where it is most safe and happy and healthy for them.



In this play, the actors will come into the aisles of the audience.

I will make sure my belongings are not blocking their way.

I can wave to the actors and penguins!



Some of the characters make a joke about the letter “P”. They make the P sound very loud. This makes them spit a little bit on other people.

I might laugh because it’s so silly, but it is all pretend. In real life, I will remember that spitting on people is **not** kind.



In one scene, the lights might flash a lot. This is called “strobing”.

It is meant to make the play look like a very old movie.

If I do not like these lights, I can close my eyes. They will end soon.



If anything else in the story makes me feel sad or mad or scared, I can ask an adult for support.



I can also take a deep breath or 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 does **not** have an intermission.

If I need to use the bathroom or take a break during the show, I can ask an adult to take me.



I can also get a drink of water or have a snack during a break.



At the 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.



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 *MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS*.



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.

