

Center for Puppetry Arts Social Story

I am going to see *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*™ at the Center for Puppetry Arts!

Rudolph and his friends are going to be on stage at the Center for Puppetry Arts on December 6th, 2026.



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



The show is based on the stop-motion TV movie created in 1964. The stage and characters will look almost identical to the original holiday special.

In this show, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Hermey the Elf are two misfits on the run to find a place where they belong. They meet many different characters on their adventure such as an Island of Misfit Toys & Bumble the Abominable Snow Monster.

This show will use puppetry to tell the story. The styles of puppetry I'll see will be rod puppets and body puppets.

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.





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.

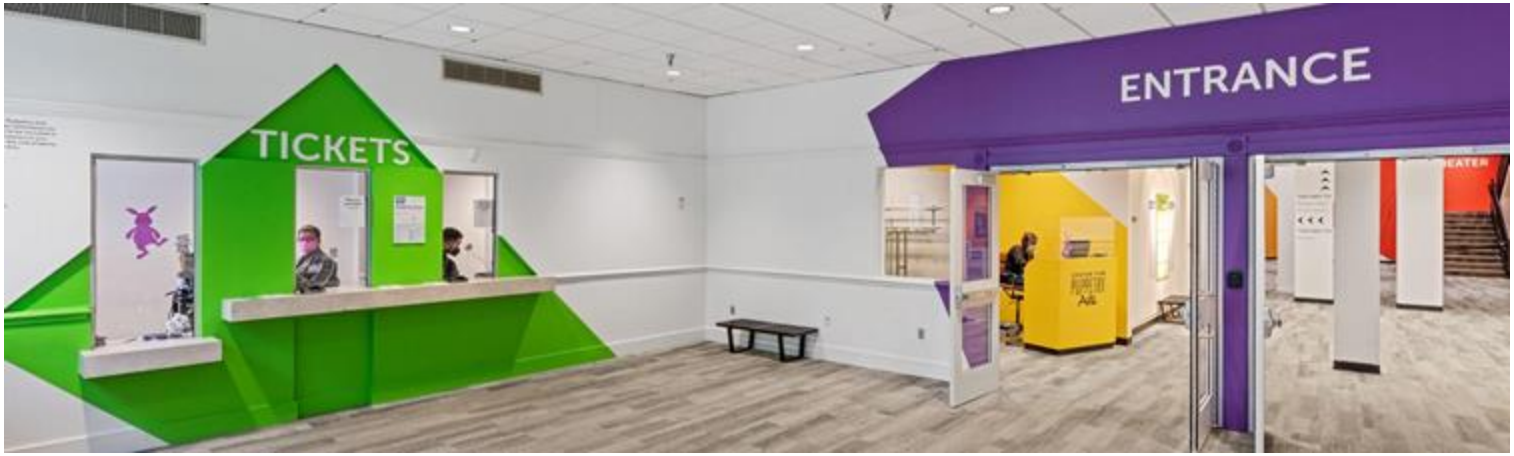




The building will also have lots of decorations outside of it to celebrate the holidays.



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.

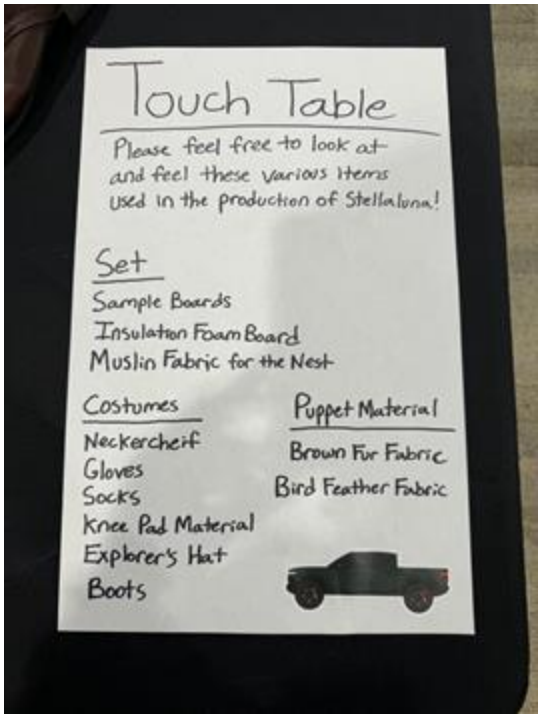




After I leave the Ticket Sales Office,
I will walk through the double doors, down the open hallway and into the Atrium (also known as The Love Family Atrium).

