

**What to Expect at
Merrimack Repertory Theatre's
Theatre for Young Audiences
hosted at
Middlesex Community College's
Richard & Nancy Donahue Family
Academic Arts Center Theatre
240 Central Street, Lowell**





Performance Social Narrative Guide
Welcome to Merrimack Repertory Theatre!
We are happy that you are joining us for
a performance of Red Riding Hood.

This guide is designed to outline what to expect at the theatre. It will share information about arriving at the theatre, getting settled at the theatre, and expectations during the performance.



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BEFORE YOUR VISIT

We recommend purchasing tickets ahead of time. You can try to purchase tickets on the day of the show, but they may not be available.

You may purchase tickets for any show by calling the box office.

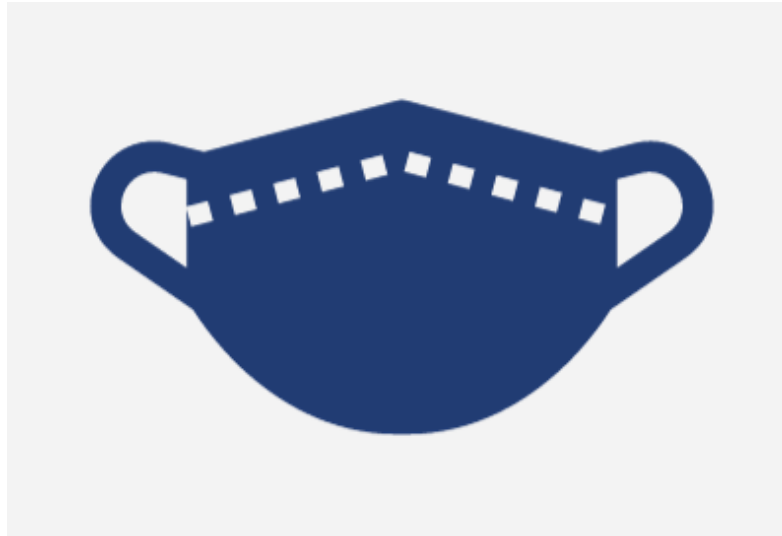
- Calling the Enterprise Bank Box Office: 978-654-4678

- Visiting Merrimack Repertory Theatre's Enterprise Bank Box Office at 50 East Merrimack Street in Lowell.

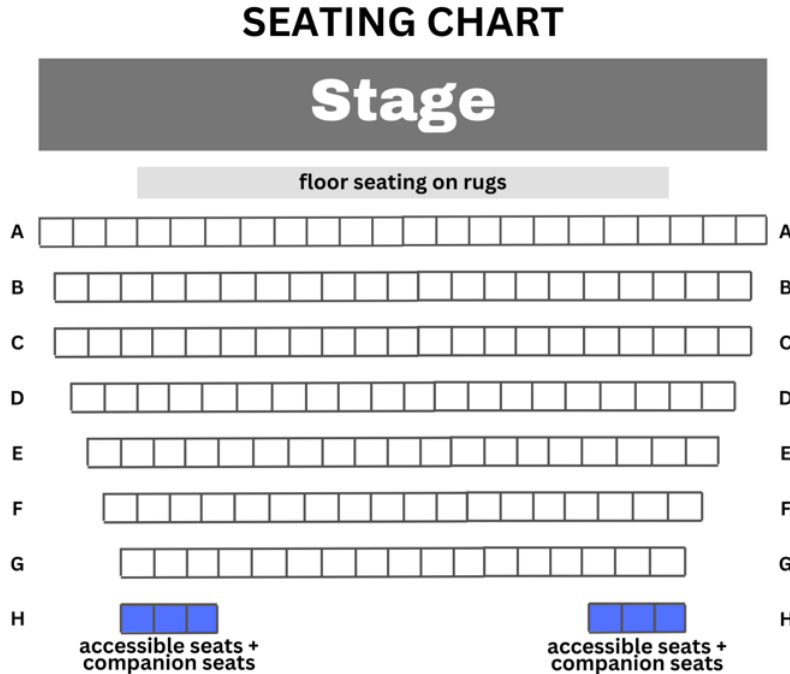
Hours: Tuesday – Saturday,
11:00am – 4:00pm each day.



We do not have any COVID protocols that you must follow; however, if you would like to wear a medical face mask, you are more than welcome to do so.



When you purchase a ticket, simply select the number of tickets you wish to purchase. The venue is General Admission with no assigned or preselected seats.



