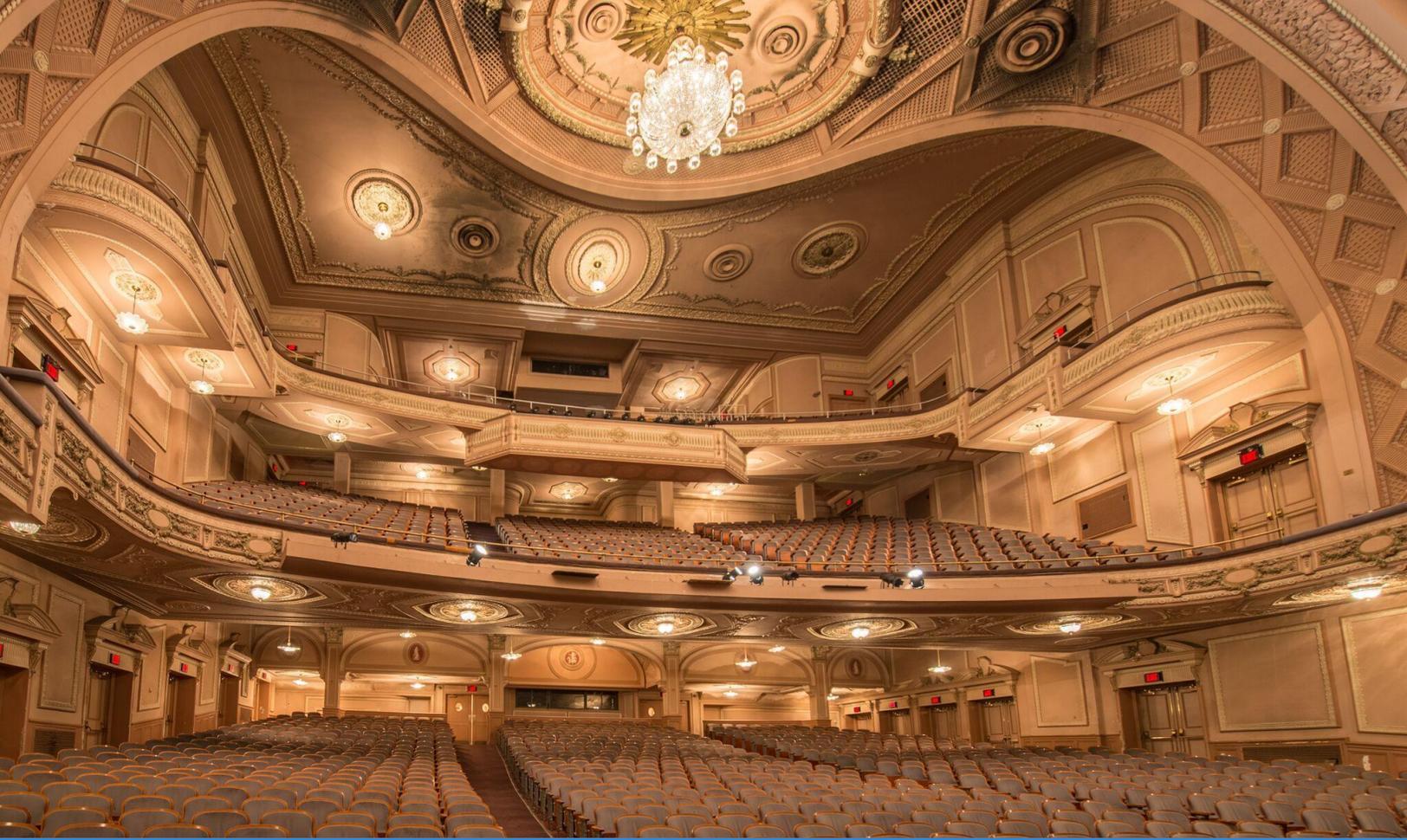




Going to the Merriam Theater

SENSORY FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE
PRE-VISIT STORIES



going to the theater

I am going to the Merriam Theater to see *The Rainbow Fish*.



historic space

The Merriam Theater is a very old, special building.

People have been going to The Merriam Theater to see plays, musicals, and dance performances for 100 years!

