

SEATTLE **REP**

Sensory Guide

Noël Coward's

BLITHE SPIRIT



About the Show



Duration:

2 hours and 10 minutes (plus a 15-minute intermission).

Blithe Spirit is a spooky comedy designed to immerse you in a variety of sensory experiences. Below, you'll find a detailed breakdown of sensory impacts every 15 minutes. Key elements to be aware of include:

- **Screaming:** Varying levels of screaming occur throughout the play, ranging from soft to frightened tones.
- **Bells:** Bells ring at various points to signal characters' arrivals and scene transitions.
- **Flashing Lights:** Used periodically during the performance.
- **Fog & Haze:** Present throughout the show, along with magical effects, particularly when ghosts enter or exit the stage.
- **Furniture Movement:** Sounds of furniture being bumped or moved, mimicking ghostly activity.

Sound Levels: Decibel levels referenced in this guide indicate notable moments when actors, props, or set pieces produce sound. These do not account for audience reactions, such as applause.

Guide Development: This Sensory Guide is tailored specifically to Seattle Rep's 2024 production of Noël Coward's *Blithe Spirit*. The Guide was produced by Matty Sythandone, Audience Services Manager and neurodivergent individual, with training and guidance provided by Sensory Access. Performances were audited on Dec. 1 and Dec. 8.

SENSORY IMPACT KEY



Auditory Impact



Visual Impact



Emotional Impact



Strobing Effects

COMMON DECIBEL (dB) LEVELS

70

Office/classroom chatter

80

Busy traffic, dog barking

90

Hairdryer

100

Lawnmower, construction site

110

Concert, night club

120

Police siren, airplane taking off

SENSORY GUIDE | BLITHE SPIRIT

INTERVAL	DESCRIPTION	IMPACT
0-15 MINUTES	- Up to 60 dB - Music plays in the house prior to the show beginning - Transition music into the performance	
15-30 MINUTES	- Up to 60 dB - Lights dim and return to brighter capacity	
30-45 MINUTES	- Up to 87.8 dB - Loud thumps made by ghost character - Screaming and yelling - Lights dim	

CONTINUED →

SENSORY GUIDE | BLITHE SPIRIT

INTERVAL	DESCRIPTION	IMPACT
45-60 MINUTES	- Up to 87.8 dB - Slamming of silverware - Varying screams from soft to frightened - Lights dim	 
INTERMISSION	Approximately 15 minutes	
60-75 MINUTES	- Up to 89.4 dB - Bell sounds - Emotional impact - Lights dim	  
75-90 MINUTES	- Up to 87.5 dB - Emotional impact - Lights dim - Fog/haze - Flashing on set	  
90-105 MINUTES	- Up to 87.5 dB - Door bell - Scream	
105-120 MINUTES	- Up to 93.9 dB - Emotional impact - Flashing lights - Bell rings - Car sound - Scream - Phone rings - Lights dim	   

CONTINUED →

SENSORY GUIDE | BLITHE SPIRIT

INTERVAL	DESCRIPTION	IMPACT
120-135 MINUTES	• Up to 93.9 dB • Emotional impact • Lights dim and go back to regular brightness • Multiple black-outs within the scene • Multiple loud "ding" sounds in a short period of time	
135-140 MINUTES	• Up to 95.9 dB • Colorful stage lights • Loud sounds • Lights dim and go back to regular brightness • Sudden loud set movements • Lights flicker fast • Multiple crashing sounds • Fog/haze used • Scream • A moment of magic comes into the audience	

Upcoming Sensory-Friendly Performance

Join Seattle Rep in the new year for a sensory-friendly performance of Pearl Cleage's ***Blues for an Alabama Sky***, directed by Valerie Curtis-Newton, on **February 15, 2025 at 2 p.m.** Lyrical and deeply moving, this stunning classic drama will immerse you in the joy, sorrow, and resilience of 1930s Harlem, a society on the brink of change. Learn more about the show at seattlerep.org/blues and about Seattle Rep's sensory-friendly performances and sensory accessibility at seattlerep.org/accessibility.



Produced by Seattle Rep for its 2024 production of Noël Coward's *Blithe Spirit*, directed by Allison Narver. Under no circumstances should this Sensory Guide be reproduced, distributed, publicly displayed, or modified by an organization that is not Seattle Rep.

This Sensory Guide was created with express permission and preliminary guidance from Sensory Access. Sensory Access aims to make all the events most people take for granted more accessible to those with sensory processing difficulties.

Learn more about and support our partners at sensoryaccess.org.