



Center for Puppetry Arts Social Story

I am going to see *Spookhouse Annie* at the Center for Puppetry Arts!

Annie and the Halloween monsters that live in her haunted house are going to be on stage at the Center for Puppetry Arts on October 25th, 2026.



The show will be a sensory and Autism-friendly performance.
I am so excited to go and see a puppet show!



This show uses puppetry to tell the story. In this show, Annie, who lives in a haunted house, invites her friend Dave over for a playdate. At the haunted house, Dave goes on a wacky adventure into the Spook House where he is introduced to many different Halloween monsters that are more goofy than scary, such as the cheerful witch Hagatha, the vampire Count Morlock who mistakenly ended up in Pennsylvania instead of Transylvania and more.

To see the show,
I am going to travel to
Midtown Atlanta to get
to the Center for
Puppetry Arts.

It is located at
1404 Spring St NW,
Atlanta, GA 30309

I may ride in a
car...



Or a bus.



Please note that these lots are not affiliated with or operated by the Center for Puppetry Arts and that their prices are subject to change.

This is a map of
Spring Street

This is what the Center for Puppetry Arts looks like from the outside.



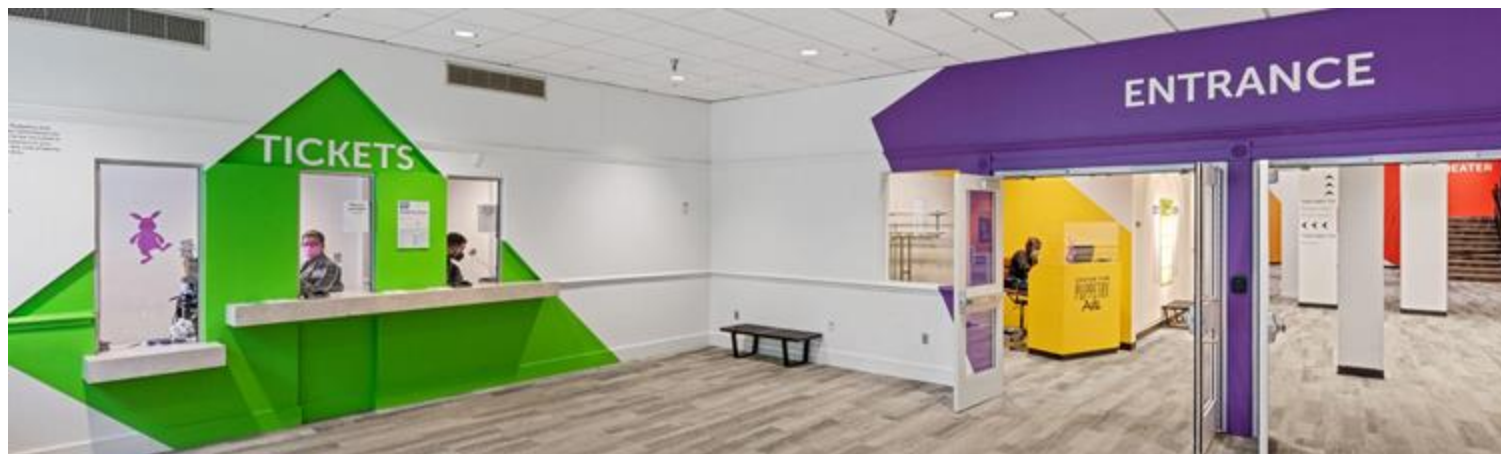
I will enter from the parking lot. It will look like this.



This is the ramp I will go up to enter the front doors. At the top of the ramp, I will see a large statue of a scarecrow with a pumpkin on its head. It is just a decoration so it will not move.



When I enter from the ramp, the theater Lobby will be the first room that I see.
This is the first floor of the Center for Puppetry Arts.



There will be lots of friendly people in the lobby who will help me if I need them.



