

# ..... Pre-viewing Guide for Sensory and ..... Content-Sensitive Patrons

## ***A Very Merry PDX-mas***

November 23 – December 22, 2022

Broadway Rose's mission is to create unparalleled musical theatre experiences that invigorate audiences and enrich our communities. In addition to putting the best work possible on our stage, to us that also means making it possible for individuals to experience it as fully and comfortably as possible. Below are some advisories for sensory and content-sensitive patrons that may contain spoilers for the show.



### **Emotional Music**

The music in *A Very Merry PDX-mas* can be upbeat and cheerful while some songs are more heartfelt and introspective. The show contains typical secular Christmas songs, as well as traditional carols.



### **Flashing Lights**

In the opening of the song "My Favorite Things," there are 1-2 flashes of light to mimic lightning, accompanied by the sound of thunder.



### **Loud Sounds**

There is the use of loud sound effects at different points in the show. In the opening of "My Favorite Things," a crash of thunder is heard. In "The Annoying Drummer Boy," an actor plays a drum set in a way that is meant to be interpreted as humorous and irritating. Before the song "Carol of the Fans" begins, there is a loud referee's whistle heard in the blackout. In the song "My Birthday Comes On Christmas," the actors make the following sound effects: a drum hit, a horn, a train whistle, a pop, and a slide whistle. These sounds are created and controlled by the actors.



### **Theatrical Elements: Adults Portraying Children**

In the first act, there is a medley of songs where the adult actors portray children. This is done through larger set pieces being used to make the actors seem smaller and costumes created in a more childlike style.



### **Sensitive Content**

In the song "My Birthday Comes On Christmas," there is the mention of a child receiving a toy gun as a gift and a small cork gun toy is used to make a popping sound. The cork gun is shaped similarly to a gun, but there is no use of an actual gun or ammunition onstage. In the song "Joy To The Burbs," there is the mention of a hookah bar. In the song "The Truth About Christmas," the first chorus of the song states that there is no Santa Clause.



### **Religious Themes**

The Nativity story is a continuous theme intermixed throughout the show. In the first act, the songs "The Annoying Drummer Boy" and "The Gospel According to Bernie" are meant to be seen as a humorous take on the drummer boy and a shepherd that was present during the birth of Jesus. The end of the second act contains a Nativity scene played by child actors.

The song "Shalom Santa" in the first act talks about different religions and the difficulty a child has picking between the two religions she was brought up in.