



THE MEANING OF MAGGIE



Adapted by Victoria Stewart.

Based on the book by Megan Jean Sovern, published by Chronicle Books

JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 11 · BEST FOR AGES 8+

S O C I A L S T O R Y

For more information about our sensory friendly performances or accessible programming, please contact Accessibility Coordinator Fran Sillau at frans@rosetheater.org

Show Sponsored By:



This project is also supported by the OLIVER & FERROL BARKLAGE FOUNDATION.



I am seeing ***The Meaning of Maggie***
at The Rose Theater!



I will go to the Rose Theater.
The outside of The Rose Theater looks like this.

I will walk inside the lobby.



The lobby is a big room where people wait outside the theater.

I will wait in line for my ticket.



I will wait quietly and patiently.

Once we get our tickets, my family and I will have **two choices.**



The first choice is:

We can enter the theater to pick our seats.

The second choice is:

We can wait where it is less crowded
in a green room with a green door.
(This room is called Classroom #2).



I can stay there with my adult until I am ready.

The theater is very large and has a lot of seats.



There might be a lot of people.
I will sit with my family or friends.

We have **two choices**
when picking our seats.



The first choice is:

My family and I may choose to sit in seats on the first floor.
My family and I can sit anywhere we want to sit.

The second choice is:

My family and I can choose to sit in seats on the second floor.



This floor is called the balcony.
The seats in the balcony are up high.
If we want to sit in the balcony, we will
walk up the stairs in the lobby
and enter the theater upstairs.

Before the show starts,
I can talk to my family and friends.



I will sit in my seat on my back
pockets and keep my hands and feet to myself.

If I need to go to the bathroom before,
after, or during the show,
I will walk back into the lobby
with my grown-up.



I will walk downstairs.
The bathrooms are in the basement.

I can also get **a drink** at the drinking fountain in the basement!



There are also bathrooms on the second floor.

I can use these, too, especially if I am sitting
in the balcony seats.



When I am done with the bathroom,
I will go back to my seat in the theater.

Soon, the lights will get darker and
there will be a pre-show announcement.
This means the show is about to start.



I will be a **good audience member.**
I will be quiet and watch the stage.

Seeing a performance at a theater is like seeing a movie.



In live theater, the people performing
will be right in front of me on stage.
They are called **actors**.

Actors pretend they are characters and tell a story.



The actors perform on a **set** with special scenery, like doors and windows, which help the audience know when and where the story takes place.



Special lights and sounds also help the actors to tell the story.
The lights and sounds won't hurt me.



The sounds that help tell the story
will sometimes be loud.

I know that even though the sounds
can be loud and can feel scary.
None of the noise can hurt me.

If things get too loud or I need to take a break,
I can go to the green room with the green door.
(Classroom 2)



I will walk quietly out of the theater
and back into the lobby with my grown-up.

We can watch the show on a TV screen.
There may be other people in the green room too.



We will sit in the green room until **I feel better.**

After the show is over, the actors will
come back on stage and bow.
This is called a **curtain call**.



It is nice to clap for the actors.
When we clap, the actors know that
we had fun watching them act!

If it is too loud, I will cover my ears or
hold my grown-up's hand.

Once the curtain call is over, I can ask the actors questions about the show.

There are two ways that I can do this.
The **first way** is that I can stay in the audience and actors on stage can answer questions from kids in the audience.



If I have a question, I will raise my hand and wait to be called on.
There may be lots of other students with questions,
so it is okay if I don't get called on.

The **second way** is that I can go to the yellow room with the yellow door to have my questions answered by actors.

In the yellow room, I will be closer to the actors so I won't need to talk as loud.

There will also be fewer people and it will be less crowded than in the theater.



(An actor from the play Frederick answers questions in costume. The actor will be different for the show I am seeing.)

I can also get an autograph upstairs, if I want.
I will walk out of the theater and walk upstairs to the balcony.
The actors will be there signing autographs.



*(Actors from the play **Pinkalicious**
sign autographs after the show.
The actors will be different
for the show I am seeing.)*

Then I will go home.
I can talk to my family or friends about
the fun things that I saw
in the show at The Rose!





My friends at The Rose Theater hope
I have a great time at the show,
and are looking forward to
seeing me soon!

If you want to know a little more about some of the surprises in

THE MEANING OF MAGGIE



then keep reading!



If you would like to be surprised, stop reading now.



In the play, ***The Meaning of Maggie***,
Maggie is a middle schooler.

Maggie loves school.
She loves to read books, write stories, ask questions,
be a scientist and dream about when she is older.



Maggie has two sisters Layla and Tiffany.
Layla and Tiffany are older than Maggie.

Maggie has a mom and a dad.
Mom uses her feet to move around from place to place.



Maggie's dad uses a wheelchair.

A wheelchair is a seat that uses wheels to help a person who can't use their legs to move around from place to place.

In the play, Maggie's dad tells Maggie that his legs are asleep and he cannot wake them up, so he uses the wheelchair to get around.



Because dad's legs are asleep, he has to quit his job at the airport and now he stays home to take care of Maggie and her sisters.

To help, mom has a job at a hotel.
This is a change that Maggie thinks is hard.
Sometimes I might do something that I think is hard.



There are times in the play when Maggie's family gets frustrated and their voices get a little loud.

I can remember that the people on stage are actors and they cannot hurt me.

I can cover my ears until the noise gets softer.



Maggie likes to solve problems.
Maggie finds out that her dad has Multiple Sclerosis.
This is why his legs are asleep.

