

***Fancy Dancer* Content Guidance**

Thank you so much for booking your upcoming field trip to *Fancy Dancer*. This production is a new work, which means the script was updated throughout the rehearsal process. Now that rehearsals are nearly complete, we want to share updated information about the content so you can feel fully prepared to attend with your students.

In this performance, there are references to the following topics:

Bullying

- Bullying is one of the strongest themes in the play. Lara, the main character, shares memories of being teased, called names, tripped, shoved, excluded, and deeply hurt. These stories are central to her journey of resilience and finding strength through ballet.
- Bullying is presented through spoken memories, not graphic violence. Some examples of this in the script is:

CHEERLEADER: *You're in the wrong class. And you're in my spot.*
 LARA: *As I moved away, she stuck out her ballet slippered foot and I went down. Hard.*

JENNY: *Get out of my way Fish Face.*
 LARA: *... Soon the whole lunch room was chanting with them or a hundred kids in the bleachers all yelling at me...*
- In these scenes, the focus remains on Lara's emotional response and growth, rather than on the bullies themselves. In the greater context of the show, it demonstrates that although bullying hurt Lara, it did not stop her from becoming strong and following her dream.

HIV/AIDS

- The character of Greg, Lara's mentor, is living with AIDS.
- AIDS is not described in graphic medical detail. References in the dialogue include:
 - "Greg had a disease called AIDS. There was no cure then."
 - "Greg also made me promise that if he ever got a cut during the ballet, I would stop the show and get all the kids off the stage. AIDS is in your blood and his biggest fear was spreading it to anyone else, but especially a kid."
- The script briefly describes Greg becoming sick and losing strength while dancing.
- The focus is on Greg's passion for dance, his belief in Lara, and his role as a mentor, and not on the disease itself. His illness does not define him. The play highlights Greg's laughter, teaching, and love of dance as the qualities Lara remembers most.

Eating Disorders

- Lara describes the pressures of professional ballet training and briefly mentions that some dancers hide eating disorders. This phrase is included in a list along with injuries, puberty, and pregnancy.
- This is a short reference within a larger passage about the physical demands of ballet. The exact line of dialogue is, "*There's blood and bruises every day. Dancers hide eating disorders, puberty or pregnancy. Everyone hides injuries.*"

- The play does not show eating disorder behavior onstage, nor does it go into graphic detail.
- The inclusion emphasizes how dancers sometimes hide personal struggles under the pressures of performance.

We do not anticipate that the content in *Fancy Dancer* will negatively impact students. The references to sensitive topics are brief, age-appropriate, and presented within the larger context of Lara's inspiring journey of resilience and self-discovery. However, we know that every classroom community is unique. Our goal is to empower you as educators with context so you feel confident addressing any student curiosity or questions that may arise. If you have any questions about the content of the performance, please email fieldtrips@sct.org and one of our staff members will follow up with you.

Thank you for the care you bring in preparing your students for this experience. We look forward to welcoming you and your students to *Fancy Dancer* soon!