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 are even some puppets on display.

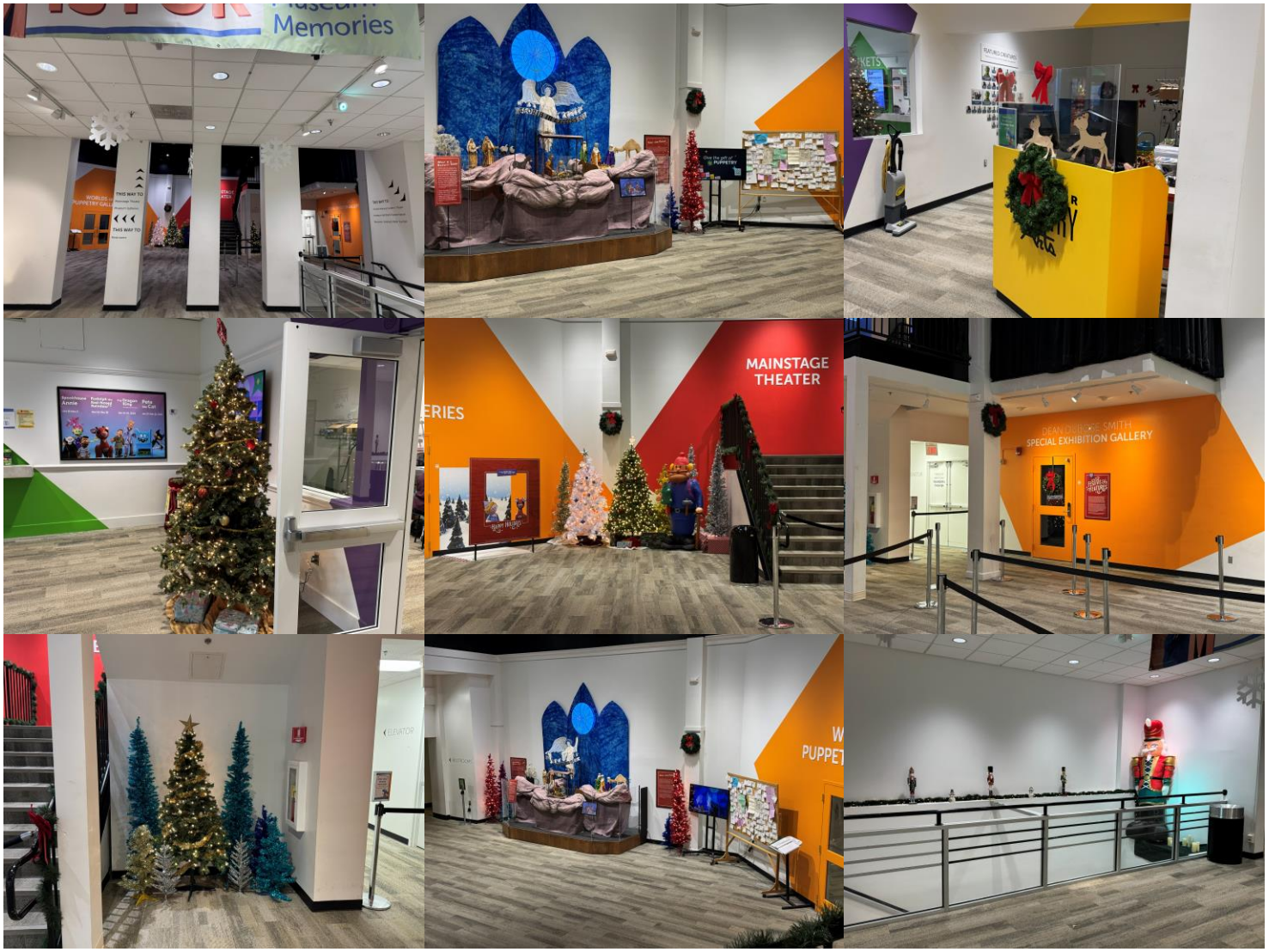






If I need to use the restroom or drink some water, they will be located along
the left side of the wall.