Because the theater is old, it may look, sound, or smell different than other buildings I have been to.



waiting

I might have to wait in line to get into the theater, to get to my seat, or to get into the bathroom.

After the performance, I might have to wait to leave the theater.



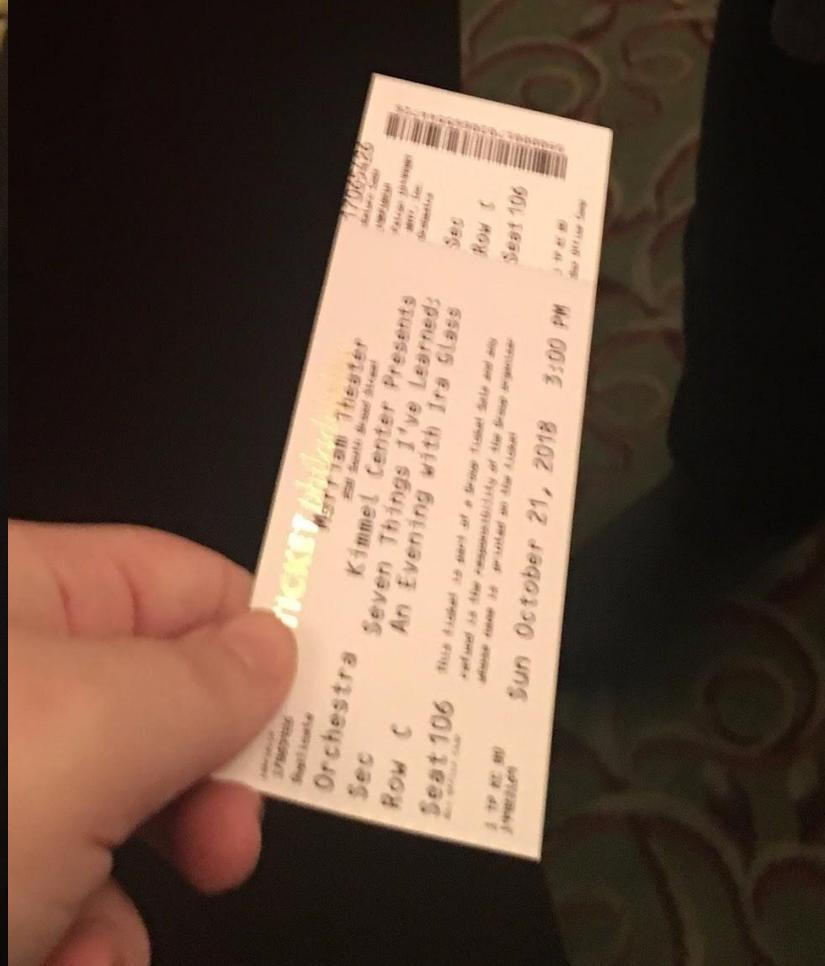
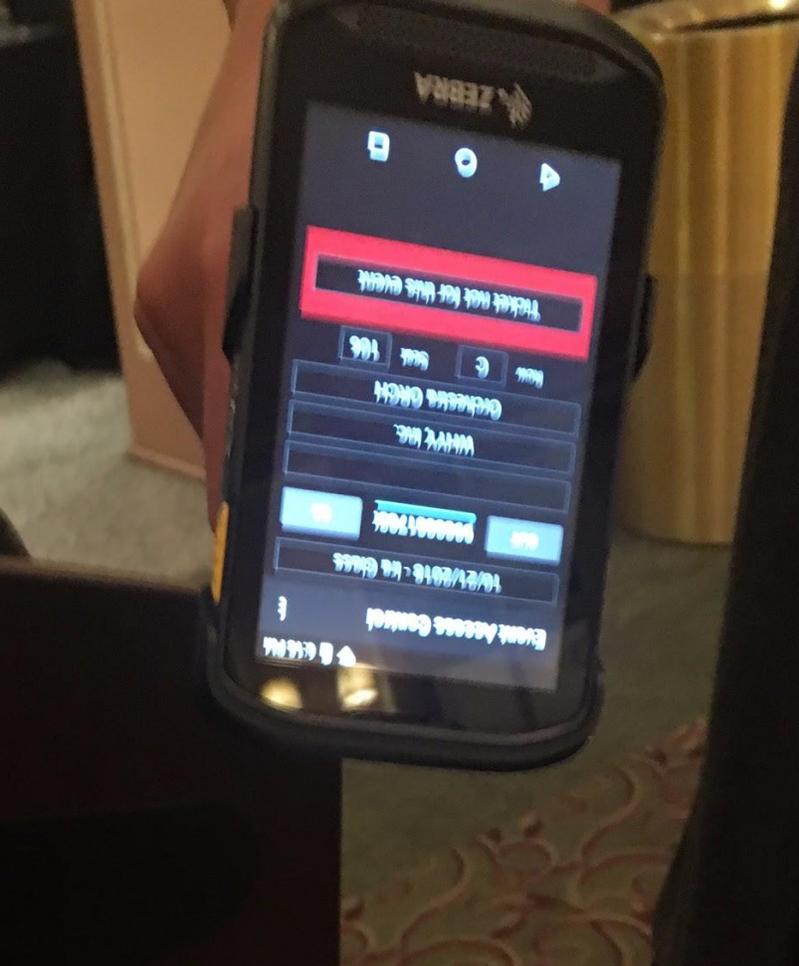
usher