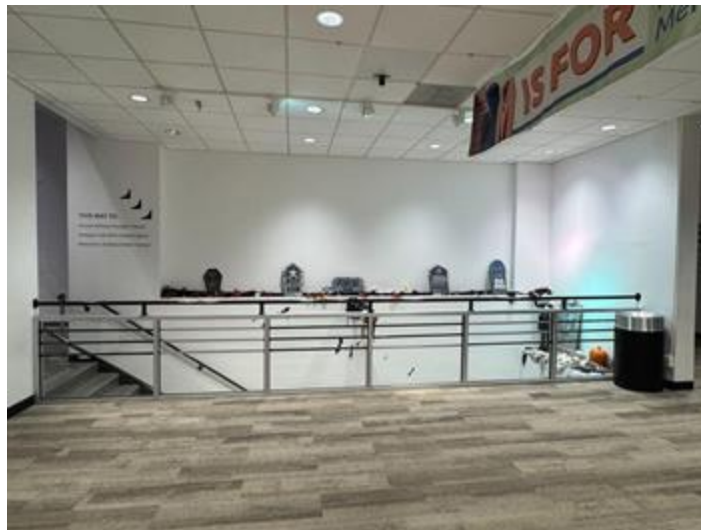
In the lobby, I will also see the Gift Shop and Big Bird's nest. I can also sit in the nest and take a picture if I want to.

Inside the theater, someone at the Ticket Sales Office counter will give us our ticket so that I can get into the theater and then tell us where to go next.
If I have any questions, they'll be able to help me.



After I leave the Ticket Sales Office,
I will walk through the double doors, down the open hallway
and into the Atrium (also known as The Love Family Atrium).

Inside of the Center, I will see lots of Halloween decorations and lights displayed on the walls, stairs and counters.



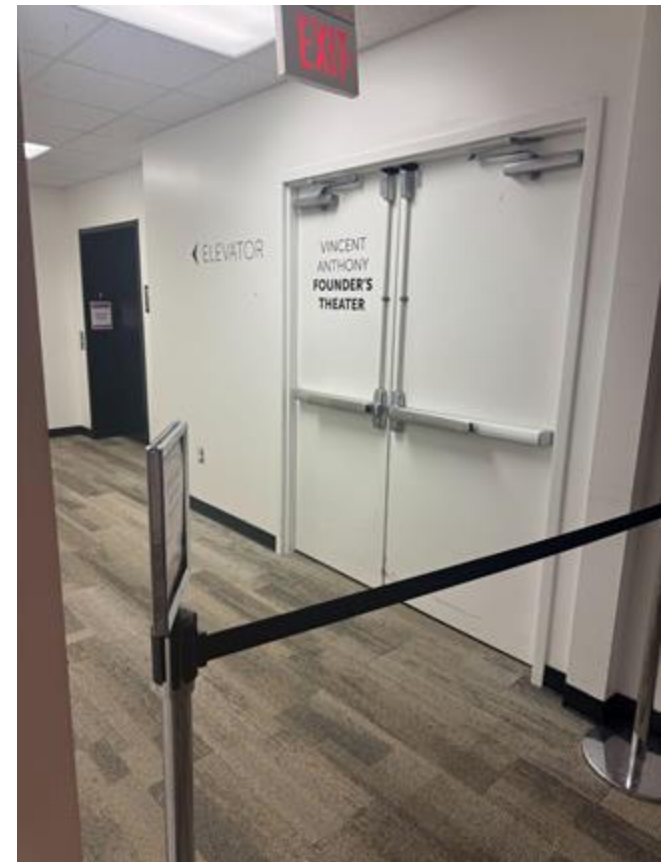
Down the hallway, I will see a Touch Table. This table has pieces of the set & materials used to make the puppets. I am allowed to look at and touch anything on this table. I will leave these materials on the table so that other people can enjoy interacting with them too.



The Atrium has a lot of different rooms like the World of Puppetry Museum and the Dean DuBois Smith Special Exhibits Gallery. There's even some puppets on display.



If I need to use the restroom or drink some water, they will be located along the left side of the wall.