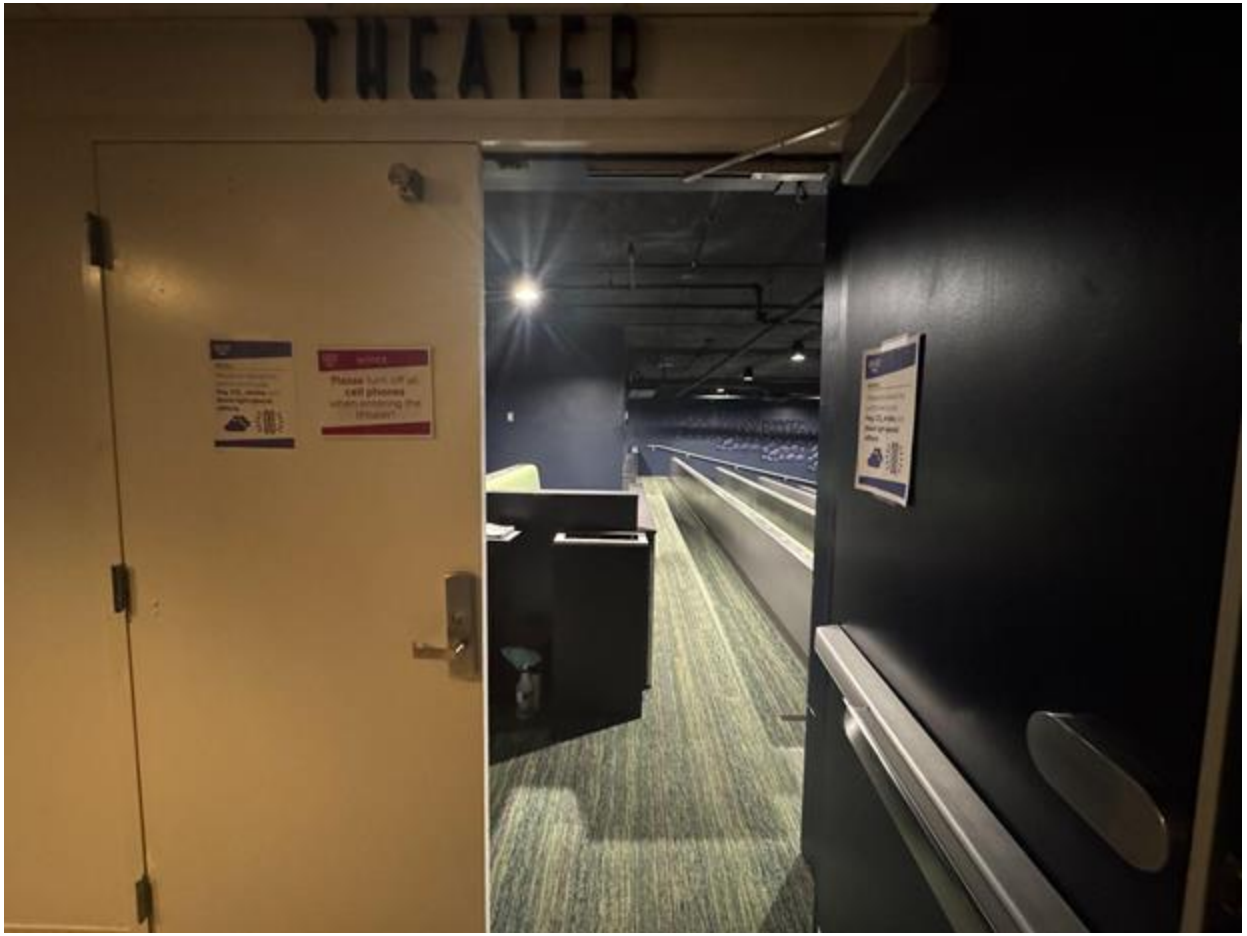
Also inside of the Atrium. there will be lots of Christmas decorations on display to commemorate the holiday season.

