



Sensory Guide:

Mr. Popper's Penguins



[Image: Mr. Popper's Penguins banner; the letter 'o' in 'Popper's' is a penguin wearing a bowtie.]

Approximately 1 hour; show runs with no intermission
UnitedHealth Group Stage

Sensory Guide: *Mr. Popper's Penguins*

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Introduction

CTC understands that patrons with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Sensory Processing Disorder have unique and varying sensory needs and sensitivities, as many individuals with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, anxiety, and other sensory, social, and cognitive disabilities and mental illnesses. CTC values creating accessible theatre experiences for all individuals and is committed to increasing the access and inclusion for individuals with sensory sensitivities. At our Sensory Friendly performances, sensory modifications are balanced with preserving the engaging theatre experience desired by all children and families.

This Sensory Guide is designed to help prepare individuals and families for attending *Mr. Popper's Penguins*. Included is information about Sensory Friendly performances at CTC, a list of potential triggers and moments of high anxiety in the show, a timeline of high visual and auditory stimulation and intense emotional moments, a synopsis of the show, and information to ready you and your family for a production on our UnitedHealth Group Stage. On our website, there is an additional Social Narrative that maps out the process of attending a show on the UnitedHealth Group Stage along with the experience of watching *Mr. Popper's Penguins*.

Please email access@childrenstheatre.org if you have additional questions.

Sensory Support at CTC Performances

For every performance, our Information Desk (next to the concession stand) has noise-reducing earmuffs and disposable earplugs available to be utilized by those with sensitivities to auditory stimuli. There are also stress stars available. When attending a show on the UnitedHealth Group Stage, patrons have access to the Quiet Room, a room in the back of the theatre where the performance can be viewed with some separation from the audience. Any usher can point this space out to you as you enter the theatre.

Audience members are also welcome to bring their own manipulatives, seat cushions, comfort objects, and additional support items. If special assistance or a buffer seat is needed, please call 612.874.0400.

'Meet Your Seat' opportunities are provided to reduce stress and support successful priming for the actual event. To schedule a Meet Your Seat visit prior to your scheduled performance date, email access@childrenstheatre.org.

Sensory Friendly Performance Modifications

At every Sensory Friendly performance, the lights on the audience are left on low. The volume is also reduced. For additional sound reduction, CTC's Information Desk (next to the concession stand) provides noise-cancelling earmuffs and disposable earplugs. Additional potential modifications include changes to lighting, sounds, and performance such as eliminating strobe effects, lessening the intensity of a sound effect, or modifying actor-audience interaction. Not all aspects of the show may be modified due to their relevance to the story, the show's artistic integrity, or production constraints.

Please be advised: Entering an auditorium with many people can be challenging for some individuals. Added CTC staff and volunteers from Fraser and Autism Society of Minnesota will help provide a

supportive and welcoming environment. During the show, audience members are free to talk or move and utilize our U.S. Bank Take-a-Break Space.

U.S. Bank Take-a-Break Space: The U.S. Bank Take-a-Break Space is set up at every Sensory Friendly Performance. It is located on the Cargill Mezzanine; there will be signs to direct you. This space is equipped with fidgets, weighted blankets, and additional sensory supports. It may be utilized at any point before, during, or after the performance. Patrons are welcome to exit and re-enter the theatre as needed.

Glow Sticks: To enable audience members to leave or avert their attention before some the more stimulating and emotionally intense moments in the production, some CTC staff members in the audience will raise glow sticks to signal the approach of these moments. The glow sticks will be lowered once the moment or sequence has ended. For *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, we will be using glow sticks to indicate when actors are about to throw paper airplanes into the audience, when the penguin Captain Cook becomes sick, before fake snow falls onto the audience. For more information about when these moments occur, see Timeline of *Mr. Popper's Penguins*.

What to Expect: *Mr. Popper's Penguins*

Mr. Popper's Penguins is a musical production performed by a small group of adult actors and puppets. This show was created by Pins & Needles Productions in England. It is based on the Newbery Honor book by Richard & Florence Atwater.

