

The Burnavon Arts Centre



# ASD-Friendly Information Pack



[www.burnavon.com/your-visit](http://www.burnavon.com/your-visit)

the burnavon

## **Burnavon Staff**

Burnavon staff have received training to ensure that they are autism aware and are on hand to provide support with any queries you may have either in person, by phone, or email.

## **Before Your Visit**

If you feel you may need to take some time away from the show during a performance, you can book an aisle seat in advance. If you would like to visit the building before you attend a show or a workshop, please call the Box Office on 028 8676 9949 (option 1) to arrange a convenient time for a pre-theatre visit.

## **Performances**

In general, our shows vary in terms of how loud sound and music is, the darkness within the auditorium, sudden noises, strobe lighting, smells and sound effects. If you, or someone you know, is neurodivergent it may be advisable to contact us to find out about an individual show so you can prepare before your visit.

Some of our shows may be specifically autism friendly, if so, this will be noted in our season programme. During such performances house lights are increased by 30 percent and sound is capped at 90 decibels.

Additional adjustments include:

- Strobe lighting is not used, only calming coloured lighting, for example light blue and green. The colours yellow and red will not be used.
- There will be no use of Pyrotechnics.
- Surprising elements, for example, sudden blackouts are toned down.
- Where a specific scene includes any significant change in noise or lights this information is provided to the audience, via email and is announced at the start of a show, so that patrons can prepare.

During ASD-Friendly performances there is a designated Quiet Space if you need some time away from the theatre environment. Box Office staff can direct you to this space. The Quiet Space does not have any visual or audio streams.

## **Workshops**

Our workshops vary in terms of how many participants are in the room, some workshops are noisy, art materials all have different smells and feel different. If you, or someone you know, is for neurodivergent it may be advisable to contact us to find out about an individual workshop so you can prepare before your visit.

Some of our workshops are specifically ASD-friendly, and this is noted in our season programme. During such workshops there are:

- A smaller number of participants and the tutor will always design the content of the workshop with ASD in mind.
- There is a designated Quiet Space within the same room if you need some time away.
- Tutors have access to a Calming Sensory Box which can be used to help participants relax, calm down and concentrate on their given task.
- Use of choice boards to help participants decide upon designs where appropriate.
- Use of visual signage to help with schedules where appropriate.
- Timers where appropriate.

## **What can I bring with me?**

If you use tools to help with sensory issues (e.g. ear defenders, or fiddle toys) you can bring them with you to our shows, workshops, or events. a limited number of ear defenders are available inhouse and can be requested at Box Office.