When I enter the theater, I will see Merriam Theater ushers in red jackets.

The ushers are friendly helpers who will:

1. take my ticket, and
2. tell me where I will sit to see the show.

If I need help or have a question, I can ask an usher.



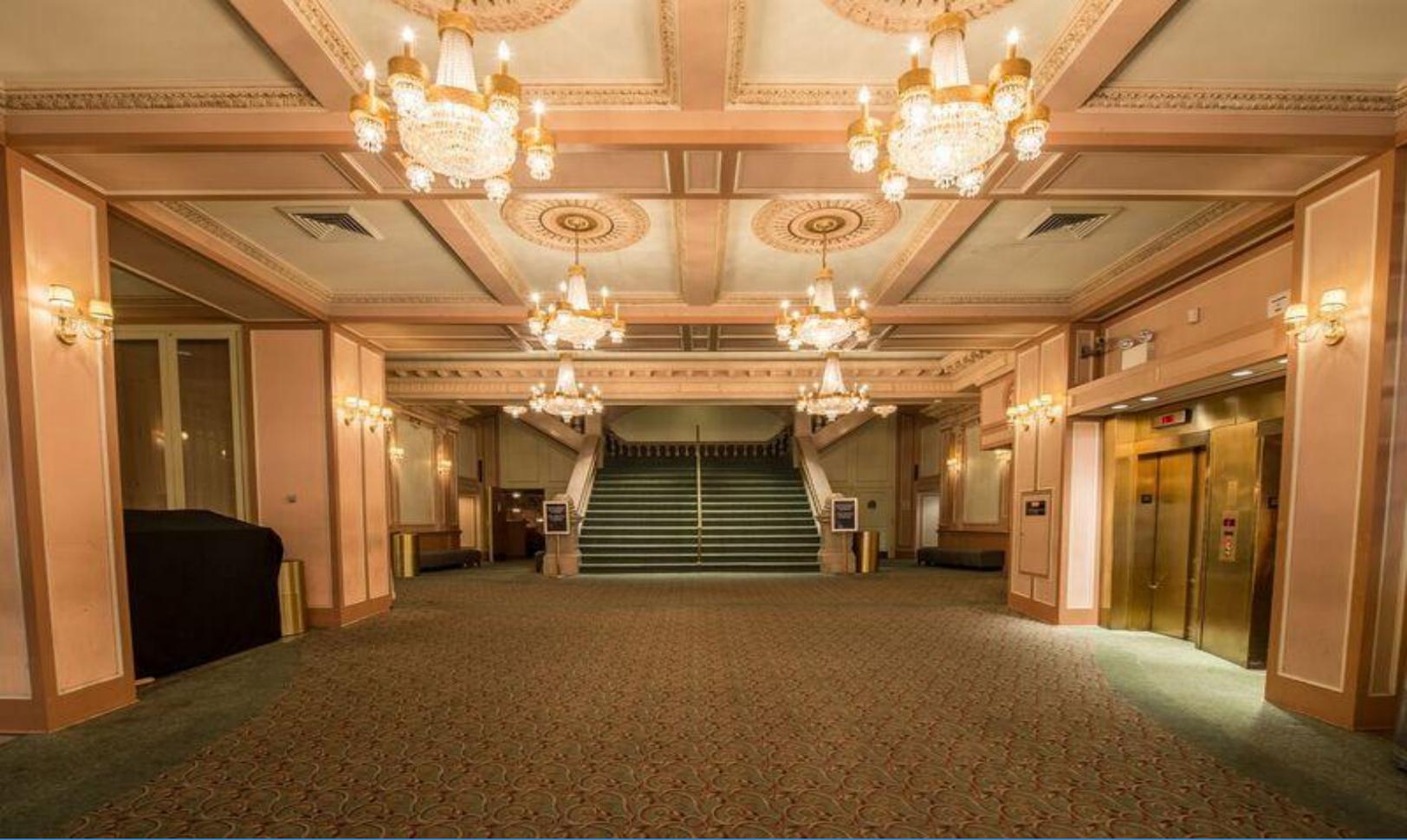
tickets

I will have a ticket to see the show.

An usher will scan my paper ticket.

The usher will give me back my ticket after the ticket is scanned.

The ticket tells me where my seat is.



lobby

When I get inside the building, I may have to wait in the lobby before the show starts.

The lobby might be crowded and noisy. I can also wait outside if the weather is not rainy or cold.



crowds

The theater, the theater lobby, the elevator, and the stairs may be crowded.

I can go outside or look for a quieter area if I want to get away from the crowds.

Once the show has started, the lobby will be a quiet area.



concession stand

There will be food and drinks sold in the lobby at the concession stand.



bathrooms

There are many bathrooms inside of the theater, and they all look different. There are bathrooms on different levels.

If I need help, I can ask the usher where the bathrooms are.

The toilets in the bathrooms flush manually using the handle.



elevators

I may have to ride in an elevator to get to my seat or to get to the bathroom.

The elevator is small.

There may be other people in the elevator standing close to me.

I will only need to be inside of the elevator for a short time.



stairs

There are many staircases inside of the theater.

I may have to use the stairs to get to the bathroom or to get to my seat.

I should always be careful and walk slowly when taking the stairs. To make sure I am safe, I can hold onto the stair railings.



inside the theater

When I go inside the theater, I will see lots of seats and the stage where the show will take place.

I will also see other audience members who are also there to see the performance.