Positive Themes: There are many positive themes in *Mr. Popper's Penguins* including exploration, adventure, teamwork, family, and pursuing your dreams.

Puppetry: The penguins used in *Mr. Popper's Penguins* are all puppets operated by actors on stage. The actors control the puppet's movements and make the noises for the puppets they operate. The actors are visible while they are puppeting the penguins.

Narration: Different actors occasionally address the audience for moments of narration. Sometimes, these actors stand alone, and other times they interact with Mr. Popper while narrating.

A few potential triggers and anxious scenes to prepare for in the show include:

The following are listed in detail in the "Timeline of Mr. Popper's Penguins."

Auditory Stimuli:

The actors all have English accents.

The penguin squawks can be loud.

Music plays both as an underscore and as an accompaniment for songs.

Mr. Greenbaum is loud and grouchy.

There are sound effects of an audience talking, booing and hissing, and applauding.

Visual Stimuli:

The lights change colors throughout the show. These colors are subtle, but the changes are noticeable.

The penguin puppets are operated by actors.

Lights on the frame of the backdrop twinkle and flash.

Confetti is released on the stage.

Snow is released into the audience.

Emotional:

Mr. Popper gets incredibly excited when Admiral Drake addresses him directly in the radio broadcast.

Captain Cook becomes sick and lonely. Mr. Popper worries about him.

The Poppers are asked to perform their penguin routine in front of an audience and feel unprepared.

Mr. Popper and Captain Cook are both very sad when they think they have to say goodbye.

Audience Interaction:

Paper planes are thrown out into the audience by the actors.

The entire audience is invited to stand and dance like a penguin at the end of the show. The actors lead the audience through the dance. Dancing is optional.

Timeline of *Mr. Popper's Penguins*

Be warned: This contains show spoilers and complete descriptions of staging. Please read the "Plot Synopsis" for a full description of the plot.

Timeline may fluctuate due to when the show begins and the pace of the actors.

This timeline includes when glow sticks will be used to signal the more stimulating and emotionally intense moments in the show. Glow Sticks will only be used at the Sensory Friendly performance on Friday, February 22, at 7pm.

7:00 The stage has a smaller wooden circle on the floor. There is a ladder and broom at center. Behind these, there is a wooden frame with lightbulbs surrounding a small fabric backdrop that reads "Stillwater." Furniture is on the sides of the stage covered with sheets. Orchestral music plays.

7:01 There is an announcement reminding audience members to silence phones and that photography is prohibited. The lights dim in the audience. On the stage, lights also dim. A purple/blue light centers on the stage. Admiral Drake climbs on a ladder. Actors fan him from the sides and create the shape of the bow of a ship. In a spotlight, Admiral Drake makes an announcement sharing the news his expedition has arrived in Antarctica. There are penguin noises. Snow falls on stage. The spotlight dims at the end of the announcement. Actors sweep the stage. The lights fade up. Actors bring out a window pane.

7:02 Mr. and Mrs. Popper stand behind the window pane. They say "goodbye" as Mr. Popper leaves for work. They kiss. Mr. Popper meets many neighbors on his way to work. These neighbors include someone walking a dog (puppet) that barks at him, and someone with a tie who bumps into him. As he travels to work, music plays and Mr. Popper sings about his job as a painter.

7:03 Once Mr. Popper begins working, he sings about his favorite colors. First, he sings about green. The lights change to green as he pulls a green curtain made out of different strips of green fabric from a paint pail. This is held up for him by two other actors. As he sings about pretending to be in the jungle, there are parrot, monkey, and bird noises. Mr. Popper tries to balance on paint buckets.

7:04 A clock chimes. The green lights disappear. Mr. Popper sings about being stuck in Stillwater. Next, he sings about the color grey. A large grey sheet of fabric is pulled from another paint pail; two actors wrap it over Mr. Popper's paint cart. The lights change to light purple. Mr. Popper sings about being a mountain climber. Two actors unroll an image of mountains.

