



SEATTLE  
CHILDREN'S  
THEATRE

# CORDUROY FAMILY GUIDE



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## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- The performance takes place in the Charlotte Martin Theatre. Seating is stadium style, similar to a movie theater. There are two aisles in the center of the theater, an aisle on each side, and a quiet room on the back right.
- The show is approximately 90 minutes in duration and has two acts. The first act is 49 minutes in duration and the second act is 38 minutes, there is a 15 minute intermission inbetween.

## SHOW CONTENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Parents may want to prepare their children who are familiar with the book, Corduroy, that the show is similar in some ways to the book (characters with the same names, a similar plot) but that the show will be different in many ways from the book.
- Parents may want to explain to their children that during the show Corduroy is represented by both a small stuffed bear and an actor.
- The show alternates between scenes of Corduroy in the store and Lisa in her house. Music, consisting of recorded piano and percussion, plays during each of the scene transitions.
- Both Corduroy and the Night Watchman employ lots of physical comedy for visual humor throughout the show. Instances which might be particularly startling are noted, however parents may want to prepare their children for general slapstick humor.

SCENE	SENSORY CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Opening	SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Two clowns appear onstage. Many of their movements are accompanied by loud sound effects such as bells, a bicycle horn and cymbals.</li></ul>
Scene 1: In the toy section of the store	SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A voiceover announces that the store is closing.</li></ul>
	SOUND/VISUAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Night Watchman presses a button. The lights dim, accompanied by a zapping sound.</li></ul>
	VISUAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The small stuffed Corduroy “falls” off the shelf and an actor who now portrays Corduroy appears.</li></ul>
Scene 3: In the toy section of the store	SUSPENSE/ EXCITEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Corduroy moves towards the escalator as he searches for his button. His movement is accompanied by frenetic music.</li></ul>
Scene 5: Home Furnishings	SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Corduroy interacts with a mop and pail, accompanied by sound effects</li></ul>
	SOUND/VISUAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Corduroy attempts to remove a button from a mattress in various comedic attempts. These attempts are accompanied by sound effects.</li><li>• Corduroy finally gets the button off of the mattress. The lights change as everything moves in slow motion. Corduroy crashes into a lamp with a loud noise. The bright light of the Night Watchman’s flashlight is seen and loud music plays.</li></ul>
	SUSPENSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Night Watchman hits the bed where the audience thinks the actor portraying Corduroy is hidden.</li></ul>

SCENE	SENSORY CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
<b>Scene 7: Appliances</b>	PHYSICAL COMEDY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corduroy sprays a clown with a bottle</li> </ul>
	SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Egg timer dings repeatedly</li> <li>• Dramatic music and fan sound effects while Corduroy interacts with the fan.</li> <li>• Vacuum sound effect</li> </ul>
	EXCITEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vacuum “chases” Corduroy</li> <li>• The Night Watchman sits on the stove and “burns” his bottom</li> </ul>
	SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loud music as the Night Watchman sits on the washer</li> </ul>
<b>Scene 9: Toiletries</b>	SOUND/ PHYSICAL COMEDY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corduroy sprays himself with shaving cream</li> </ul>
	SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sound effects as Corduroy moves towards tower of toilet paper and climbs toilet paper</li> </ul>
	VISUAL/SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting change and sound effect when Night Watchman enters</li> <li>• Spring sound effect</li> </ul>
	VISUAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackout</li> </ul>
<b>INTERMISSION</b>		
	VISUAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackout</li> </ul>
<b>Transition to Scene 10</b>	SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bells when the clowns enter</li> </ul>
<b>Scene 10: Lisa’s house</b>	SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspenseful music as Lisa tries to fix the trashcan with glue</li> </ul>
<b>Scene 11: The department store</b>	SOUND/VISUAL/ PHYSICAL COMEDY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a fairly chaotic scene. It begins with loud sound effects like crashing noises and animal sounds. The vacuum appears several times, growing larger each time. Feathers float and the stuffed Corduroy bear flies through the air. The button becomes trapped under a basket.</li> </ul>
	SUSPENSE/ SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vacuum appears to chase after Corduroy and low pitched music plays.</li> </ul>
	SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A leaf blower makes loud noises during the transition between scenes.</li> </ul>
<b>Scene 13: Shipping and Receiving</b>	PHYSICAL COMEDY/ SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corduroy knocks the Night Watchman into a crate and drumming music plays.</li> </ul>
	SUSPENSE/ VISUAL/SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Night Watchman climbs into a crate, the lid slams and the lights flicker</li> </ul>

SCENE	SENSORY CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Scene 15: Toy Department	SOUND/VISUAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corduroy presses the fuse button. There is a blackout onstage and a zapping noise. The Night Watchman turns on his flashlight, finds the fuse box and there is another zapping noise.</li> </ul>
	SOUND/VISUAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The vacuum cleaner, now very large, enters the stage. The Night Watchman exclaims, "It's going to blow!" and the vacuum cleaner explodes scattering debris across the stage.</li> </ul>
	EMOTIONAL INTENSITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corduroy steps on the button, breaking it. Feeling very sad, Corduroy climbs into the trash can.</li> <li>Lisa returns to the store and, believing that Corduroy has been sold, begins to cry.</li> </ul>
Finale	SOUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audience applause</li> </ul>