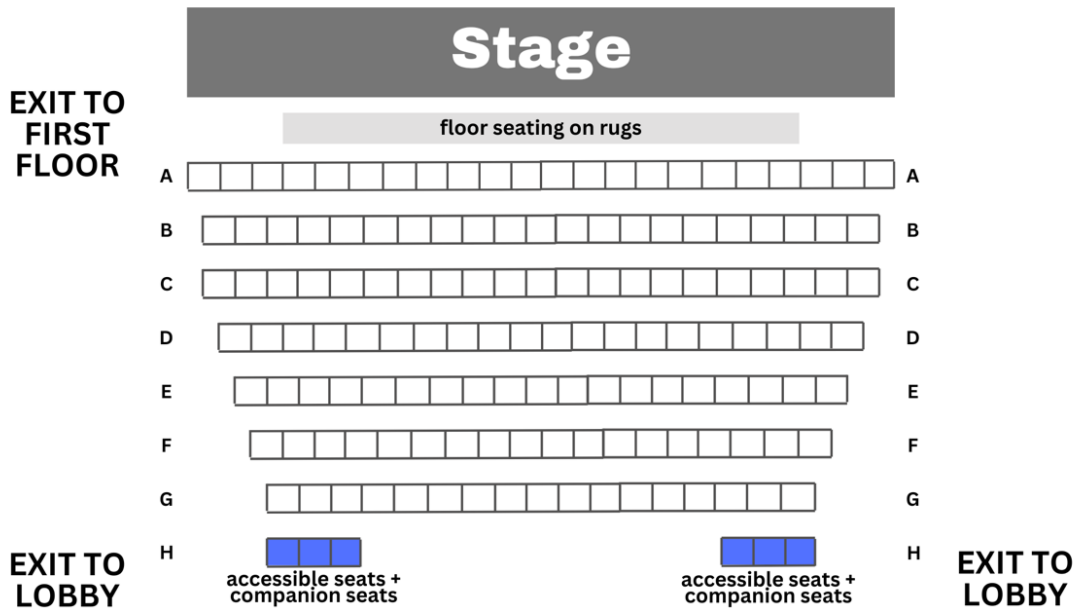
If you like to take breaks during an event, you may want to sit close to an exit. You are free to come and go as you please throughout the performance.

If you like to move around during the performance, you may want to sit close to one of the entrances/exits of the theatre with quick access to the Lobby.

EMERGENCY EXIT
(BACKSTAGE)

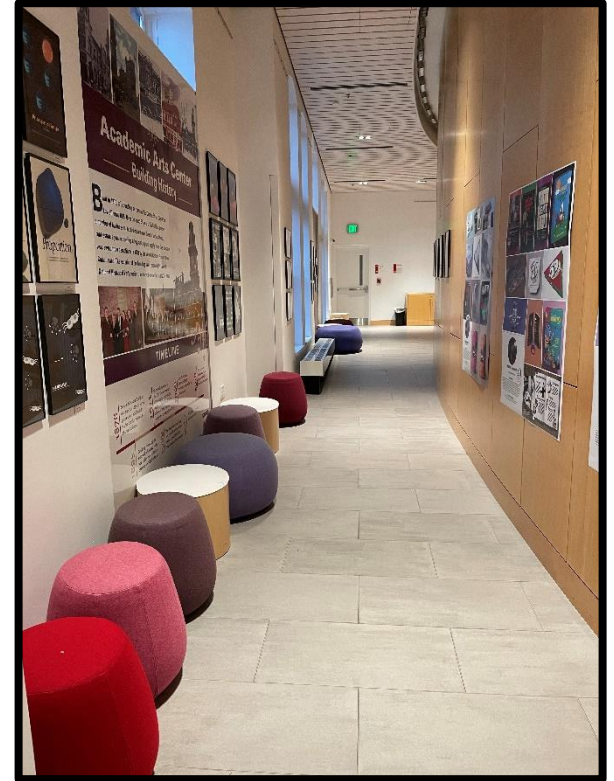
SEATING CHART

EMERGENCY EXIT
(BACKSTAGE)



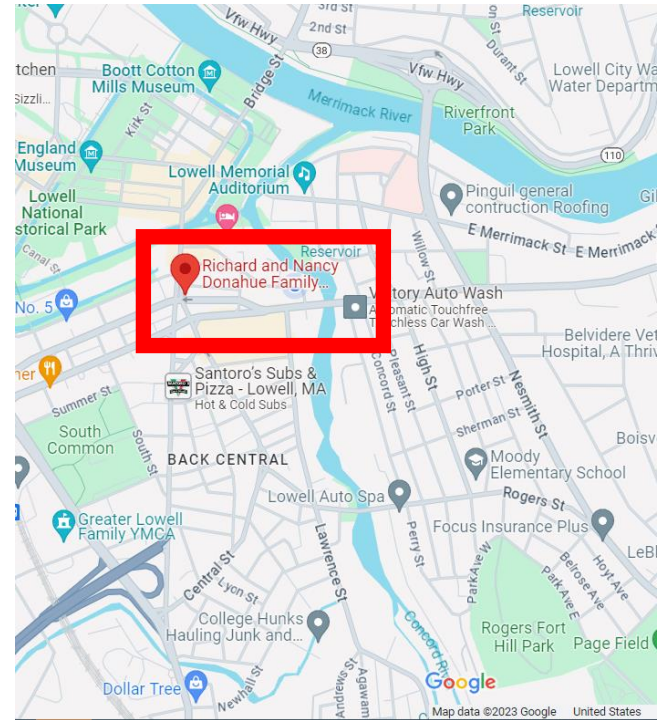
The Lobby is a space where audience members can pace, move, stim, stand, or sit on the ground/in a chair while you are able to watch the show on a monitor.

You are free to use the Lobby at any time during the performance if you need to leave the theatre.

