Going to Ford’s Theatre

Sensory-Friendly Performance: Pre-Visit Story
I am going to Ford’s Theatre to see a show.
Before I enter the lobby, a staff member will check my ID and my COVID-19 vaccine card. I can show them my paper card or a picture of my card on my phone. If I don’t have a vaccine card, I will show a negative COVID test.

I will wear my mask over my nose and mouth the whole time I’m inside.
I may need to wait in the lobby before the show begins. The lobby may be crowded and noisy.
We may pick up our tickets at the Box Office. The Box Office staff will ask me my name before giving me my ticket.
Bathrooms are down this hallway. They are open anytime during the show.

The paper towel dispensers, faucets and toilets in the bathroom are automatic. The automatic toilets may be loud and surprise me.
The Ford’s Theatre Museum is open. I can visit the museum before the show.

I will walk down a stairway to get to the museum. I can ask a staff member for help if I need an elevator.

The museum is open during the show if I need a quiet space.
Ushers are friendly helpers who will:

1. Scan my ticket,
2. Give me a program book about the show, and
3. Help me find where I will sit to see the show.
There are many doors to the theatre. If I go through the wrong door, it’s OK. Every door goes into the theatre. When I go inside the theatre, I will see a lot of seats and the stage where the play will be performed.
When I am in the theatre, I will sit with my family or friends.

There will be other people here to see the show too. I may be sitting next to someone I don’t know.
When I am inside the theatre, I will see a special area called the Presidential Box.

The Presidential Box is where President Abraham Lincoln sat in 1865.

It is decorated today just like it was for President Lincoln in 1865.

No one sits in the Box today. It is just a way to remember President Lincoln.
When I enter the theatre, I may see and walk past the technical sound booth.  
There may be a worker at the booth getting ready for the show.  
Even though he is close to me, I will not talk to him because he is working.
A show is a story that is told by people on the stage.
The people in the play are called actors.
The actors pretend to be characters during the show.
The actors will sing to help tell the story.
I can go down into the museum if I need a quiet space during the show.

I will keep my mask on inside.

If I need to take my mask off, I can step outside to the sidewalk.

When I’m ready to come back inside, I can put my mask back on and enter the theatre through the same doors.
People clap during the show when they like something. Sometimes people also cheer or stand when they love something.

I can clap, cheer or stand if I like what I see or hear. People usually clap for a short time.
End of the Show

When the show is over, all of the actors will come on stage and bow.

This is called a curtain call.

Many people will clap a lot to let the actors know how much they liked the show.
When the show is over, I will leave the theatre.  
The lobby will be crowded after the show.  
I may have to wait my turn to leave the theatre and the lobby.
GOING TO FORD’S THEATRE – CREDITS

All stage photos are from the Ford’s Theatre production of *Grace*.

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