



Get ready to see

the PROM

at Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University

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



The Boston University logo consists of a red rectangular box with a thin white border. Inside, the words "BOSTON" and "UNIVERSITY" are written in white, serif, all-caps font, stacked one above the other.

A photograph of a modern building with a red brick upper section and a glass-walled ground floor. A black lamppost stands in the foreground, and a large, ornate, white sculpture is visible on the left side of the building.

A large, modern interior space, likely a museum or gallery, featuring a curved glass display case in the foreground. A tall digital screen displays a colorful image, and a person is visible in the background near a staircase. The floor is polished and reflects the ambient light.

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

These people are called actors.

In this play, a musical, they will sing and
dance!

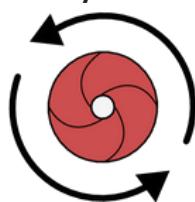


When I sit down in the theater I will see
the set. A set is an imaginary place,
built on the stage, to show where the
story happens.



The set for this play spins and moves
to become different places

We can be in a school hallway, a hotel,
or even a Monster Truck Rally,



This play will use loud sounds.
Sometimes the characters will yell.

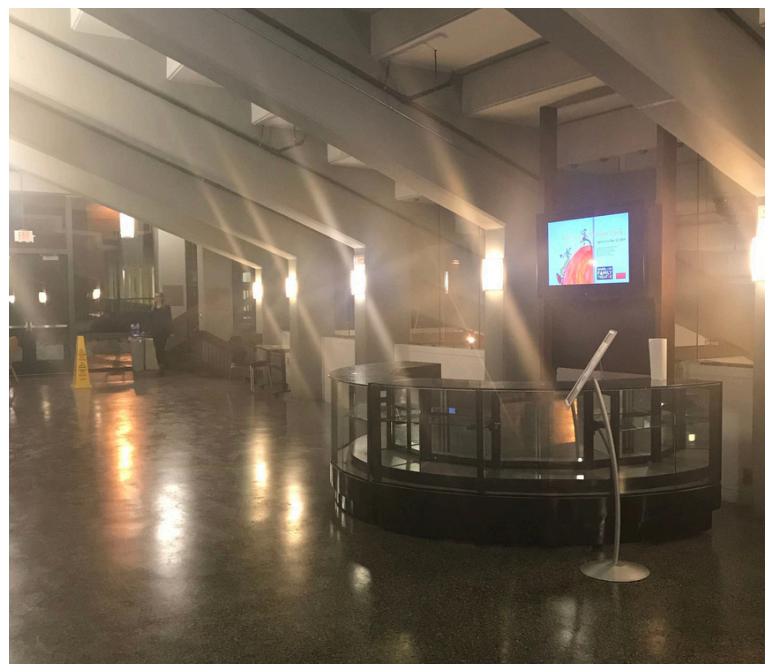
If it is too loud for me I can always
cover my ears...



...I can hug or hold hands with the
people 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.



This play is about a teenage girl named Emma.

She is a lesbian. This means that she is a girl who likes other girls.



Because Emma is a lesbian, her town won't let her go to the Prom.

Sometimes people dislike gay people because they have learned bigoted and wrong things about being gay.



It is normal and natural to be gay.
Everyone is different!

Everyone is free to be themselves. It is always wrong to be mean to someone because they are gay.



Emma has a girlfriend named Alyssa Greene.

Alyssa is afraid to tell the world that she loves another girl.



Alyssa's mother, Mrs. Greene, is the head of the PTA that banned Emma from Prom. She is homophobic, this means she doesn't like gay people.

Alyssa loves her mom and is scared to tell her the truth.



This is Mr. Hawkins. He is the principal of the high school Emma goes to.

He is very supportive of Emma. He is an ally.



Alyssa has two friends named Kaylee and Shelby. They are homophobic at first, but learn to love everyone.



The story begins when a group of Broadway actors want to find a cause to support.

They do this because many people think they are selfish.

They decide to help Emma.



One actor's name is Dee Dee Allen.

She just starred in a show on Broadway that failed. She struggles to think about people other than herself.



The other actor from this show is Barry.

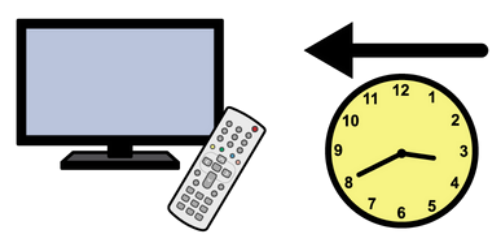
He grew up gay in a small town like Emma. He didn't go to his own prom and wants to help Emma do what he couldn't.



