FORD’S THEATRE SOCIETY HOSTS ITS FIRST SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE FOR THE WIZ

The Wiz: Saturday, May 5, at 2:00 p.m.

Washington, D.C. – Ford’s Theatre Society will host its first a sensory-friendly performance with The Wiz, on May 5, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. This performance is designed to be welcoming for individuals on the autism spectrum and those with other sensory sensitivities who might benefit from an adjusted theatrical environment.

Theatrical adjustments for this performance of The Wiz may include: lessening of strobe lighting and lighting focused on the audience; lower stage sound levels, especially for sudden or loud sounds; designated take-a-break spaces so that attendees who need to move during the performance may do so freely; designated quiet areas; and allowances for audience talking and use of tablets and smartphones for communication. Printed materials to prepare attendees for their visit to Ford’s Theatre and the performance itself will be made available to patrons.

Tickets to Sensory-Friendly Performance
A limited number of tickets are available in order to allow ample space for patron movement needs. Tickets for the sensory-friendly performance range $25-$30 and are available for purchase by calling the Box Office at (202) 347-4833, option 7. Ford’s Theatre staff are trained to assist patrons in finding the best seating options for their needs. Tickets are refundable until the start of the performance on May 5.

As part of this pilot program, Ford’s Theatre has enlisted the support of consultants Diane Nutting and Roger Ideishi, who have extensive experience developing sensory-friendly performances and events. In addition to assisting with preparatory materials for theatregoers and environment adjustments at Ford’s, they are also preparing our front-line team, cast and crew to welcome our audience for the sensory-friendly performance.
“This first sensory-friendly performance is a very exciting way for Ford’s to open its door for potential new audiences,” said **Associate Director of Visitor Operations Allison Alonzy**. “Our mission is to celebrate Lincoln’s ideals and legacy. To truly live up to this mission, we must constantly endeavor to make Ford’s Theatre and its programming more accessible. With this pilot performance, we hope to provide an environment where individuals and families can relax and just be who they are while enjoying a world-class theatre experience.”

Ford’s Theatre added this sensory-friendly performance to other accessibility and outreach programs, including **sign-interpreted** performances (April 5, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.), **captioned** performances (April 21, 2018, at 2 p.m.), **audio-described** performances (May 12, 2018, at 2:00 p.m.), the **Free First Preview** program, **Under 35 Nights**, **Student Matinees** and others.

**The Wiz**
By William F. Brown; Music and Lyrics by Charlie Smalls
Based on The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum
Directed by Kent Gash; Choreographed by Dell Howlett
Playing through May 12, 2018; Sensory-Friendly Performance on May 2

Ease on down the road with Dorothy and her friends Scarecrow, Tinman and Lion on their quest to meet The Wiz. In this adaptation of L. Frank Baum’s magical novel, Dorothy is whisked away by a tornado to the fanciful land of Oz. There, she and her sidekicks encounter Munchkins, flying monkeys and a power-hungry witch named Evillene who vows to destroy them. Winner of seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Original Score, *The Wiz* is a musical feast featuring soul, gospel, R&B and pop. Rediscover the power of courage, heart, brains and friendship.

**Ford’s Theatre Society**
Since reopening in 1968, more than a hundred years after President Abraham Lincoln’s assassination, Ford’s Theatre has celebrated Lincoln’s legacy and explored the American experience through theatre and education. Now under the leadership of Director Paul R. Tetreault, Ford’s Theatre has been recognized for the superior quality of its artistic programming. With works from the Tony-nominated *Come From Away* and the nationally acclaimed *Big River* to the world premieres of *Meet John Doe*, *The Heavens Are Hung In Black*, *Liberty Smith*, *Necessary Sacrifices*, *The Widow Lincoln* and *The Guard*, Ford’s Theatre is making its mark on the American theatre landscape. For its accomplishments, the organization was honored in 2008 with the National Medal of Arts. For more information, visit [www.fords.org](http://www.fords.org).

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#FordsWiz