7:05 The lights change to gold. The actors holding the mountain banner flip it around to reveal a row of houses. Mr. Popper pretends to paint them while singing about his neighbors and how he'll soon have to pack up his paints for winter.

7:06 Mr. Popper introduces his favorite color: white. A bright white/blue light fills the stage as a large piece of white fabric is pulled out of a paint bucket. Mr. Popper sings about his dreams of traveling to Antarctica and feeding the penguins. He sits on his paint cart and pretends to drive to the South Pole. The actors holding the white fabric shake it gently as a backdrop. When Mr. Popper returns to singing about being in Stillwater, the lights on stage return to a golden hue.

7:07 Mrs. Popper narrates. Mr. Popper finishes the song. Mr. Popper exits with his cart. Upbeat piano music plays. Mrs. Popper hums while the actors set up the Popper's house. From beneath the sheets on the sides of the stage, they move two chairs, a fishbowl, a large globe, an old radio, and a standing lamp towards the center of the stage.

- 7:08 Mrs. Popper reads the paper. Mr. Popper reads *Antarctic Adventures*. He discusses his dream of going to Antarctica and talks about how beautiful it is. Two actors narrating talk about how much information Mr. Popper knows about Antarctica. All of the lights dim as a spotlight hits Mr. Popper. He stands up and there is a buzzer effect as he pretends to respond on a game show to answer Antarctic trivia. A bell chimes with each correct answer.
- 7:09 The actors narrating continue to talk about how much Mr. Popper loves all things related to Antarctica and act out small scenes with him about each of these things.
- 7:10 Mr. Popper gets flustered when he realizes it is time for a radio broadcast from Admiral Drake. He turns on his radio and there are static sounds. The lights in his living room dim except for those on him. A light behind the curtain turns on allowing for Admiral Drake to be seen behind it. In his broadcast, Admiral Drake addresses Mr. Popper directly. He thanks him for his letter and tells him to wait for a surprise. Mr. Popper is overwhelmed with excitement.
- 7:11 While Mr. Popper is expressing his excitement about the broadcast, his doorbell rings. He is delivered a large box. When he bends towards it, he hears a squawk.
- 7:12 Mr. Popper opens the lid of the box and the sides fall away. The lights become bright white. A penguin is inside the box. Operated by two actors, the penguin begins to explore the Poppers' living room while squawking. The penguin pecks at furniture, knocks over the globe, and jumps on their chairs. Mrs. Popper enters with laundry and squeals when she sees the penguin.
- 7:13 Mr. Popper explains the penguin is a gift from Admiral Drake. He decides the noise the penguin makes sounds like "cook," so he names him Captain Cook. Mrs. Popper asks if they should contact the zoo, and Mr. Popper says Captain Cook will live with them.
- 7:14 Music plays as Mrs. Popper begins to sing about the rules Captain Cook needs to learn to live with them. These rules include not jumping on furniture and keeping things clean. As she sings, Mrs. Popper also wonders what their neighbors will say.
- 7:15 They place a table cloth over the box Captain Cook came in to teach him table manners. Mr. Popper says that penguins usually regurgitate food for their young. Mrs. Popper sings about table manners. Captain Cook burps in her face.
- 7:16 As Captain Cook is exploring the house and squawking, he bites Mrs. Popper's knees and bottom. Mr. Popper reviews the rules in song.
- 7:17 They notice Captain Cook has disappeared. They check to make sure the goldfish is safe and that their front door is closed. The lights at the front of the stage dim as a light comes on behind the Stillwater curtain revealing a refrigerator. They find Captain Cook in the refrigerator.
- 7:18 The golden lights fade back in. The penguin is squawking and scurrying around the living room while they try to teach him commands.
- 7:19 Captain Cook chases Mrs. Popper, bites her bottom, and hisses. The music stops. Mrs. Popper tells Mr. Popper to take the penguin for a stroll. Mr. Popper gets a leash on Captain Cook. The furniture is moved to the sides.
- 7:20 Music plays. Neighbors sing about meeting Mr. Popper and his bird. The penguin circles Mr. Popper and almost trips him. Mr. Popper struggles to explain to the neighbors that Captain Cook is a penguin. The lights become a brighter gold with hues of pink.