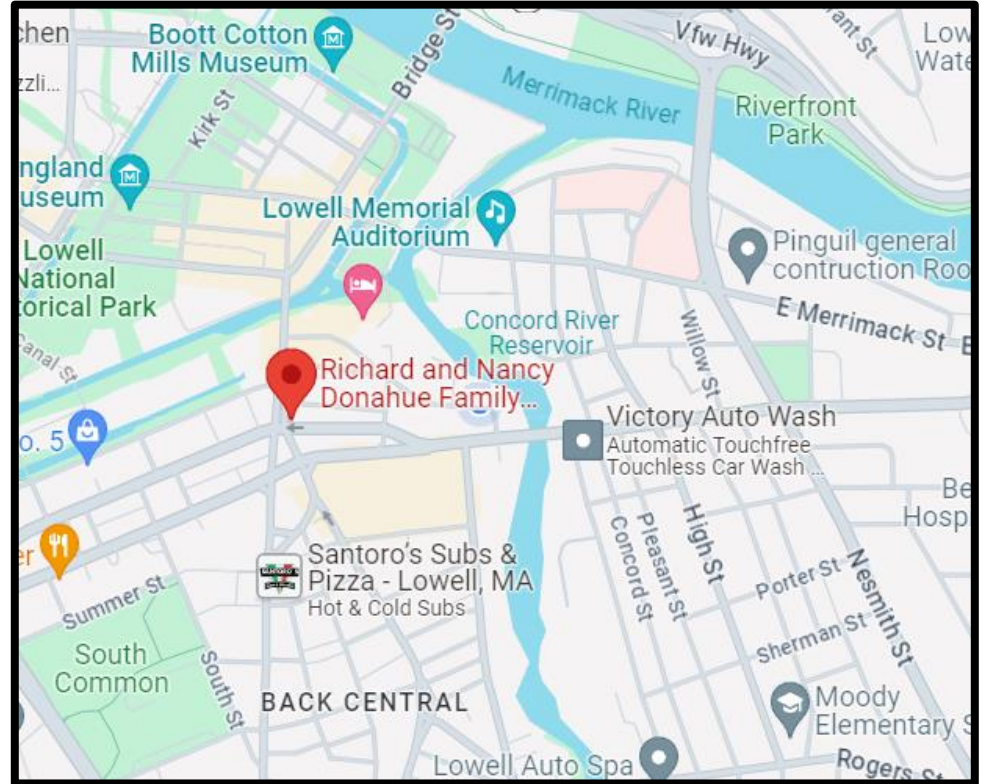


GETTING TO THE THEATRE

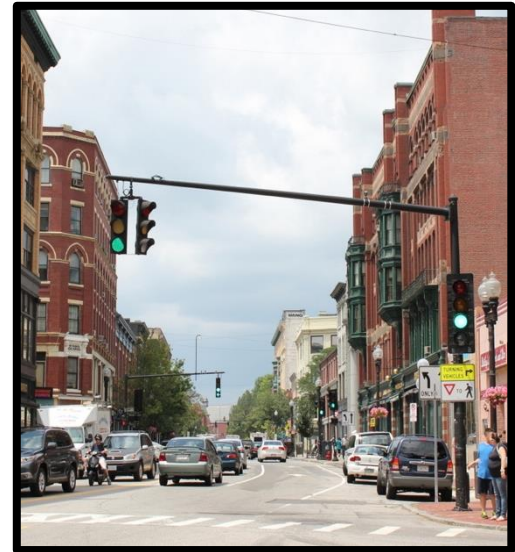
The Middlesex Community College's Richard & Nancy Donahue Family Academic Arts Center is located at 240 Central Street in Lowell, Massachusetts.



The entrance to the building is close to the intersection of Central Street and Green Street.



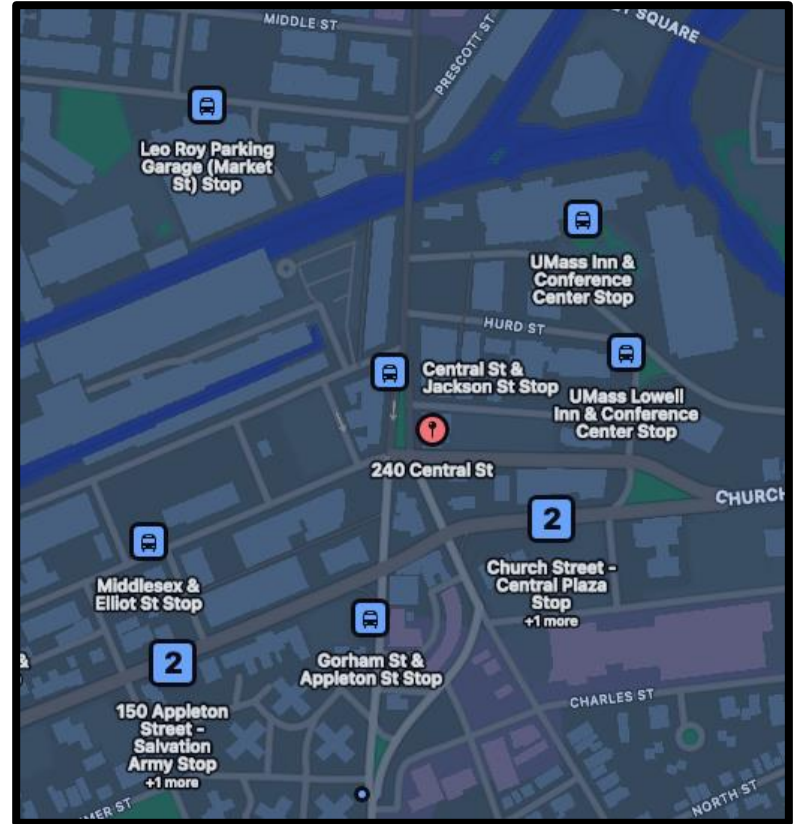
To get to theatre you may walk, take a car, or arrive by bus.



If you are taking a car service or the LRTA Road Runner, you may be dropped off directly in front of the theatre.



To get to the theatre, you may ride a bus. The bus stops are indicated on the map with BLUE icons.



The following Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA) bus stops are nearby.

