Going to see *The Wiz*

Ford’s Theatre: Sensory-Friendly Performance

Pre-Visit Story
I am going to Ford’s Theatre in Washington, D.C., to see a musical called *The Wiz.*
The musical *The Wiz* is based on the book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. This musical tells a story with actors talking, dancing and singing on the stage.

In the play, the people are acting out a story about Dorothy traveling to the Land of Oz.

Actors will walk through the theatre near me, but they will not touch me.
The things on stage for *The Wiz* will change many times during the show.

I will see a house, a farm field, a forest and the Emerald City in the Land of Oz.
While I am waiting for the show to begin, I will hear the sound of thunder and see lights flash across the stage. The thunder and lightning are pretend. There will be pretend storm scenes during the show.
There is a band playing music just below the stage. They sit in what is called an orchestra pit during the show.

The music can be both loud and soft at times. The actors will sing songs with the music.
The show has many colorful lights.

Sometimes, there are spotlights that move around the stage.

When the Munchkins are on stage Addaperle appears in a puff of smoke.
Silver Slippers

Dorothy puts on silver slippers.
They are special shoes that have a secret magic power.

Photo of Rusty (Toto) and Ines Nassara by Carol Rosegg.
Dorothy wants to go back home to Kansas. She has to find The Wiz in the Land of Oz to help her get back home. Dorothy meets new friends along the way.
There are four characters that represent the Yellow Brick Road.

Whenever the four characters are on the stage, it means Dorothy and her friends are on the Yellow Brick Road.
Dorothy and her friends walk through a forest to get to the Land of Oz.

When they are walking through the forest, the stage will have pictures of black-and-white swamp creatures known as Kalidahs.

Kalidahs are spooky creatures covered in green moss. They will walk on stage.
When Dorothy and her friends get to the Emerald City, the stage sometimes will have big wizard eyes and fire sparklers.

The first time The Wiz enters the room to meet Dorothy and her friends he appears in a cloud of fog.

The eye pictures, fog and sparklers are on the stage to show Dorothy and her friends that The Wiz is a powerful man.
Evillene the wicked witch wants the silver slippers. She will try to get the slippers from Dorothy. Silver streamers (made to look like pretend water are thrown on Evillene while she is trying to get the slippers. Evillene will melt and disappear into a puff of smoke when she gets water on her.
Believe in Yourself

When The Wiz flies off in a hot air balloon, Dorothy thinks she has no way to get home.

Her magic silver slippers help her get home. When Dorothy has good thoughts of the people she loves and believes she will get home, she is magically transported there.
GOING TO SEE THE WIZ – CREDITS

The pre-visit materials were developed by:

Ford’s Theatre Access Committee

Roger I. Ideishi, JD, OT/L, FAOTA
Program Director & Associate Professor
Program in Occupational Therapy
Temple University

Designer: Carolina Dulcey

Ford’s Theatre would like to extend special thanks to Roger Ideishi and Diane Nutting for their support, expertise and assistance.