- 7:21 On their walk, the dog puppet barks at the penguin. Someone offers balloons. Captain Cook takes one in his beak and begins to rise off the ground. Mr. Popper brings him back down. Together, they cross a crosswalk.
- 7:22 Captain Cook jumps up into a baby carriage. This alarms the person pushing the carriage. Mr. Popper gets him back down. A police officer appears and blows their whistle. The officer tells Mr. Popper he needs to keep the penguin on a leash and get a license for it. The lights become brighter with a spot on Mr. Popper and Captain Cook.
- 7:23 Mr. Popper stands in a spotlight with a phone making calls to try to get a penguin license. The other actors stand in spotlights behind him as they converse with him. Everyone he speaks with is very confused about what he is asking for.
- 7:24 Mr. Popper decides he doesn't need a penguin license if no one knows what one is. The spotlights disappear as the golden lights fade back up.
- 7:25 Actors narrating talk about how Captain Cook has become very sad and sick. The light returns behind the curtain to reveal Mr. and Mrs. Popper fretting over Captain Cook in the refrigerator. The lights in front of the curtain fade.
- 7:26 Behind the curtain, a vet comes and tells them the bird is sick because the climate is so different from Antarctica. The light behind the curtain fades and the lights on the front of the stage are a dim gold. *Glow sticks will be raised.*
- 7:27 Mr. Popper sits in his chair, lit by his lamp, holding Captain Cook in a blanket. There is gentle music. He rocks him and sings Captain Cook a song about how important the penguin is to him. The lights on the stage fade up. Mr. Popper exits. Actors narrate about how he is very worried. *Glow sticks will be lowered.*
- 7:28 Music plays. Mr. Popper writes a letter to Admiral Drake that is sent via paper airplane. Admiral Drake receives this letter, lit behind the curtain. He sends this letter off to other explorers. The letter is represented as a paper airplane. There is beeping as the message is passed along. There is green light when Darwin weighs in, next a pink light for Amelia Earhart, then a blue light for Captain Scott and Earnest Shackleton. *Glow sticks will be raised.* Each explorer has their own paper airplane which they will throw into the audience. The lights on the stage return to gold when the London Zoo intervenes and a doorbell rings. *Glow sticks will be lowered.*
- 7:29 Mr. Popper receives another delivery. The London Zoo has sent them their sick penguin because they think the penguins are suffering from loneliness. The penguins squawk.
- 7:30 They name the new penguin Greta. Music plays. They call Captain Cook to meet Greta. The penguins squawk at each other and become very excited.
- 7:31 Since there is not enough room in their refrigerator for both penguins, Mr. Popper decides they will keep their windows open to let the cold air in. When they do this, the lights on stage become whiter and brighter.
- 7:32 Music plays while Mr. and Mrs. Popper sing about their life in their now very cold house. The penguins bond.
- 7:33 Mr. Popper uses a hose (without flowing water) to make an ice rink in their house. Sheets are pulled over their furniture to represent the snow that has entered their house.
- 7:34 Mr. and Mrs. Popper don hats and scarves as they continue to dance and sing. The penguins join in on the last note. Mr. and Mrs. Popper kiss.

