



Parental Guide

A Parents' Guide for the
Sensory-Friendly Performance of
The Journal of Ben Uchida: Citizen 13559

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Parental Guide

Environmental Considerations for Ben Uchida

1. The performance takes place in the Eve Alford Theatre which has open bench-style seating versus individual seats. Benches do have back support.
2. The show is approximately 60 minutes in duration and has one act, with no intermission.

Show Content Considerations for Ben Uchida

1. This show addresses **VERY MATURE AND CHALLENGING THEMES INCLUDING RACISM AND SUICIDE**. Thus, the show contains many emotionally intense scenes and interactions, with characters displaying a range of challenging emotions including anger, fear, sadness, and depression. There are some scenes that include violence (characters using racial slurs, fighting, a nightmare involving Ben's father being shot, and Ben's father slapping Naomi). **A particularly intense scene involves Ben recalling his father's suicide, with the silhouette of his father's hanged body visible onstage.** Parents may want to specifically prepare their children for these scenes and assure them that these scenes are acted and not real.

Sensory-rich and emotionally intense moments to consider:

SCENE	SENSORY CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Opening	NA	NA
Optometry Shop	NA	NA
Uchida House	NA	NA
Radio Announcement	SUSPENSE VISUAL SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Dramatic lighting – stage darkens•Suspenseful music plays•Beeping sound from simulated radio
Chorus Post Notices	EMOTIONAL INTENSITY VISUAL SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angry mob shouts racial slurs• Dramatic lighting• Soundtrack of crowd whispering
Danny McManus/ Ben and Naomi walk home	EMOTIONAL INTENSITY VIOLENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Danny yells racial slurs at Ben• Ben and Danny fight; Naomi rescues Ben• Naomi scolds Ben

SCENE	SENSORY CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Uchida House - Packing	EMOTIONAL INTENSITY INTENSE SUDDEN SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatic music plays • Tense confrontation between neighbor and Mrs. Uchida. Neighbor uses racial language. Mrs. Uchida drops teapot suddenly and it breaks loudly onstage • Mrs. Uchida screams
Caller	EMOTIONAL INTENSITY SUSPENSE VISUAL SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caller makes phone threats • Suspenseful music plays • Stage darkens
Memory montage	EMOTIONAL INTENSITY VISUAL SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shouting of racial slurs; characters appear onstage reenacting racial scenes • Teapot breaks • Whisper voice soundtrack replays
Caller Nightmare	EMOTIONAL INTENSITY SUSPENSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ben dreams of dad getting shot as figure appears pointing gun at dad
Mr. Mills	NA	NA
Traveling Sequence Q&A	VISUAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage darkens
Train Station	EMOTIONAL INTENSITY SOUND VISUAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soundtrack of voices • Train engine sounds • Stage darkens with dramatic spotlight • Naomi is upset about injustice of having to leave • Sudden train sound effects – engine blows, chugging sound • Dad pushed into train car • Stage goes black
On the Train / Train Nightmare	INTENSE VISUAL INTENSE SOUND EMOTIONAL INTENSITY SUSPENSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatic lighting • Soundtrack of train rattling • Ben and Naomi fight • Bright spotlight suddenly shines onto audience with very loud train screeching sound

SCENE	SENSORY CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Arriving at Camp	SUSPENSE EMOTIONAL INTENSITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ben narrates camp experience -- talks about guards with guns, roaches • Mom tries to kill roach • Ben steps on roach to kill it with loud crunching sound
Setting up the Barracks	EMOTIONAL INTENSITY SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspenseful sound effects – wind blowing
Baseball with Mike	MILD SUSPENSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guard (Mike) enters stage; has gun but does not use • Ben asks Mike if he has killed people
Parents fight in Japanese	NA	NA
School	SUSPENSE VISUAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage darkens with large dramatic shadow of teacher appears; teacher taps wand
Barracks	SOUND DRAMA EMOTIONAL INTENSITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naomi drops broom – makes loud noise • Naomi upset and yells • Dad slaps Naomi and Naomi runs off
School in the Winter	VISUAL SOUND SUSPENSE EMOTIONAL INTENSITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage darkens • Dramatic sound effects • Snow falls in background / white sheet across stage to simulate snow • Teacher questions Ben; conflict between Ben and teacher
Ben Running Back to Barracks	SUSPENSE EMOTIONAL INTENSITY SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ben runs, distressed • Dramatic music plays in background • Stage darkens, snow falls in background
Ben Discovers Dad's Suicide	EMOTIONAL INTENSITY SUSPENSE VISUAL SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage darkens • Suspenseful wind sound effects • Large shadow of Ben appears with dramatic lighting • Dramatic music plays • Silhouette of hanged father appears suddenly onstage with sound effect of rope creaking

SCENE	SENSORY CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Letter to Robbie	EMOTIONAL INTENSITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ben talks of burying father
Leaving Camp	SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatic music plays
Ben Visits Dad's Grave	SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ben has conversation with dad • Suspenseful wind sound effects
Ben Visits Ms. Kroll	EMOTIONAL INTENSITY SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher talks about late husband's ghost appearing at camp • Suspenseful music plays
END		

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