the stage and curtain

Before the show begins, there will be a curtain in front of the stage hiding the performers.

Once the show starts, the curtain will open.

The actors will be on the stage for the entire show.



my seat

I can match the number and letter on my ticket with the number and letter on the seats.

When I find a match, this is my seat.

I will be sitting next to other people in the theater.

The usher can help me find my seat.



balcony

This is what the stage looks like from the balcony.

I can take the elevator or stairs to get to the balcony.



puppets

Puppets are used during the show.

The puppets are handled by people called puppeteers.

A puppet show is a way to tell a story.



lighting

The lights around the seats will be lit for the entire show so that I can see where I am going.

But the lights on the stage will be dark for the entire show.

I should be careful walking around the theater.



quiet area

If I need a break from the show, I can go to the quiet area.

The quiet area is on the first floor in the lobby.

Once the show starts, I can go to the quiet area at any time.



clapping

During the show, people will clap when they see something they like.

People clap for a short time.

I can clap too, or I can cover my ears if the clapping noise is too loud.



end of the show

When the show is over, the actors will come onto the stage and take a bow.

People may stand up and clap to let the performers know they liked the show.



leaving the theater

When the show is over, I will leave the theater.

The aisle and lobby may be crowded when I leave the theater.

I will walk slowly and stay with the person I am with.

Credits

Materials for the Sensory Friendly performance of *The Rainbow Fish* were developed in collaboration with the following:



THE KIMMEL CENTER
ACADEMY OF MUSIC
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Proud Season Sponsor



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