- 7:35 Greta is placed at the center of the stage. She hops up to reveal a baby penguin. Baby penguins continue to appear. There is a total of eight penguin babies.
- 7:36 The lights on stage are tinted pink. Mr. Popper sings about the penguin babies as they climb all over him.
- 7:37 As he continues to sing, the penguin babies squawk.
- 7:38 The penguin babies cuddle in a basket as their lullaby ends. They all start squawking together. Mrs. Popper calms them down. Then they squawk again. Mrs. Popper calms them again.
- 7:39 The Poppers are concerned about how they will pay for all of the fish the growing penguins need. Mr. Popper decides he'll take the penguins with him to his painting jobs.
- 7:40 The penguins ride on Mr. Popper's paint cart and squawk. The penguins are noisy as they try to help. A paint can falls on one penguin. As they move around, they knock each other over.
- 7:41 The penguins leave footprints on Mr. Popper's tarp. They continue to squawk as they make a tower together standing on top of one another.
- 7:42 Mr. Popper gets the idea to train the penguins for a show as another means of making money. While he packs up his painting things, the penguins jump and squawk and there is narration about the penguins rehearsing.
- 7:43 They find an ad in the paper. They transport the penguins in a train of small wheeled carts to meet Mr. Greenbaum. Mr. Greenbaum is grouchy and loud. Mr. Popper introduces their act as "Popper's Performing Penguins" and then he makes explosion sound effects.
- 7:44 Right before their audition, the phone rings. Mr. Greenbaum takes the call; there is audible squeaking for the talking on the other end. The closing act for his current show hasn't arrived. He tells the Poppers they will go in its place. They are nervous because they've never performed in front of people before.
- 7:45 Mr. Popper wheels the penguins off stage. Mr. Greenbaum addresses the audience directly to introduce the act. The lights are lowered and there are sounds of audience members mumbling. When he first says that the closing act has been replaced, there is booing and hissing. When he announces the penguins, there are cheers.
- 7:46 The lights on stage go up and music plays as Mr. Popper and Mrs. Popper dance on the stage. A penguin balancing on the globe comes out. There is an applause sound effect. Mr. Popper lays out a board and the penguins balance on it. Then, they jump and balance on each other. They slide and swing around Mr. Popper.
- 7:47 The penguins bow together to big applause.
- 7:48 Mr. Popper holds out broomstick. Penguins bite onto its ends. Mr. Popper lifts them as if her were in a weight lifting competition. The penguins make a pyramid. There is cheering.
- 7:49 After their performance, Mr. Greenbaum offers the Poppers a contract. Music plays. Mrs. Popper reads the contract; Mr. Popper signs it.
- 7:50 The stage is lit with pink lights. Mr. Greenbaum sings about the penguin show traveling the world. The lights along the frame flash. There are pulsating pink, purple, and red lights on stage. A penguin in a box is revealed. They sing about the penguins taking over the opera. One penguin bites a singer on the bottom.

- 7:51 The lights grow dimmer. Mr. Popper, Mrs. Popper, and Mr. Greenbaum spin black and white umbrellas.
- 7:52 The light on the stage fades to gold as a magician sings about pulling a penguin out of their hat instead of a bunny.
- 7:53 The lighting becomes pinker. They prepare to shoot a penguin out of a cannon. There is the sound effect of the cannon going off. The lights on the frame twinkle. The penguin's umbrella opens up as it slowly lowers. There is "tada" music upon its landing. The lights around the frame rotate and blink. Drumming music leads up to Mr. Popper and Mrs. Popper appearing in coats covered in penguins. The Stillwater backdrop drops to reveal a gold curtain. There is a dance routine with the penguins. Confetti falls on stage. The lights grow brighter. Everyone bows.
- 7:54 Admiral Drake arrives and applauds the Poppers. The penguins come out and squawk as they meet Admiral Drake.
- 7:55 While Admiral Drake is impressed, it is time for the penguins to go home to Antarctica. The lights dim.
- 7:56 Captain Cook and Mr. Popper are both very sad. They hug. The bow of a sailing ship emerges through the frame. The lights come up brighter. Mr. Popper says "goodbye" to Greta and then to Captain Cook. Music plays. The light continues to grow brighter.
- 7:57 Music continues. Admiral Drake is confused as to why Mr. Popper is saying "goodbye." He asks Mr. Popper if he's coming with him. Mr. Popper thanks him but says he needs to stay with his wife. *Glow sticks will be raised in preparation of snow falling.* Mrs. Popper calls to him, already onboard the ship. Mr. Popper goes to join them. Fake snow begins to fall in the audience. The music becomes upbeat. Birds call. The lights go down. There is the sound of a ship horn. The lights slowly come up on Mr. Popper standing at the bow of the ship. There are lights on shining on the walls of the audience.
- 7:59 The light on stage is bright white. The penguins appear in the ship windows. Mr. Popper sings at the bow of the ship. The lights grow brighter on the final note. There is a final musical beat, and the lights and *glow sticks go down at the end of the song.*
- 8:00 The golden light returns for bows. Right after they bow, Mr. Greenbaum invites the audience to join him for a penguin dance since his penguins have left. The steps involve squatting, flapping arms like flippers, tapping toes, shaking hips and rubbing arms as if it is cold. The lights in the audience come up. The other actors come to join in the dance. They repeat the song and dance. The lights on the frame blink. Towards the end of the song, *glow sticks will be raised.* More snow falls at the end of the song. The actors wave goodbye and leave the stage. *Glow sticks will be lowered.* End of show.