- Central St & Jackson St Stop – 2 minute walk
- Church Street – Central Plaza Stop (2) – 3 minute walk
- Gorham St & Appleton St Stop – 3 minute walk
- Middlesex & Elliot St Stop – 3 minute walk
- UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center Stop – 4/6 minute walk
- 150 Appleton Street – Salvation Army Stop (2) – 4 minute walk
- Leo Roy Parking Garage (Market Street) Stop – 6 minute walk

(walking times are estimated)

The sidewalks in Lowell can be uneven due to tree roots and settling of the pavement or concrete. There can also be trolley tracks that cross through the sidewalk. Please use caution.



If you come by car, there are several options for parking.

On-street metered parking:

Parking is allowed on the side streets surrounding the theatre. Parking kiosks are available. Users need to input their license plate and desired parking duration using the kiosks. The maximum parking time allowed is 2 hours.

The length of the show is just about 1 hour.

Unfortunately, you may NOT park in the lot directly behind the building.

City Parking Garages

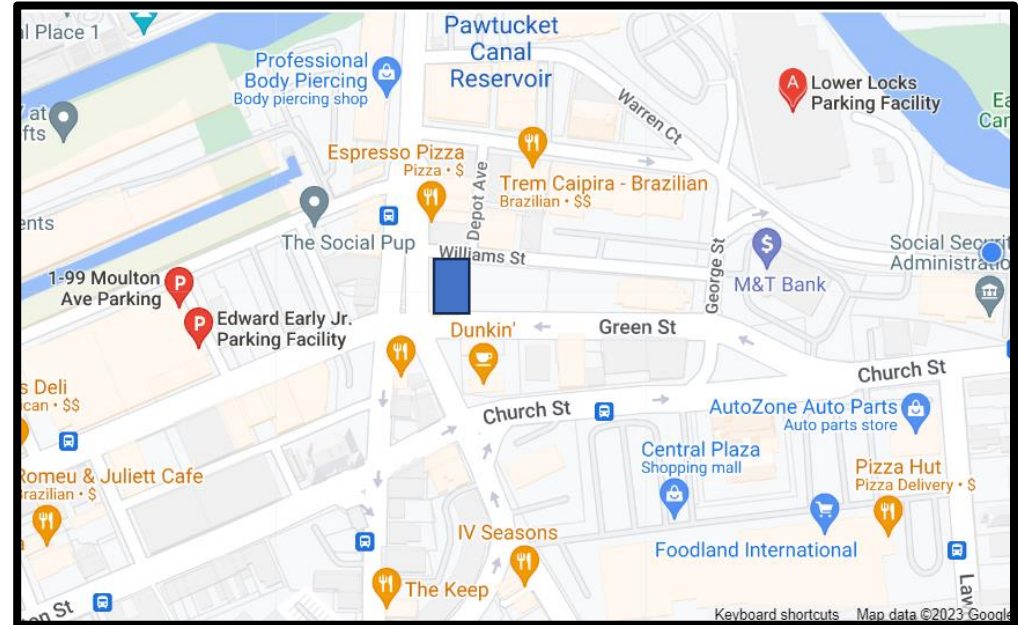
Nearby Parking Facilities are noted on the map with RED pins (theatre is dark blue rectangle), which are about a 5-10 minute walk:

Edward Early Jr. Garage

135 Middlesex Street

Lower Locks Garage

90 Warren Street



If you park at the Edward Early Jr. Garage, you will be able to see the front door of the building.



If you park at the Lower Locks Garage, you will see and approach the building from the back.



WHO YOU MAY MEET

The staff and ushers are friendly, open, and welcoming. Please let them know if they can help. Many of them will have nametags on so they can be identified more easily.

Box Office Staff



Eve Foldan
Box Office Manager



Davira Kuy
Box Office Assistant

Our House Manager will usually wear a shirt and tie or dressier clothing



**John Dyson
House Manager**

There will also be Ushers, who usually wear a white shirt and black pants.



ARRIVING AT THE THEATRE

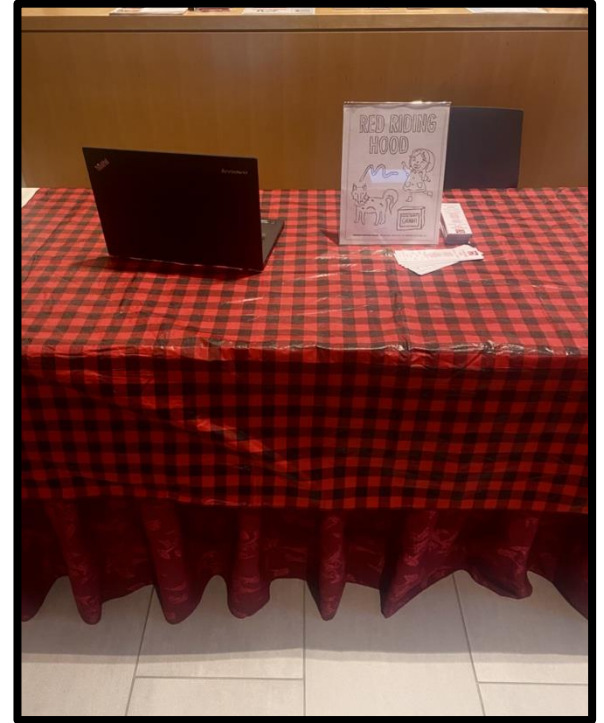
When you arrive, you can enter the building through the entrance at 240 Central Street. You will go through two sets of doors.



As you enter the building you will be in the Lobby. You will see the security station and the MRT Box Office table.