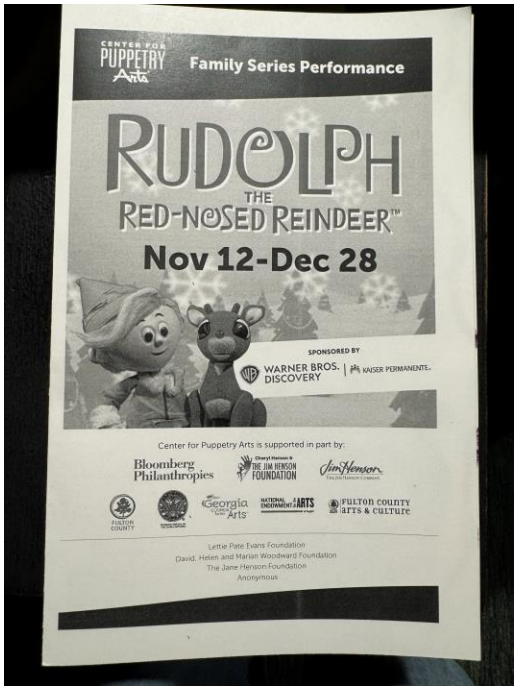






These are the stairs I will walk up to enter
the Mainstage Theater to see the show.
If I don’t want to walk up the stairs, I can enter through the double doors to my right
in the Atrium.