How to prepare for the Story (before the show):

Here is a full story synopsis – but, please be warned, as a *full* synopsis, it is full of spoilers!

Plot Synopsis

written by CTC Education Staff

Polar Explorer, Admiral Drake, begins the show with a radio broadcast from the bottom of the world. We hear about his expedition to the South Pole. Meanwhile, in the small town of Stillwater, Mr. Popper is getting ready to leave for his job as a house painter. On his way, he greets many townspeople. Mr. Popper has an active imagination and while he is working, the color of his paints inspire his daydreams about traveling around the world. He laments that at the end of the day, he is still in Stillwater.

Back at the Popper house, Mr. Popper is reading a book about Arctic adventures. Mr. Popper loves to learn about the arctic through books, movies, and Admiral Drake’s radio broadcast from Antarctica. This evening, Mr. and Mrs Popper are listening to the radio broadcast together when Admiral Drake addresses Mr. Popper directly from the radio. Admiral Drake announces that he has sent Mr. Popper a special surprise.

Just then, the doorbell rings. Inside a package is a real, live penguin. The penguin is clearly nervous and upset about being in a new environment and causes quite a mess by jumping on the couch, knocking over furniture, and eating the pet goldfish. Mr. Popper decides to name him Captain Cook. Mrs. Popper is nervous about having a penguin as a pet but decides it is okay as long as the penguin follows the rules. Captain Cook makes the fridge his bedroom, where it is nice and cold.

The next day, the penguin is still causing quite the commotion and destroying everything in sight. Mr. Popper decides to take Captain Cook out for a stroll around the town. Mr. Popper’s new pet confuses the residents of Stillwater and they mistake him for many different animals. A balloon seller gives the penguin a balloon which causes him to float into the air. Captain Cook upsets a baby when he jumps onto a baby carriage and the police are called. The police officer instructs Mr. Popper to keep his new pet on a leash and get a penguin license. Mr. Popper quickly learns that it is not easy to obtain a penguin license and gives up.

Mr. and Mrs. Popper begin to notice that Captain Cook does not seem happy. He will not eat and has fallen ill due to the warm weather. They try to take him to the vet who explains that penguins just aren’t meant for the climate of Stillwater. The vet encourages them to wrap him in ice packs but fears that the penguin might die. They nurse him back to health as best they can, but write to famous explorers for help. The London Zoo ends up hearing the news of Captain Cook and they send Greta, another penguin suffering from loneliness, to live with the Poppers. Greta does the trick and Captain Cook bounces back in no time.