You can get your physical tickets at the Box Office when you arrive. There may be other people picking up tickets, so you may have to wait in line.



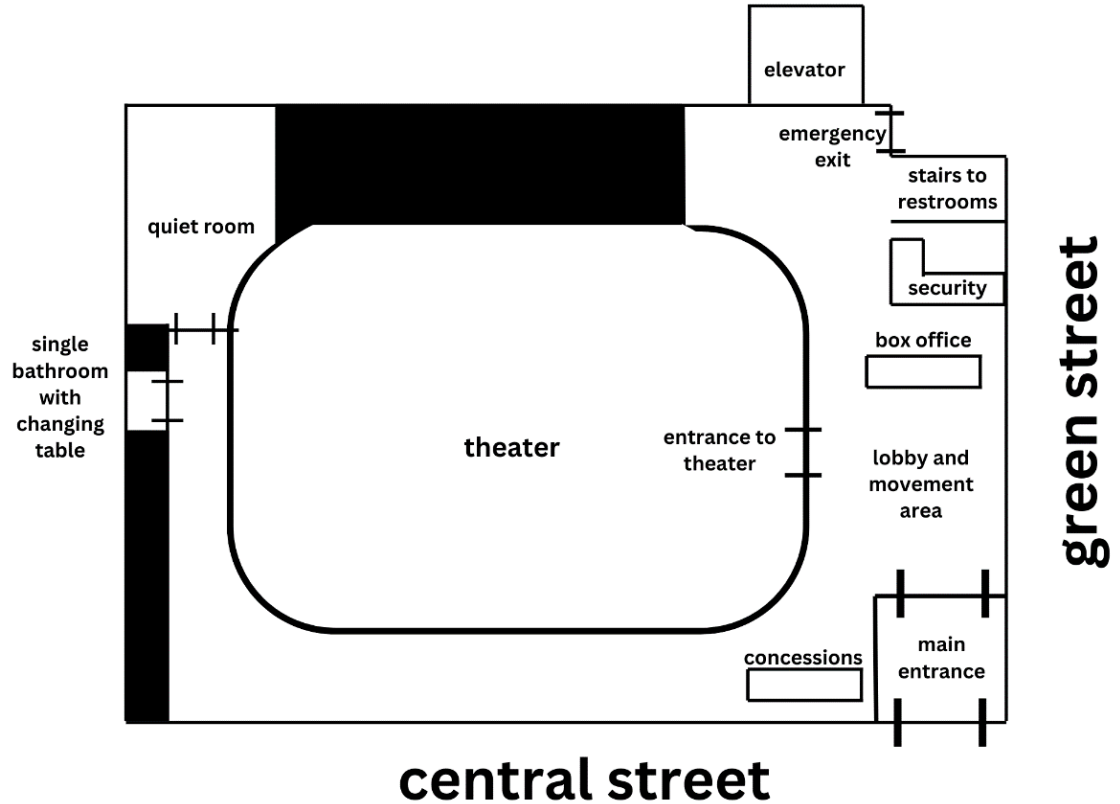
If you would like an assistive listening device, you may get one at the Box Office.



Once you have a ticket or if you use a digital ticket on your device, you will show it to an usher to scan. The ushers usually wear a white shirt and black pants. The scanner will make a beeping noise when your ticket is scanned.



You can refer to this map to understand where important spaces are in the Lobby area.



BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

There is a large Lobby area where you can wait prior to finding a seat in the theatre. There is art on the walls by students. There is information about the prior use of the building that is now the theatre and classroom space. There are several seating options where you wait.



The Lobby is a good place to have a snack or drink before the show. You may NOT eat and drink in the theatre during the performance. Trash cans for food and beverage waste can be found in the Lobby and at theatre entrances.



If you have a jacket and would like to hang it up, there is a coat rack area just past the Box Office table and security desk.



You may want to visit the restroom before the show. There is a single stall with diaper changing table in the Lobby.



There are additional multi-stall restrooms on the lower level accessible via a staircase or the elevator. There are signs that direct towards the restroom. You can also ask a staff member if you need help finding the restroom or anything else. The restrooms are ADA compliant.



There is a water fountain next to the Lobby restroom. Feel free to bring a refillable water bottle.

We also have bottled water available for purchase.



While you wait, you can access the WiFi

WiFi Network: MCC Guest

You must sign-in with your email address.

Throughout the Lobby, there will be flyers posted with the following information: the performance's run time, as well as any design elements in the show that are important to note.


These can include the usage of loud noises, and other show-specific design elements.

RED RIDING HOOD

SHOW RUN TIME

APPROX. 70 MINUTES

Please see the House Manager or Usher if you have any concerns.
Thank You.

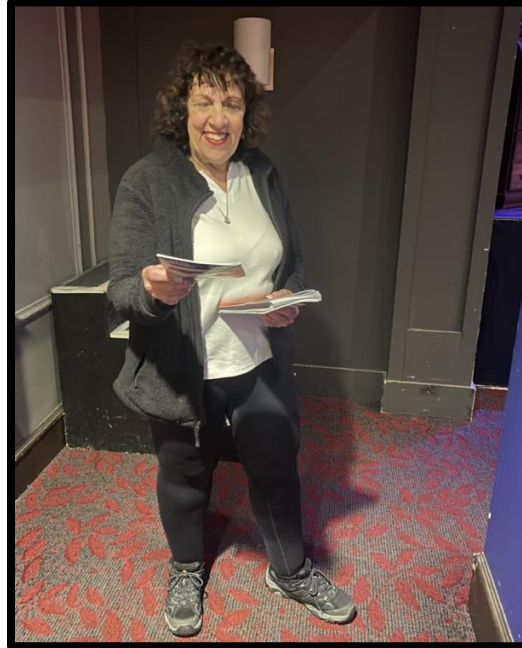
 MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE
2023-24 SEASON
WWW.MRT.ORG | 978.654.4678

If you have a question or would like further information about anything listed or want to double check if other specific elements not listed are utilized in the performance, please ask a House Manager. The House Manager can usually be found behind the Concessions Table in the Lobby.