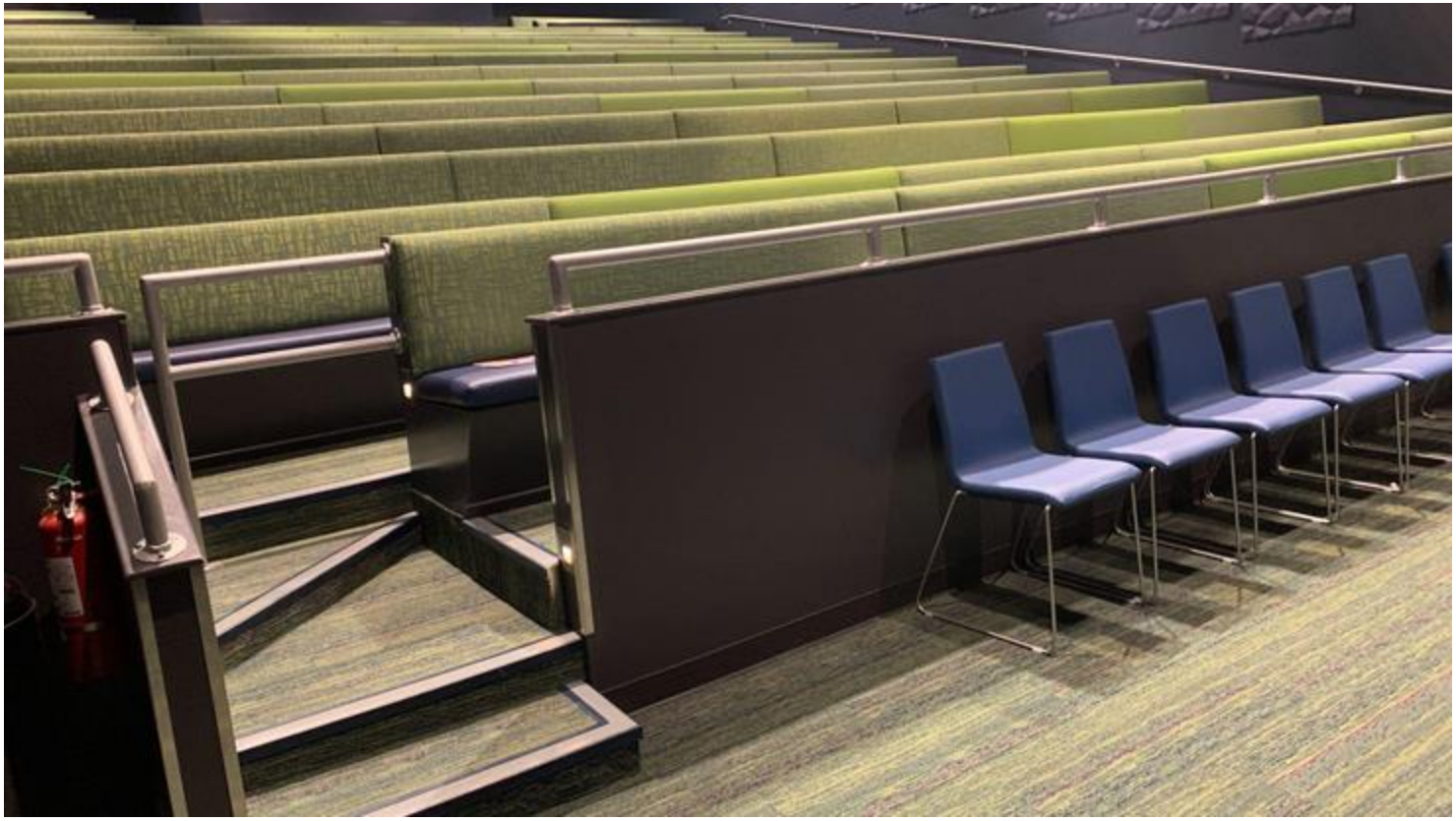


At the top of the stairs, a member of the house staff (also called “House Manager”) will be standing at the entrance by the black curtains to check my ticket. After they do so, they will hand me back my ticket and also a program if I want one. I can read the program to learn more information about the 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 benches with soft cushions.
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 Atrium.



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

This is what the stage will look like. The show is set in Christmas Town, with a large projector in front of the stage.



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 wearing costumes. 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 announcements, the actors will come out to say hello and introduce themselves. These are the performers who will be moving the puppets during the show but I will be able to see them.

They will demonstrate how they do this by showing off some of the puppets I'll see in the show, such as Hermey the Elf and King Moonracer.

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.

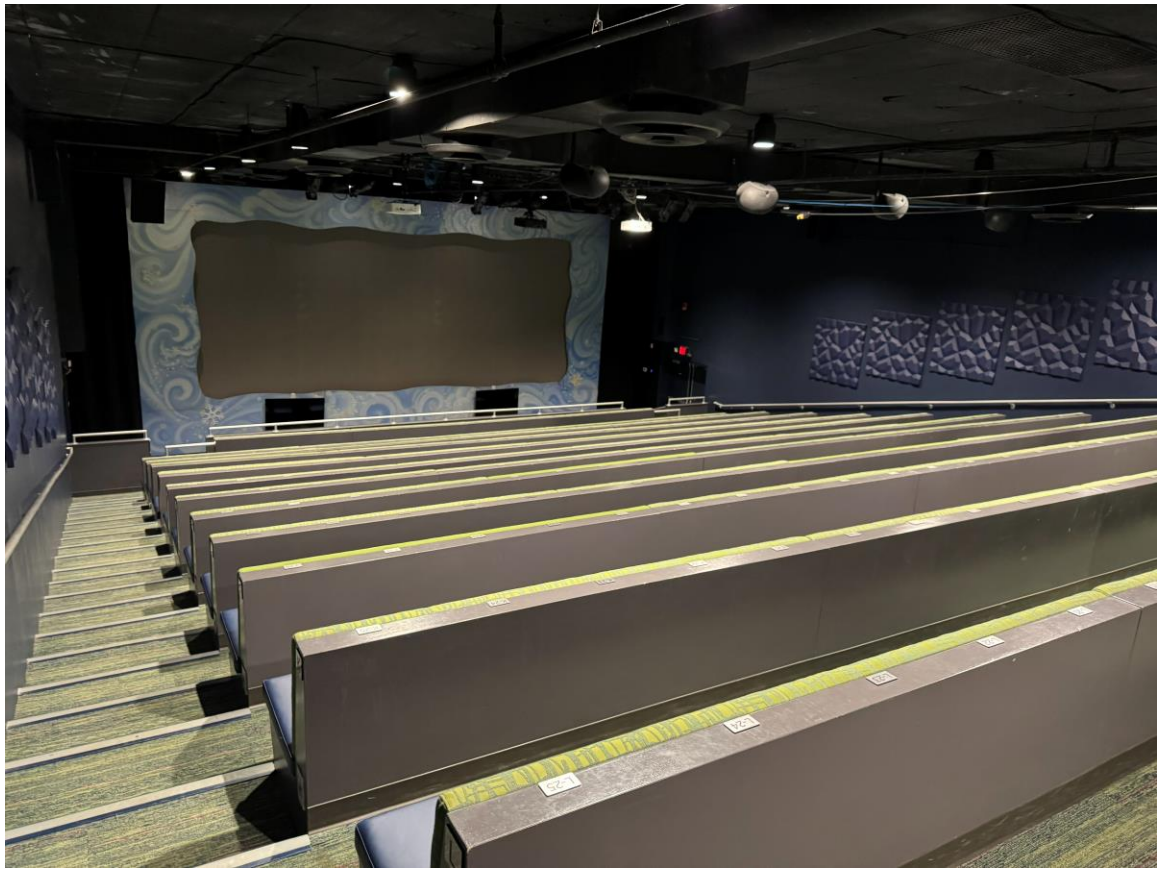
-If I have any food or snacks, I am free to enjoy them.