Winter is setting in and the penguins enjoy the change in climate. The two penguins are too big to both fit in the refrigerator, so Mr. Popper decides to open all of the windows to make the entire house cold like the Arctic. Mrs. Popper is not fond of this idea. The Poppers begin to wonder what Greta and Captain Cook are saying to each other and sing a love song. Before long, the entire house has been transformed into a winter wonderland complete with an ice-skating rink.

Greta & Captain Cook are inseparable and before long, Greta lays eggs- eight eggs! They name the newest additions after famous explorers. The baby chicks grow at a tremendous rate and the more they grow, the more they eat! The Poppers begin to suffer the financial strain of providing large amounts of fish every day for them to eat.

Mr. Popper needs to find ways to generate more family income and decides to put the penguins to work in his painting business. The penguins spend more time playing than helping and Mr. Popper has to come up with another plan to keep

the penguins busy and increase their income. Mr. Popper schedules them an audition with a theatre producer and the penguins are hired to go out on tour. The penguins walk on a giant ball, lift dumbbells, and perform acrobatics. You truly have never seen a show like Mr. Popper's Performing Penguins.

Admiral Drake decides to pop by for a visit and has a chance to see the penguins' performance. At the end of the night, Admiral Drake breaks the news that it is time for the penguins to go back home to their natural habitat. Mr. Popper is sad but understands that this is what is best, so he begins to say a tearful goodbye. Admiral Drake is surprised because he expected Mr. Popper to come with them. Mr. Popper begins to explain that he can't leave home because of Mrs. Popper, but sees that she is already onboard! They all travel to Antarctica for a fabulous adventure.

For additional means of preparing for and processing this production, check out our [Audience Resource Guide](#). It contains information about Richard and Florence Atwater, facts about Antarctica, and additional activities and resources.

Preparing for the CTC Experience

Priming:

Adult audience members attending with youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other sensitivity issues may read our guidance and environmental mapping below to prepare for the total experience and excitement at CTC. These tips are for anyone attending any public performances on the UnitedHealth Group Stage, not just the Sensory Friendly shows.

Getting Ready:

- Coming to CTC can be a special occasion, or a casual family outing, but it's always fun. Some audience members dress up, and some do not – it's your choice.
- You can bring your own food and drink. The rules are that food must be consumed in the lobby and not the theatre. Drinks are allowed in the theatre.
- Children can bring weighted blankets, their own noise cancelling earmuffs or headphones, and comfort toys as needed. You can bring a camera and take photos in our lobbies but not inside the theatre. Electronic devices including phones must be turned off in the theatre.
- Check out CTC's Audience Resource Guide and social media channels to learn more about the show you're going to see.
- Always feel free to call our ticket office 612.874.0400 or contact tickets@childrenstheatre.org if you have any questions.
- Families may select their own seats online. The seating in the UnitedHealth Group stage is typical theatre seating. There is a step between each row to allow for the best view. The aisles are also extra wide. If you think you might need to leave the show during the performance, we recommend choosing an aisle seat. If additional special assistance or a buffer seat is needed, please call 612.874.0400.

Getting Here:

- Directions? [Click here.](#)
- Parking! [Click here](#) for ramp and lot instructions as well as a map of accessible parking locations.
- CTC shares a main entrance with Minneapolis Institute of Arts and can get fairly crowded.
- Our Ticket Office is immediately inside our main entrance to the left. If you don't already have your tickets, you can pick them up from the Will Call window. Sometimes there is a line.
- There are no bathrooms in the main entrance lobby. You'll need to go upstairs to the Target Lobby and then you will go down the stairs up front by the grey ropes and white wall. There is one all gender accessible restroom in the Target Lobby located next to the elevator.
- To get to our UnitedHealth Group Stage, you'll need to go through the entrance of Mia. To the left of Mia's information desk, you will see a stairway. This stairway leads up to the Target Lobby and UnitedHealth

Group Stage. If you would prefer to use an elevator, please use the entrance behind the wall that has posters of shows that are currently playing and upcoming shows. You will see the signs for the elevator. The Target Lobby is located on Floor 2.