You can enter the theatre when the doors open, usually about 30 minutes before the performance. Please note, no food or drink are allowed in the theatre. Please enjoy these items in the Lobby.



An usher will direct you inside the theatre. You may select any open seat as there are no assigned seats for the show.



The theatre looks like this.



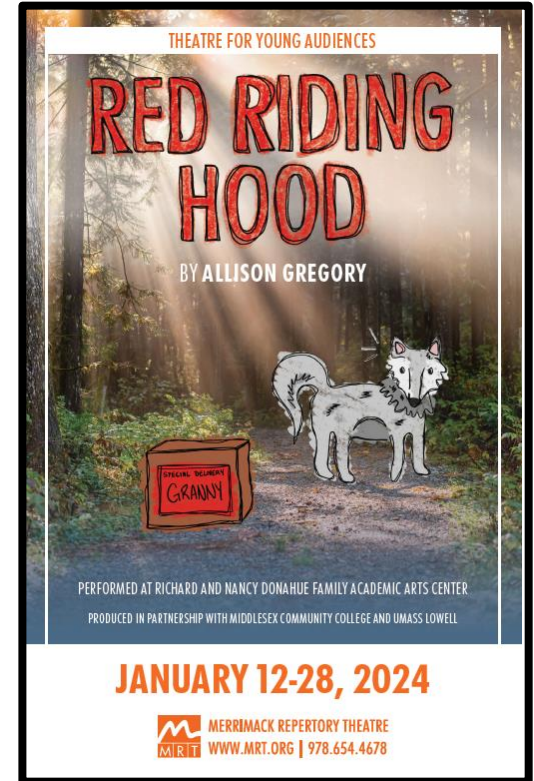
A few more views of inside the theatre.



The theatre looks like this from the stage.



On the way to your seat, you can pick up a copy of the playbill or receive a copy from an usher. You can also scan a QR code to access a digital copy. A large print playbill is available in the Lobby.



Once you are seated, you may have to wait in your seat for a little while before the show begins. While you wait, you can read the playbill.

The playbill shares more information about the production, creative team, and the play.

[Click here to access the digital playbill.](#)

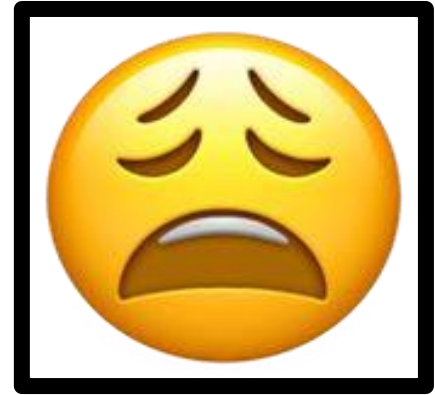
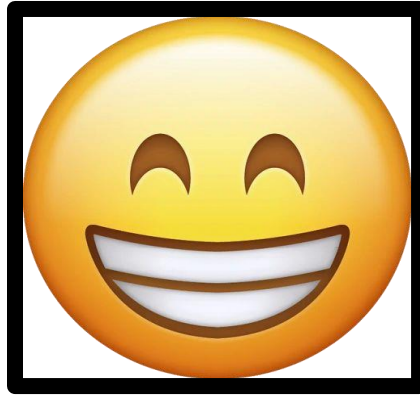
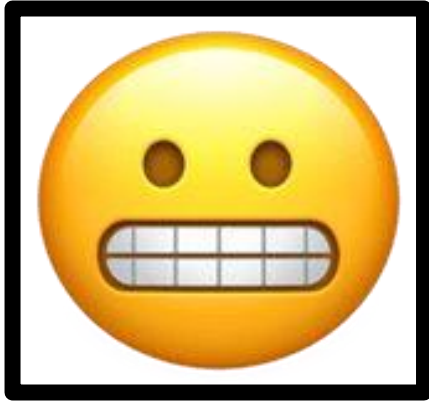
DURING THE PERFORMANCE

The show will begin. A pre-show announcement will be played through the speakers. During the show, you may not take pictures or videos of the performance.