-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.



Movie	Puppet	Movie	Puppet
Rudolph		Donner	
Hermey		Mrs. Donner	
Yukon Cornelius		Coach Comet	
Sam the Snowman		Fireball	
Clarice		Reindeer	
Bumble the Abominable Snow Monster		King Moonracer	
Santa Claus		Elf	
Mrs. Claus		Elves	
Foreman Elf		Woodland Critters	



All of the characters represented in this guide will make an appearence in the show.
If a character from the orginal movie is not included in this guide,
such as Yukon's Sled Dogs or the Bear with Tail Feathers,
they will not be making an appearence in this adaptation of the film.

The show begins with images of newspaper articles flying across the projector about a big blizzard hitting the nation. We then see Sam the Snowman walking through the Christmas Tree Forest. We also see Christmas Seals, Mrs. Claus and Santa. Sam asks the audience if they ever heard of the story of Rudolph and then begins to narrate the show.



An overture begins where we see various elves and woodland critters.

After the overture, we transition into the den that Donner, Mrs. Donner and their son Rudolph live in. The Donners discover that Rudolph's nose can glow as it makes a loud shrieking noise.



Santa comes to visit the cave and is startled by Rudolph's nose. After being reassured by Donner, Santa sings the song "Jingle, Jingle, Jingle". After he leaves, Donner plans to make a disguise for Rudolph to wear over his nose.

We see Donner teaching Rudolph how to be a reindeer. During the lesson, the two of them must run and hide as the Bumble Snow Monster begins to stomp through the field.



The scene then transitions to Santa's workshop where we see the elves making toys. The Foreman yells at an elf named Hermey who dreams of becoming a dentist, which the other elves shame him for. Hermey is left alone in the workshop to finish his work as he sings about being a misfit.



We return to Rudolph who gets a disguise placed on his nose. After singing about being a misfit, Rudolph is dropped off at the Reindeer Games where he meets other young deer like him such as Fireball and Clarice.





Coach Comet arrives to get all the yearling's attention by blowing his whistle. He then begins to teach all the yearlings how to fly. As he teaches them, Rudolph introduces himself to Clarice and the two of them begin to talk.





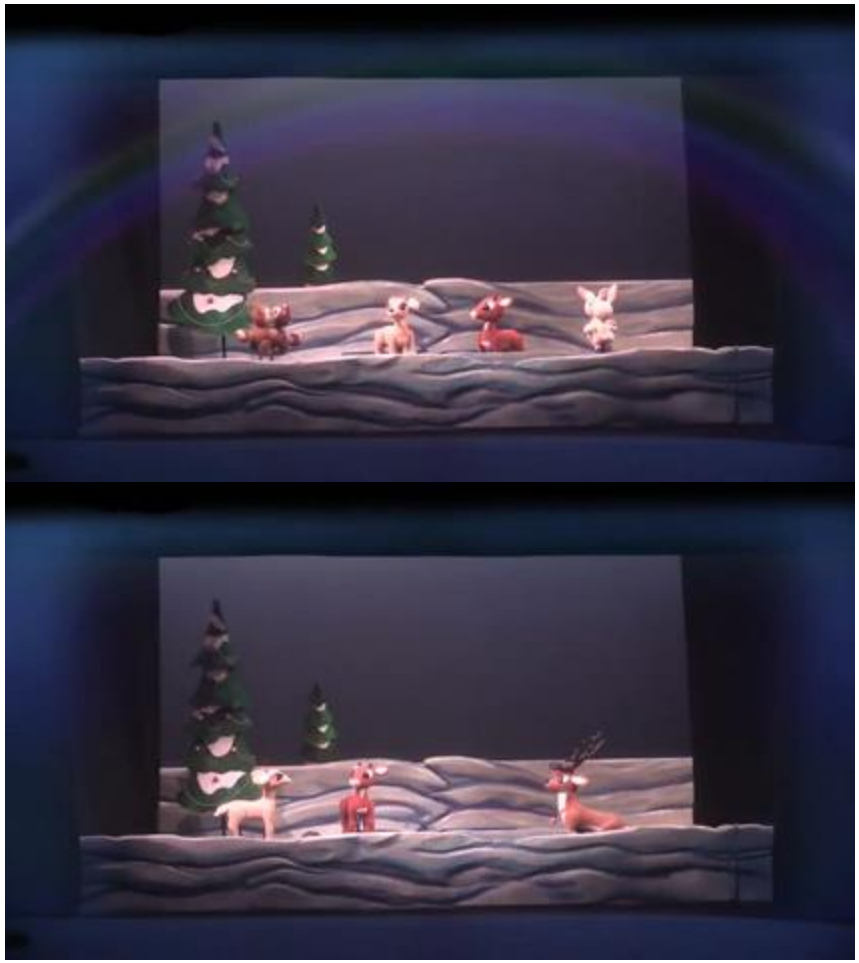
Clarice tells Rudolph that she thinks he's cute and Rudolph flies into the air with excitement. Rudolph accidentally bumps into Santa and knocks him down, but Santa is still very impressed with Rudolph's ability to fly.