Since Maggie likes to solve problems,
she is going to try to find a way to wake her dad's legs up.



At the end of the play Maggie finds out that she cannot find a way to wake her dad's legs up.

But she does find out that her dad is proud of her and loves her and her family very much.

Sometimes I may have a problem that I can't solve but I need to remember that I am still loved by others.

Information for Parents

Sensory Guidance:

THE MEANING OF MAGGIE



Best for ages 8 and up
Approximately 75 minutes (without an intermission)

At The Rose Theater, we believe everyone deserves a chance to experience the magic of the theater. Performances and classes are open to children and family members of all abilities. We are committed to removing obstacles and opening up new opportunities for people with disabilities.

The Rose Theater understands that kids on the autism spectrum have unique and varying sensory issues. Sensory accommodations are balanced with preserving the genuine experience desired by all children and families.

Sensory Friendly Performance Accommodations: Not all aspects of the show may be modified due to their relevance to the story, the show's artistic integrity or production constraints. House lights will stay dimly on for the entire show. There will be few modifications to lighting, sound and the performance.

Accommodations for Other Special Needs: Select performances are interpreted for audience members who are deaf or hard of hearing. On select dates, The Rose also offers audio description services for audience members who are blind.

Please be advised: Entering a large auditorium with many people can be challenging for some audience members. The Rose staff tries to provide a supportive and welcoming environment. During the show, audience members are free to visit the Restless Room where they can talk, wiggle, make noise or just "take a break." Please use the side hallways if you must leave during the performance. See the Box Office for information.



A few potential triggers to prepare for in the show include:

- There are times when characters yell because they are frustrated, overworked and stressed.
- Sensory elements include bright colors, music, semi-darkness, and loud voices.

Expect:

A touching story that encourages audiences to show compassion for those with differing abilities and to respect each other's differences.

The production includes a stationary scene of a typical middle class home. Simple scene changes depict different locations such as school, a museum, a hotel and a hospital.

Potentially anxious scenes include:

- Maggie's mother is overworked and overtired; her family sometimes voices their frustrations through raised voices.
- Maggie's father's illness is a mystery to Maggie at first, and the family chooses not to tell her what is going on with her dad. She worries about him.
- Maggie's teenage sisters are not always kind to her. They engage in good-natured ribbing and teasing throughout the play.

Positive Themes:

- Coping with an ill parent
- Families and communication
- Accepting what you cannot change.

How to Prepare for the Story (before the show):

The Meaning of Maggie is an play adapted from a novel. This is the debut of the play on stage, making it a world premiere. It is based on a book written by Megan Jean Sovern, who based the story on her own life and her father, who had multiple sclerosis.

Please see the Going to The Rose Guide on our website for additional information about this show. The Rose also posts conversation starters on our social media sites to help parents discuss the show with their children.



Preparing for The Rose Experience

Adult audience members attending with youth on the autism spectrum and other sensitivity issues may read the following information to prepare for the total experience and excitement at The Rose. These tips are for anyone attending any performances on The Rose stage, not just the sensory friendly performances.

Getting Ready:

- Coming to The Rose can be a special occasion, or a casual family outing, but it's always fun. Some audience members dress up, some do not--it's your choice.
- Food and drink are not allowed in the theater.
- Children can bring comfort toys as needed, as long as their toys also sit quietly during the show. You can bring a camera and take photos in our lobbies, but not inside the theater. Electronic devices must be turned off in the theater.
- Check out the Going to The Rose Guide, Study Guides, Beyond the Curtain children's program and The Rose's social media sites to learn more about the show you're going to see. These are available on The Rose website at www.rosetheater.org.
- Always feel free to call The Rose Box Office at (402) 345-4849 or contact info@rosetheater.org if you have any questions.
- Seating at The Rose is general admission for regular season shows. This means that seats are not assigned, but are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Wheelchair seating is available throughout the theater. If you require a specific space due to your family's needs, please contact The Rose Box Office for accommodations.

Parking:

- Several parking spaces are available for patrons with disabilities directly outside The Rose Theater. Up to six spaces are available on Friday evenings. Ten spaces are available on Saturdays and Sundays.

Before the Show:

- Ushers can answer any questions you may have, including special needs requests such as audio devices for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, information on audio description services for the blind, earplugs for people on the autism spectrum or other sensitivity issues.

Restrooms:

- Wheelchair accessible restrooms are located in the lower lobby and on the mezzanine. Individual, single-user restrooms are available on the mezzanine. An elevator is available for those needing access to the lower lobby and mezzanine levels.

The Restless Room:

- The Restless Room is a special room with a live video feed of the show that may be used at any time during the performance. This room is soundproofed and available for anyone who wants to see the show but needs to make noise. Everyone is welcome in the Restless Room, including people with special needs and infants. The sound and viewing quality of the video feed is not equal to the live experience inside, but it does serve those who want to continue watching the show but need to move around or make noise.



After the Show:

- The cast always returns for a Curtain Call. Prepare for applause!
- When it is time to leave the theater, the crowd can move slowly and there may be lines. If you need to wait for the crowd to thin, you can wait in your seats for a few minutes.
- A child-focused Question and Answer session will take place on the mainstage after the performance. Everyone is welcome to take part in this long-standing Rose tradition.
- Check out The Rose's website and social media to learn more about our upcoming productions, classes, camps, and other programs and give us your feedback after the show.



www.rosetheater.org