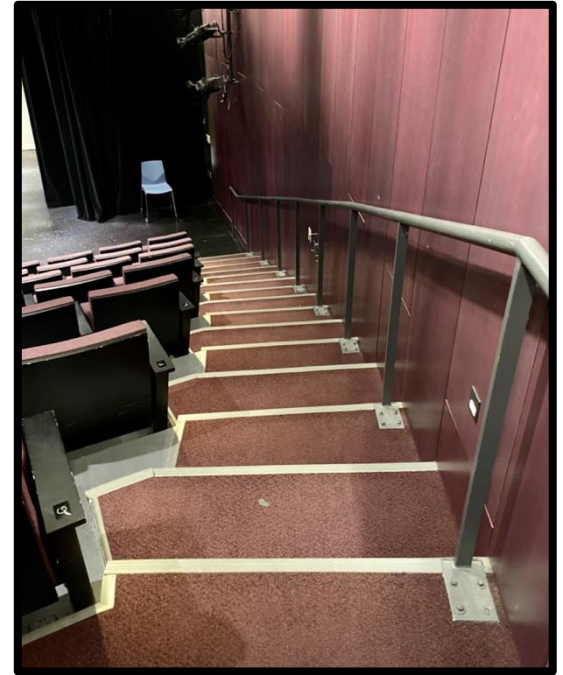
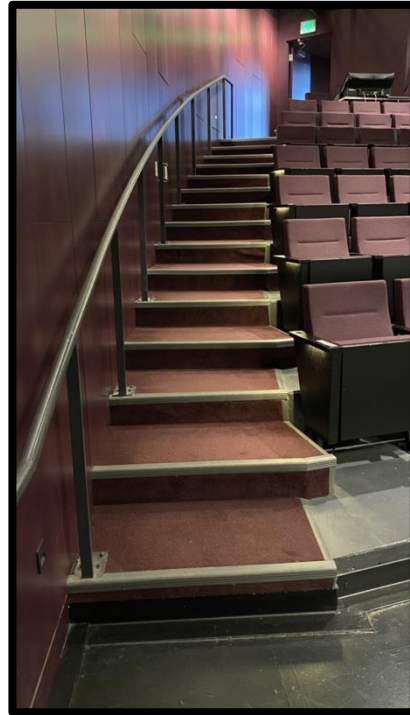
The lights will become dark/dim on the audience. There will not be any flashing lights or abrupt transitions. If there are any technical aspects of the show to be aware of, it will be noted on signs going into the theatre.

The experience of seeing a live performance may be new to you. Or, this may be one of the first times you have visited this theatre.

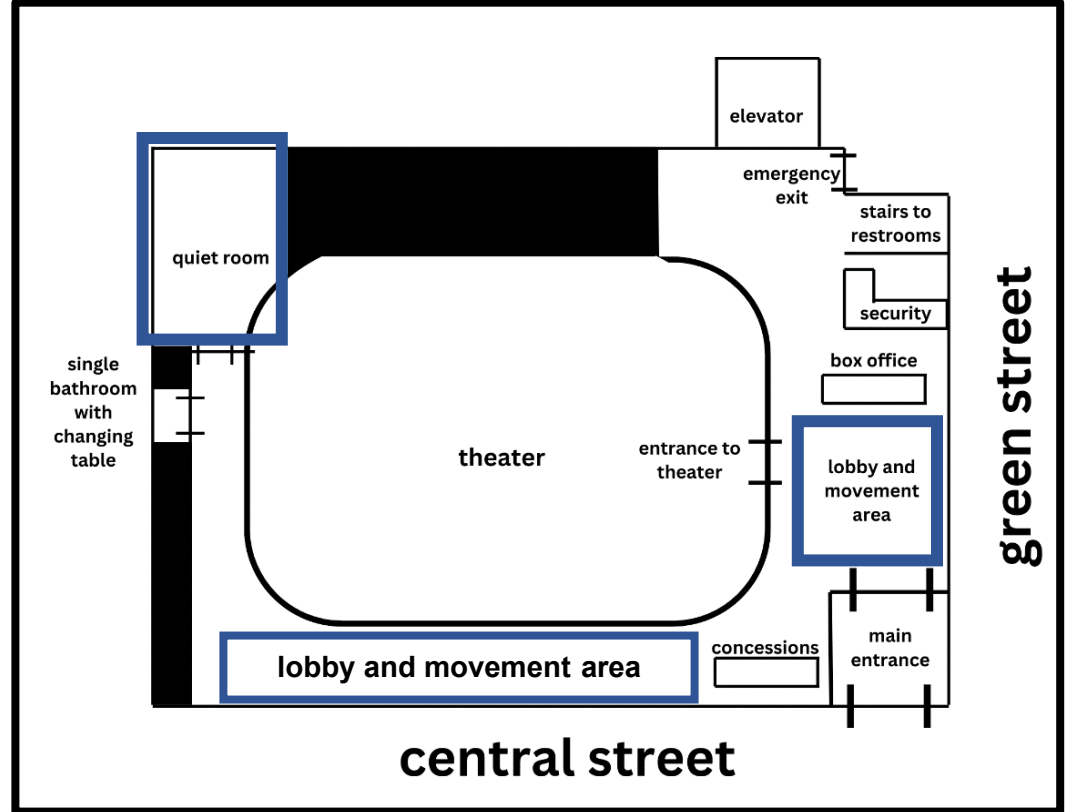


It is OK to feel nervous, excited, or overwhelmed. If you need to make some noise, take breaths, or move about a little bit, that is OK.

It is *not* safe to stand, move around, or put items in the aisles of the theatre. Please keep the aisles clear and be aware that actors and crew will be moving throughout the area during the show.



If you need to move around more during the show, you can utilize the movement area in the Lobby or visit the Quiet Room.



The movement area is a safe place to move about freely during the performance. A staff member can help direct you to this location.



This is also a good place to go if you need to have a small snack during the performance.

While in the movement area, you can continue to hear the performance dialogue through speakers in the Lobby by the Box Office table.

You can choose to return to the performance if you are ready, or you can stay here.

If you need a break from the performance, you may also utilize the Quiet Room which includes alternate lighting, comfortable furniture, and other useful tools for regulation. A staff member can help direct you to this location.

You can choose to return to the performance if you are ready, or you can stay here.



If you need support during the show, you can find an usher or staff member.

Ushers usually wear white shirts and black pants. House Managers wear a dress shirt and tie. The House Managers are usually behind the Concessions Table in the Lobby.