Before the Show:

- People gather in the Target Lobby for shows on the UnitedHealth Group Stage.
- The Target Lobby often has coat racks, places to sit and features a gift shop with show-related and educational gifts on one side and concessions on the other.
- Tip: pre-order concessions at the concessions stand before the show to minimize the wait during intermission and you can take beverages into the theatre.
- Ushers can answer any questions you may have, including special needs requests such as audio devices for people with visual or hearing impairments, earplugs for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders or other sensitivity issues.

Restrooms:

- The restrooms for the UnitedHealth Group Stage are down the stairs up front by the grey ropes and white wall. There is one all genders accessible restroom in the Target Lobby located next to the elevator.

Entering the Theatre:

- The House Manager will make announcements about how much time you have before the show, and when it's time to find your seats.
- When you are ready to go into the theatre, ushers will look at your tickets and direct you towards your seating section.
- The UnitedHealth Group Stage does have a balcony. Rows P – S are located in the balcony. There is no elevator access to the balcony.
- Ushers will scan the barcode on your tickets at the entrance to the theatre. Once the theatre is open, ushers will be there to direct you to the appropriate door to find your seats.
- There are no steps to reach the lobby if you come up via the elevator and our accessible seating is located in Row O. Rows A – N and P – S require walking down or up multiple stairs.
- Accessible seating is located in Row O in the UnitedHealth Group Stage.
- Ushers will hand out programs at the door.
- Your ticket number must match your seat. Rows A – O are on the Main Floor. Rows P – S are located in the Balcony. Seats that start with 1 are the left side of the audience and seats that have higher numbers are located on the right side of the audience.
- Time to turn off electronic devices! Remember: no photography, texting or phone usage in the theatres.

Need a Break?

- INTERMISSION: *Mr. Popper's Penguins* does not have an intermission.

If anyone needs a break *before* the end of the show or has trouble sitting quietly:

- The UnitedHealth Group Stage will project the show in the lobby on the large white wall above the UnitedHealth Group Stage sign. The sound and viewing quality is not equal to the live experience inside, but it does serve those who want to continue watching the show but need to move around or make noise.
- The UnitedHealth Group Stage also has a “quiet room” available at the back of the left side of the audience on the main floor. This room allows you to see the show through a glass window and the sound is broadcast in the room.
- The U.S. Bank Take-a-Break Space is located on the Cargill Mezzanine. It is equipped with fidgets, weighted blankets, and other sensory supports. There will be signs and ushers to help direct you.
- EXTRA HELP: Ushers can help with transitions between areas during the show.

After the Show:

- The cast always returns for a Curtain Call. Prepare for applause!
- When it's time to leave the theatre, the crowd can move slowly and there may be lines. If you need to wait for the crowd to thin, you can wait in your seats for a few minutes.
- The gift shop and restrooms remain open after the show for approximately half an hour. You are welcome to sit in our lobby and talk about the show during this time.
- CTC is located in a neighborhood with many restaurants. Click [here](#) for more information.
- Check out [CTC's website](#) and [social media](#) to learn more about CTC productions, classes, camps, and other programs and give us your feedback after the show.

Contact the CTC Ticket Office at 612.874.0400 or tickets@childrenstheatre.org for more information, seating questions, other requests and more.

This season's Sensory Friendly programming is made possible by



the POWER of POSSIBLE™

[US Bank Logo: "US" is in a red banner next to "bank" in blue lowercase letters. Beneath is their slogan, "the power of possible." 'Power' and 'possible' are in uppercase letters. 'The' and 'of' are in lowercase italics.]



[Fraser logo: Beneath 'Fraser,' it reads: Special needs, bright futures. To the left of the words, simple lines depict a person with arms reaching upwards towards a star.]



[AUSM logo: large lowercase letters spell "ausm;" beneath in lowercase letters: Autism Society of Minnesota.]