The yearlings begin to jump onto Rudolph with excitement which accidentally causes his fake nose to fall off, which frightens everyone away except for Clarice.



Clarice tries to cheer Rudolph up by singing the song “There’s Always Tomorrow” alongside the woodland critters. Rudolph and Clarice attempt to walk home together but are stopped by the sound of Comet’s whistle, who turns out to be Clarice’s father. Comet sends Clarice home and tells Rudolph that his daughter will never be seen with him, so Rudolph decides to run away from home.



We go back to Santa's workshop where the elves perform "We Are Santa's Elves" for Santa and Mrs. Claus. Santa is not impressed with the song and leaves the workshop. After Mrs. Claus goes after him, the Foreman learns that Hermey wasn't at Elf Practice because he was too busy working on a doll's teeth. The Foreman tells Hermey that he'll never fit in, so Hermey decides to run away from home.



Rudolph and Hermey encounter each other outside and decide to run away together as they sing “We’re a Couple of Misfits”.



As they travel, they also hide themselves from Bumble the Snow Monster.

The next morning, they also hide from Yukon Corneilus, a prospector with a loud voice who is looking for silver and gold.





Sam the Snowman returns to sing the song “Silver and Gold” as the woodland critters decorate a Christmas Tree.

Rudolph and Hermey join Yukon Cornelius on his journey. As they travel, they run into the Bumble Snow Monster, who chases them onto a floating patch of ice to escape from the beast.



The patch of ice floats across the ocean to the Island of Misfit Toys. The group runs into a Jack-in-the-Box named Charlie and other rejected toys who sing “The Most Wonderful Day of the Year”.



Rudolph asks Charlie if they could live on the island. Charlie sends the group to ask permission from King Moonracer inside of his castle.



Inside his throne room, King Moonracer says that although Rudolph can't live on the Island, he requests that he tells Santa about the lost toys on this island if he ever returns to Christmas Town. Rudolph accepts and is allowed to stay for the night.

Rudolph, Hermey and Yukon try to sleep inside of a pink house but are unable to rest due to Rudolph's bright and loud nose.





Rudolph decides to leave his friends and strike out on his own. Time passes by and as Rudolph grows up, he decides that it's time for him to return home.

Back at Rudolph's home, Donner decides to look for his son by himself. Clarice and Mrs. Donner also go out to search for Rudolph too.





After they leave, the North Pole is hit by a powerful snowstorm. When Rudolph returns to his home, Santa arrives to tell him that his family went out to look for him. Rudolph decides to go and find his family by entering the cave of the Abominable Snow Monster of the North Pole.

Donner, Mrs. Donner and Clarice encounter Bumble inside of the cave. Donner tries to fight the monster but is knocked away. Clarice tries to fight Bumble but gets captured by him. Rudolph arrives to help Clarice but also gets knocked away. While Clarice distracts Bumble, Yukon and Hermey arrive to help. Hermey oinks like a pig, which causes Bumble to look outside. Yukon uses his pickaxe to hit the walls of the cave, causing sharp icicles to fall from above onto Bumble's head. Hermey then removes all of Bumble's teeth while he is unconscious.



After Rudolph gets back up, Yukon sees that all of Bumble's teeth have been removed. He chases Bumble off the side of a cliff and falls below with him, which saddens Rudolph and his friends.