The ushers and staff are friendly, open, and welcoming.



AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

When the show is over, everyone will applaud and cheer. Some people will stand while clapping. It may get a bit loud.

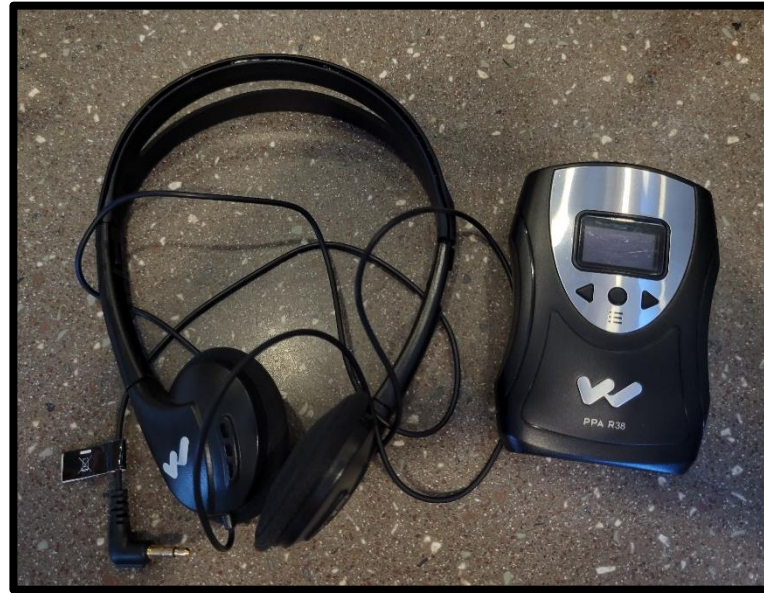


Then, you will exit the theatre. This may take a few minutes and be a little crowded because the whole audience may try to leave the theatre at once. The ushers help make this process smooth.

Please be sure to take all your belongings from your seat and get your coat if you hung it up at the coat rack.

If you left something behind during your visit, we do have a Lost & Found area. You can call the Enterprise Bank Box Office at 978-654-4678 or email them at box_office@mrt.org to arrange a time to come back to pick up your item.

If you borrowed an assistive listening device, please return it to an usher, the concessions staff, or other staff members before you leave.



Following our shows, we host Post Show Discussions:

These are opportunities for audience members to ask the actors and creative team questions following a performance. This discussion takes place in the theatre about five minutes after the show ends. Not all guests stay for this event but all are invited. If you would like to stay for the discussion, remain in the theatre following the performance.

If you would like to not attend the post show discussion, you can leave the theatre.

***There is usually five minutes after a performance before the beginning of the discussion*. You may leave the theatre to use the restroom and return for the discussion.**

An MRT staff member will facilitate the session, which typically runs 20-25 minutes. These discussions are always announced prior to the show if they are occurring at that performance.

Following the performance or post-show discussion, you will exit the building through the double doors where you entered.



If you are waiting for a ride, you may wait in the building until they arrive.



SHOW SPECIFICS: RED RIDING HOOD

The show is about 70 minutes long.

Sometimes, a show may begin a few minutes after the start time if more time is needed for audience members to arrive and settle in the theater.

There is no intermission (a break in the middle of the performance).

CHARACTERS

During the show, the actors will play characters in the story.

The characters in the story portray more than one character in the Red Riding Hood story.

The actors ask the audience questions. Audience help is wanted!

The actors will be entering the audience seating area and walking along the stairs.

The actors will not touch audience members.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS



Wolfgang – Wolfgang is an actor who is performing the story of Red Riding Hood and playing all the parts.



Delivery Person – They are a delivery person who asks questions about Wolfgang’s retelling of Red Riding Hood and joins in on the performance.

STORY SYNOPSIS

The play Red Riding Hood by Allison Gregory is about an actor, Wolfgang, performing all the roles in a retelling of the children's folktale, Red Riding Hood. Unexpectedly, a Delivery Person enters and joins Wolfgang in performing the story.

The story of Little Red Riding Hood follows a young child who goes to bring her grandmother a basket of food while she is sick. When she arrives, the little girl's grandmother is secretly a wolf in disguise, who tricks her and eats her. Red Riding Hood ends up inside the wolf's belly with her grandmother. However, she figures out how to escape with her grandmother, and they have a happy ending.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Shadow Puppetry

This performance of Red Riding Hood will utilize the art of Shadow Puppetry. This is when lights are cast on puppets against a blank screen to create shadows, which then become characters. They help tell more of the story.



Lighting and Sound notes:

- There is music before and during the show. Music and sounds are used to highlight action on the stage.
- There are some loud sounds during this performance.
- There are some gentle light movements during the show.
- The stage will get dark in the forest scene but there are not any black outs.

CONTENT TRANSPARENCY

The story of Red Riding Hood contains elements and themes that may be scary to some audience members. This includes:

- a child being stalked by a wolf
- a wolf eating a grandmother and her grandchild
- a wolf dying

Please feel free to bring small comfort items from home to help make the experience enjoyable for your children. If you have any specific questions about content and the show, please feel free to contact our Box Office.

We hope that you have a good experience and will join us for another performance in the future!



We are constantly learning, so please let us know if there is something missing from this document that would improve your visit to the theatre.

You may email us at: info@mrt.org or call us at 978-654-4678

Many thanks to the MRT Staff who helped develop this document.

We also received great training and guidance from [ConsultAbility](https://www.consultability.org/) (their website is <https://www.consultability.org/>)