This is the door I will walk through to enter the Vincent Anthony Founder's Theater (also known as the Downstage Theater) to see the show. The door is next to the Dean DuBois Smith Special Exhibition Gallery.



Through the door, I'll walk down the hallway and turn left to the entrance of the theatre. A member of the house staff (also called "House Manager") will be standing at the entrance to check my ticket. After they do so, they will hand me back my ticket and also a program if I want one. I can read the program to learn more information about the show and the Center.





As I enter the theater, I will walk down these stairs towards the stage to pick a place to sit and watch the show. Other people may already be sitting inside of the theater too. The lights inside of the theater will help me see where to sit. I can hold my caregiver's hand or hold the railing as I go down the stairs.

In this theater, the seats are individual chairs with numbers on the back rest.

I am allowed to sit in any seat that is comfortable and available.



The exit to the theater is at the bottom of the stairs.
When the show is finished I can walk out through these doors back into the hallway.



If I need to leave during the show, I can also exit through these doors and come back in whenever I would like to.

This is what the stage will look like. The show is set at Annie's haunted house.



Only the performers and puppets are allowed on the stage.
I will try to stay in my seat where it is safe.

In this show I will see many different types of puppets on the stage being controlled by performers who are hidden behind the set. If I feel scared, I can cover my ears, squeeze my fidget or hold my caregiver's hand.



During the performance, people in the audience may clap if they really enjoyed a moment in the show. I can also clap, dance or do whatever I need to do to better enjoy the show.



If the clapping is too loud, I can ask for ear plugs or headphones to help make it quieter.

Before the show begins, the lights inside the theater will become less bright. An announcement will come through the speaker system from the Stage Manager. I will try to keep my voice low so that I can hear everything.



After the announcement, the actors will come out to say hello and introduce themselves. These are the performers who will be moving the puppets in the show but I will not be able to see them during the performance.

They will demonstrate how they do this by showing off some of the puppets I'll see on the stage, such as Annie, Dave & Spooky. They will also talk about some puppets that may be a little startling like Tentacle Dave, a large, inflatable squid-like creature.

It will be very helpful to see some of these puppets now so that I can do my best to not be startled by them when they appear later on.

After the demonstration, the actors will announce the following reminders:

- If I need to leave the theater, both sets of doors will be open.

- If I have any food or snacks, I am free to enjoy them.

- There is no photography or video recording of any kind and that we turn off our cell phones or anything that lights up or makes noise.

Then the actors will go backstage to start the show.



The next page will give a summary of what I may see on stage during the performance.



If I want to keep the narrative of the show a surprise,
I can skip to the very last page of this social story.

If I want to see what will happen to help me prepare for the show
and know what to expect, I can continue to the next page.

To start, we meet The Joke-A-Lantern, a pumpkin-faced man that tells lots of funny jokes and introduces the show.



The show begins with two children, Lil Timmy & Lil Cookie, approaching the haunted house as fog rises from below.



They talk about what they might find in the house as Annie watches them. Annie invites them inside to play but the children run away as they are too scared.

Annie goes inside of her room and tells her pet about how today is the day she gets to bring her friend Dave over to her house to play. A Wolfman named Umberto appears to greet Annie and talk about how her playdate went last year. They also talk about Umberto's ability to transform and some of the other monsters who live in the house.



Dave arrives to the castle with a flashlight and he rings the doorbell which makes a funny sound. Annie comes outside and surprises Dave. It causes them both to scream and they begin to play a quick screaming game. She then invites Dave inside of the house.

Annie and Dave enter the house and go to Annie's room. Dave meets Annie's pet who bites at Dave which is his way of saying he likes him. A ghost also appears which frightens Dave. As they leave the room, Annie's pet breaks out of his cage and begins to laugh.



We see Annie and Dave (represented as little dots of light) walk through a maze-like hallway and enter one of the rooms.