Everyone returns to Christmas Town where Santa and Donner apologize to Rudolph. Santa promises to find a home for the misfit toys while the Foreman allows Hermey to open a dentist office. A knock on the door is heard outside, and Yukon returns with Bumble who is now kinder and wants to work at the North Pole.

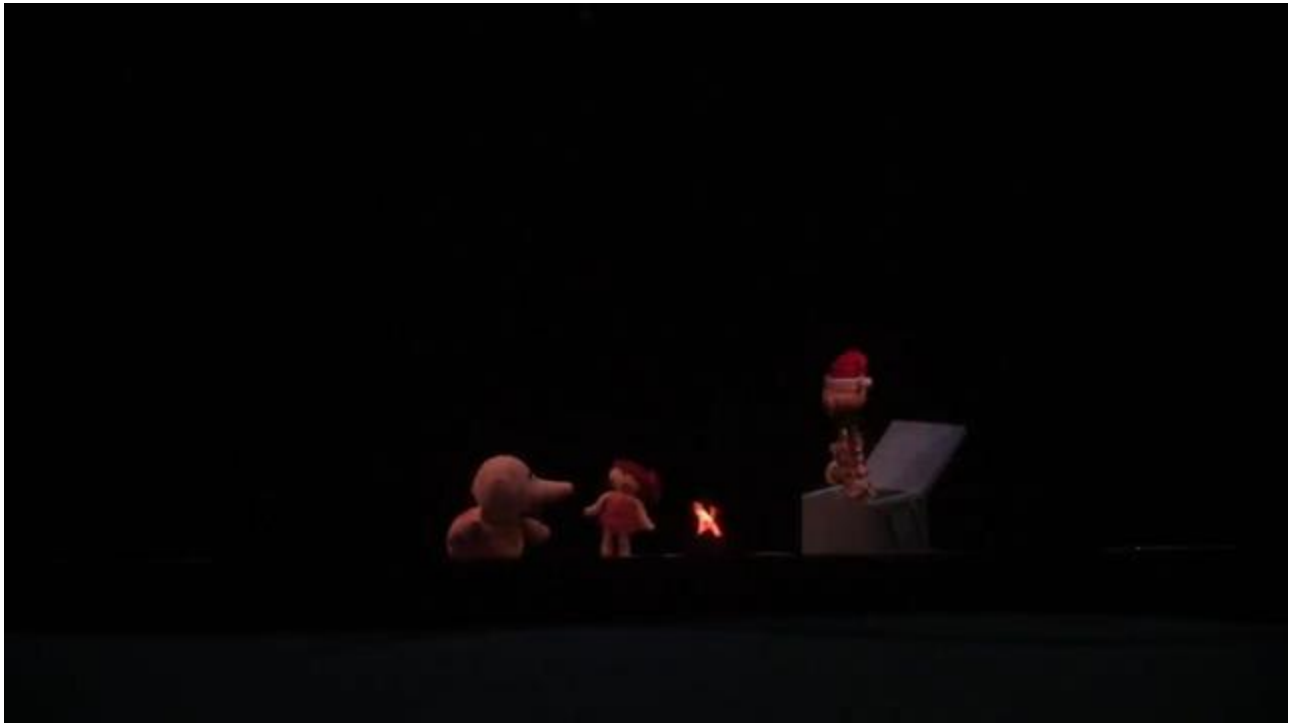


Santa receives a weather report saying that the storm will be too much for his sleigh to fly through. Santa announces to everyone in the workshop that Christmas is cancelled. During the announcement, Rudolph nose begins to glow. Santa comes up with the idea to have Rudolph use his bright nose to guide Santa through the storm so that Christmas won't have to be cancelled.



Rudolph accepts and everyone in the workshop celebrates by singing "Holly Jolly Christmas".

Back on the Island of Misfit Toys, the toys begin to doubt that Santa will be coming for them this year which causes them to cry. They suddenly hear jungle bells and when they look up into the sky, they see Santa and Rudolph arrive to pick them up.



They all get into the sleigh and fly off into the sky.

As Santa drops off all the toys from above, Sam begins to sing “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” and invites the audience to sing the song. I can join the singing with the audience if I want to.



After the song, the show ends and the performers come out on stage to 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 *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer™!*



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

CENTER FOR PUPPETRY Arts