

RENT



MAINSTAGE

SOCIAL NARRATIVE

Everything I need to know about my upcoming experience at Arden Theatre Company

I AM GOING TO THE ARDEN!



I am going to see a live performance of *RENT* on stage at Arden Theatre Company!

I will arrive at the theater around 30 minutes before the start of the show. The show will last about 2 hours and 45 minutes, with one intermission.

The show will be on the Haas Stage inside the Arden. I will find out more about the building in this narrative.



WHAT DO I BRING WITH ME?

- **My Ticket** - If I asked to receive my ticket in the mail or by email, I will have it to bring with me.
- **Money** - If I want to buy something, like concessions or extra tickets, I will bring my credit card and/or cash to make those purchases.
- **Sensory Tools** - I can bring any sensory tools that will support my experience. The Arden also has tools provided by KultureCity that I can borrow!
- **A Jacket or Sweater** - Sometimes the theater can feel cold! I can bring an extra layer to stay warm.
- **A Face Mask** - Face masks are optional, but I can bring one and wear it if it will make me feel more comfortable. I can also ask for one at the Box Office.



GETTING TO THE ARDEN



The Arden is located at 40 N 2nd Street in the Old City neighborhood of Philadelphia.

I will see the word "Arden" in very big letters on the side of the building.

The Arden does not have its own parking lot, but I can find parking nearby. I can also take a bus, train, or car service like Uber.



WHEN I ARRIVE...



I can enter the Arden by using the steps at the front of the building and walking through the glass double doors...



...or by using the ramp along the side of the building. Either will get me into the lobby!

MY TICKETS

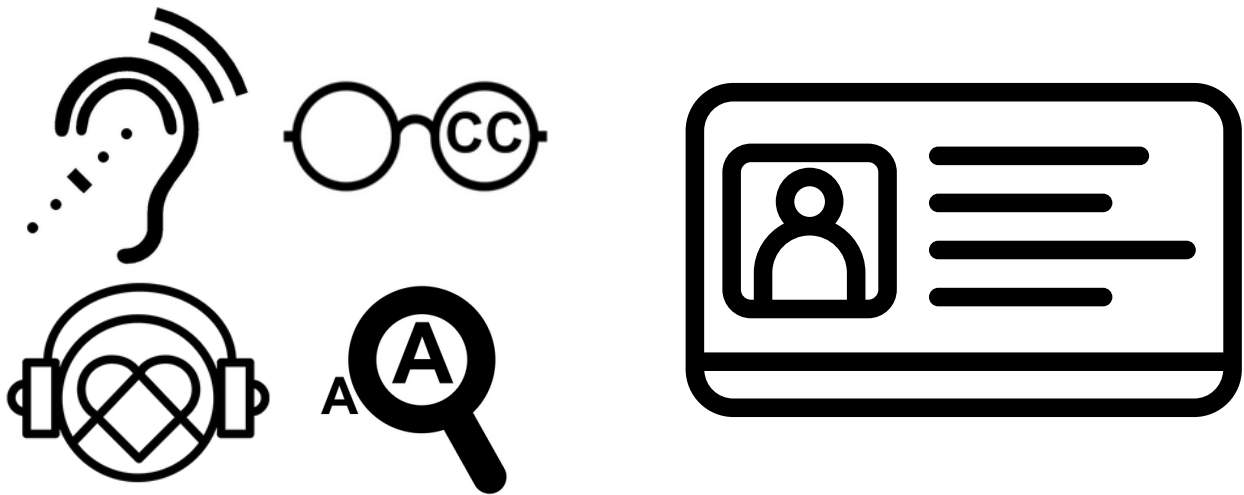
If I asked for my tickets to be kept at Will Call, I will check in at the Box Office windows, tell them my name, get my tickets, and be directed to the theater.

If I had my tickets emailed to me, I do not need to stop at the Box Office! I can find them on my phone.

If I cannot find my tickets, I can ask the Box Office to print me new ones. The Box Office windows have speakers and microphones in them; I can ask them to raise the volume if I can't hear them.



ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES



There are many accessibility tools available at the Arden, including Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs), Smart Caption Glasses, KultureCity Sensory Tool bags, and Large Print Programs.

I can ask the Box Office to borrow any of these tools. I will need to trade them something, like an ID card, to receive one.

I will get my ID back after the performance when I give the tools back.

IF I WANT OR NEED...

If I need to use the restroom, I will use it before or after the show. I can use it during the show, too, if absolutely necessary. To get to the restrooms, I will turn right at the red doors and walk down the hall to the Men's or Women's restrooms, on the right.

There is also a smaller all-gender restroom upstairs that anybody can use. There are stairs or an elevator I can use to reach this bathroom.



IF I WANT OR NEED...

The Arden has concessions, like candy, soda, water, and other snacks and beverages. They are available in the lobby before my show begins and at intermission, if I would like to purchase them.

I can bring a drink into the theater with me to enjoy during the show, but I cannot eat in the theatre. If I get a snack, I should eat it in the lobby or put it away to eat during intermission or after the show.



ENTERING THE THEATER



When I am ready, I will walk to the red doors at the back of the lobby. An Arden staff member or volunteer will greet me and scan my ticket.

I can enter the theater whenever I am ready after my ticket has been scanned!

GETTING TO MY SEAT



Inside the theater, a volunteer will hand me a Stagebill and help me find my seat.

I can sit or stand by my seat and talk until the show begins.

Before the show, an actor will come on stage to give a curtain speech that will tell me about what is expected of me during the show.



CELL PHONES



If I have a personal electronic device like a cellphone, I will turn it off or silence it before the show begins. I will not take any pictures or videos of the performance.

I will not use my phone during the performance to show the actors they have my attention!

THE SHOW IS STARTING!

The lights in the audience will dim to let me know that the show is starting. The actors will then come onstage and perform the show.

Once the performance begins, I will stay in my seat.

There will be an intermission for me to stand up, stretch, and move around if I need to.



ABOUT THE SHOW

Based loosely on Puccini's *La Boheme*, Jonathan Larson's *Rent* follows a year in the life of a group of impoverished young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create in New York's Lower East Side, under the shadow of HIV/AIDS in the 90s.

How these young bohemians negotiate their dreams, loves and conflicts provides the narrative thread to this groundbreaking musical.



IMPORTANT TO KNOW



Some things the actors do or say might make me laugh, cry, or make other sounds. That is great and will help the actors know that I am engaged.

There will be lights, sound, and music during the show. As a musical, it will be very loud and bright. I can cover my eyes or ears if it is ever too much.

RENT also features some mature themes, strong language, and the use of concert-style lighting effects and artificial snow.

DURING MY PERFORMANCE



Some things the actors do or say might make me laugh, cry, or make other sounds. That is great and will help the actors know that I am engaged.

There will be lights, sound, and music during the show. I can cover my eyes or ears if it is ever too bright or too loud for me.

DURING MY PERFORMANCE

If at any point during the show I feel overwhelmed or need to step out of the theater for any reason, I will do so through the same door that I entered the theater. I will have the option to keep watching the actors on the TV on the wall in the lobby.

When I'm ready to return to my seat, I will let the House Manager know. They will guide me back to my seat when it is safe to do so.



AT THE END OF THE SHOW

When the show is complete, the actors will come out on stage and bow. I can applaud during the bows to show them that I enjoyed the show.

If I REALLY enjoyed the show, I can stand up while I clap to give the actors a standing ovation!

After the actors leave the stage, the lights will get brighter. I will stand up and exit the theater. I will be sure to bring all my belongings with me. I can recycle my Stagebill in a wooden crate near the exit to the theater if I don't want to take it home with me.



LEAVING MY PERFORMANCE



After exiting the Haas Stage, I will exit through the same red doors I used to enter the theater. I will exit the Arden using the glass doors at the front of the lobby.





ENJOY THE SHOW!

Production photos courtesy of Ashley Smith, Wide Eyed Studios