They arrive in a crypt and meet Count Morlock the vampire, who accidentally slams his hand in the door of the crypt. Annie and Dave help him get his hand free. They talk to Morlock who tells his story as the lights occasionally flash on stage. During the story he demonstrates the spoon dance. He also demonstrates how he would greet people while appearing as glowing red eyes in a misty fog. After the story, Morlock returns to his crypt to rest but accidentally gets his arm stuck on the door again. Dave and Annie go to the next room of the castle.



Annie and Dave talk about how monsters like Morlock are not like the ones they see in movies. Annie goes down a hidden slide and appears high above the stage. After Dave joins her, Annie's ponytail comes alive and pops off her head. She chases it around and is able to get it back on her head.



The two of them travel to Hagatha's kitchen where she is vacuuming the floor. She rides on the vacuum like a flying broom and crashes it down below the stage. Dave is introduced to Hagatha who is brewing a soup in a cauldron with fog rising out of it. Dave takes a sip from the soup and transforms into a large, squid-like creature.

Hagatha tries to make a new soup to transform him back to normal. She gets a really big spoon and feeds the soup to Tentacle Dave. Annie asks the audience to repeat the word "chew" to encourage Tentacle Dave to eat. After he chews, Tentacle Dave transforms as his body makes a deflating sound and returns to looking like his regular self again. Annie and Dave say goodbye to Hagatha and continue to tour the house through the maze-like hallway.



Here is a closer look at Tentacle Dave to help prepare me for his appearance in the show.



Dave needs to use the bathroom so Annie tells him how to get there, and he goes to look for it. Annie sees a bat and chases after it. While they're both gone, the doors come alive and laugh as they switch positions on the wall. Dave returns from the bathroom and gets lost as the doors come back to life. They close in on him as they giggle behind his back. The ghost returns and flies around the stage. But when Dave tries to ask him for help on where to go, the ghost believes that he cannot be seen or heard by Dave. Dave figures out which door to go through while the ghost talks to itself but a sign appears warning Dave to keep out because it leads to the scariest part of the house. Despite the warning, Dave decides to walk through the door.



We see Annie arrive in the room of a mummy named Ferris with his cat Edgard. Annie tells Ferris that she's worried about her friend Dave. Ferris brings out Mr. Sockly the sock puppet to help encourage Annie. Before Annie leaves to look for Dave, Ferris shows Annie the jar that holds his brain.



We then see the eyes of Dave travelling down a dark hallway with his flashlights on. Multiple worm-like creatures appear and startle Dave. Dave's flashlight begins to blink out making it harder for him to see. As he tries to figure out how to get out of the hallway, ghoulish, skeleton creatures appear to tell Dave that the only way out is to dance. The monsters sing and dance to a song that encourages Dave to sing and dance too. The song helps Dave find the exit. We see two lights that represent him and Annie walking down the maze-like hallway. The two lights face each other, indicating that Dave and Annie have found each other.

Dave and Annie reunite as they greet each other with their screaming game



Umberto suddenly appears and begins to transform. Annie and Dave quickly run out of the house and Umberto grows to become larger than the castle. Umberto picks up the two of them and puts them back into the house.

Back in her room, Annie becomes sad because she thinks that Dave didn't have any fun. Dave reassures Annie that he enjoyed his time in the castle and that Annie is his friend. Annie then notices that her pet got out of his cage. After Annie calms her pet down, a loud shrieking alarm blares through the room as the lights flicker which means it's time for Dave to go home.



As Dave says goodbye, Annie's pet sneaks into Dave's backpack while he isn't looking. As Dave walks out of the castle, we see Annie's pet laugh from within the backpack but Dave does not notice him.

The lights dim and the performers rise from below the playboard to end the show and then take a bow.
If I enjoyed the show, I can applaud with the audience!



The puppeteers will let us know about the next Sensory Friendly performance at the Center before they say goodbye.
Once I am ready, I will then leave the Center for Puppetry Arts.

I am so excited to see *Spookhouse Annie*!



If I have any questions about the show that weren't answered, or any feedback about my experience, my caregiver or I can email accessibility@puppet.org or education@puppet.org