This is Angie. She is an ensemble dancer for *Chicago*. She dreams to get to play the lead - Roxie Hart.



This is Trent. He is currently out of work and feels haunted by a TV show he was in many years ago.



In the show, there may be moments that bring up big emotions.

The people of the town say very mean and hurtful things to Emma.



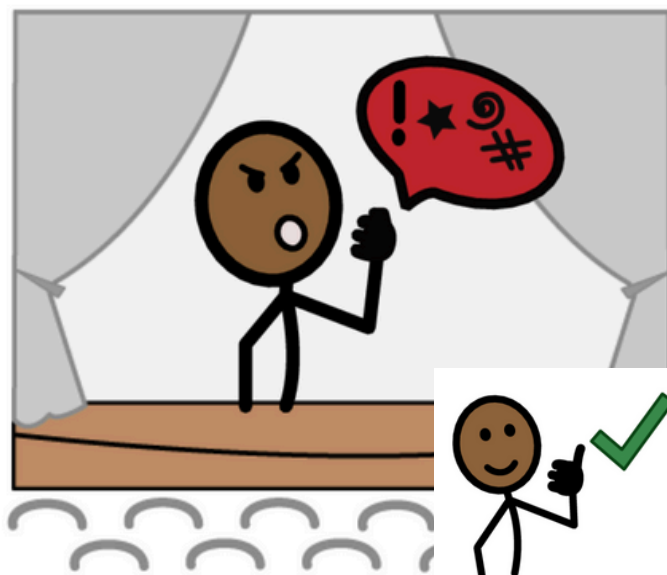
They talk very badly about gay people. It makes Emma and other characters feel upset. I may feel upset for them, too.

In real life, none of those actors feel that way. They are very nice people. They are telling a story.



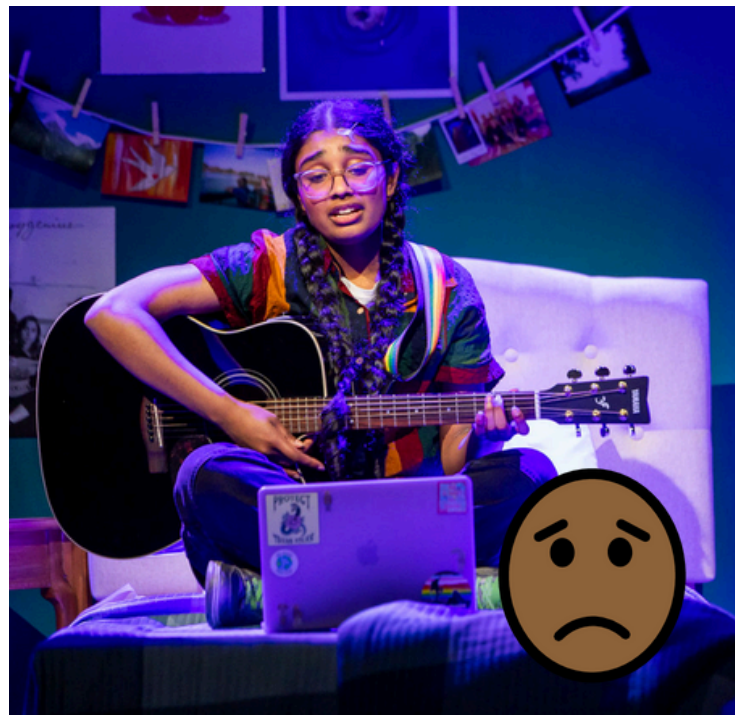
The actors may also say a few swear words. They are allowed to say these words.

It is okay if I do not like to hear those words. If I have questions about these words, I can ask the people I came with.



This play brings up hard topics about family and friends.

Emma used to live with her parents but doesn't because they don't accept her for being gay. Emma has also lost friends.



It can be very hurtful when someone we love rejects us for who we are.

It is okay to have big emotions about that.



It is important to remember, that even though Emma has lost people, she also found many people who support her.

She has the actors, her grandmother, Alyssa, and all her new friends.



If anything else in the story makes me feel sad or mad or scared, I can ask people who came with me for support.

I can also take a deep breath or take a break.



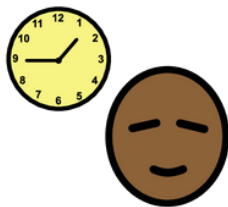
At the end of a scene or song some people will clap. Clapping tells the actors that I liked their performance.

If I want to clap I can.

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



This play has an intermission.



This is a break in the play. It is a good time for me to use the bathroom.



I can also get a drink of water or have a snack during this 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 *THE PROM*.



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.

