

SEATTLE  
**REP**

# Sensory Guide

# BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY



BY PEARL  
CLEAGE

**Sensory-Friendly Performance:** Saturday, February 15 at 2 p.m.

# About the Show



**Duration:**





2 hours and 35 minutes including a 15-minute intermission

Pearl Cleage's drama ***Blues for an Alabama Sky*** explores the joy and hardship of a society on the brink of change in 1930s Harlem. Below, you will find a detailed breakdown of sensory impacts every 15 minutes. Key elements to be aware of include:




- **Scenic:** This play takes place within multiple homes in Harlem. During scene transitions throughout the show, lights will dim, the city space behind the set will change colors, and the set itself will rotate.
- **Apartment Sounds:** Doors opening and closing in the apartments as characters make their way through different scenes. Characters will also knock as they enter each other's homes.
- **Music:** There are a few moments during the show when characters play music in their homes, underscoring the dialogue on stage. In addition, there is an on-stage musician playing live trumpet through every scenic transition, in addition to sound being played through speakers on stage.
- **City & Car Sounds:** A cacophony of sounds highlighting the community of Harlem will play during scenic transitions.

**Sound Levels:** This production was audited for this Sensory Guide during the final technical dress rehearsal before a small audience of invited guests, when technical elements are being set in advance of the first public performance. The decibel readings directly reflect what was on the stage at that final dress rehearsal. Please note that sound levels with a full audience may be somewhat higher and could exceed 100dB as the show begins or during the curtain call.

**Guide Development:** This Sensory Guide is tailored specifically to Seattle Rep and The Hansberry Project's 2025 production of *Blues for an Alabama Sky*. The Guide was produced by Matty Sythandone, Audience Services Manager and neurodivergent individual, with training and guidance provided by Sensory Access. The production was audited during the final technical dress rehearsal on January 29, 2025.

Sensory Impact Key	Common Decibel (dB) Levels
 Auditory Impact	70 Office/classroom chatter
 Visual Impact	80 Busy traffic, dog barking
 Emotional Impact	90 Hairdryer
 Strobing Effects	100 Lawnmower, construction site
	110 Concert, night club
	120 Police siren, airplane taking off

### Sensory Guide | Blues for an Alabama Sky






Interval	Description	Impact
0-15 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Music plays in the house prior to the show beginning</li> <li>Transition music leads into the performance</li> <li>Lights dim on stage to transition into the show, then increase in brightness</li> <li>Yelling</li> <li>Multiple emotional impacts</li> <li>Up to 81.5 dB</li> </ul>	  

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INTERVAL	DESCRIPTION	IMPACT
<b>15-30</b> MINUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple emotional impacts</li> <li>Transition music and trumpet</li> <li>Up to 88.2 dB</li> </ul>	 
<b>30-45</b> MINUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emotional impact</li> <li>Transition music and trumpet</li> <li>Up to 98.7 dB</li> </ul>	 
<b>45-60</b> MINUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transition music and trumpet</li> <li>Emotionally heavy discussion</li> <li>Up to 99.8 dB</li> </ul>	 
<b>60-75</b> MINUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High emotional impact</li> <li>Cheering</li> <li>Stage lights dim around the set</li> <li>Transition music and trumpet</li> <li>Up to 99.8 dB</li> </ul>	  
<b>75-85</b> MINUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transitional music and trumpet</li> <li>Emotionally heavy discussion</li> <li>Up to 99.8 dB</li> <li>Audience members may applaud at the end of this scene as it transitions into intermission</li> </ul>	 
<b>INTERMISSION</b>	Approximately 15 minutes	
<b>100-115</b> MINUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transition music and trumpet</li> <li>Multiple emotional impacts</li> <li>Up to 99.4 dB</li> </ul>	 

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INTERVAL	DESCRIPTION	IMPACT
<b>115-130</b> MINUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gun shot</li><li>• Emotional impact</li><li>• Transition music and trumpet</li><li>• Lights dim</li><li>• Up to 101.3 dB</li></ul>	  
<b>130-145</b> MINUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yelling</li><li>• Transition music and trumpet</li><li>• Up to 101.3 dB</li></ul>	 
<b>145-155</b> MINUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emotionally heavy discussion</li><li>• Transition music and trumpet</li><li>• Up to 100.7 dB</li></ul>	 
<b>155</b> MINUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stage lights dim to black</li><li>• Blackout in the theater</li><li>• Up to 101.7 dB</li><li>• Audience members may applaud and stand at the end of the play while actors take their final bows</li></ul>	 

### Seattle Rep's Sensory Accessibility

The sensory-friendly performance of *Blues for an Alabama Sky* on Feb. 15 at 2 p.m. is the final sensory-friendly performance of Seattle Rep's 2024/25 Season. However, all of Seattle Rep's productions are **sensory accessible**.

**Sensory Guides** are available for all productions online (posted around each show's Opening Night) and in hard copy at Coat Check at the Theater. **Fidget items** and **sensory kits** are available for all audience members.

Visit [seattlerep.org/accessibility](https://seattlerep.org/accessibility) to learn more about Seattle Rep's accessible options, or call our Box Office at 206.443.2222, text 206.565.2996, or email [tickets@seattlerep.org](mailto:tickets@seattlerep.org).



This Sensory Guide was produced by Seattle Rep for its 2025 production of Pearl Cleage's *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, directed by Valerie Curtis-Newton and presented in partnership with The Hansberry Project. Under no circumstances should this Sensory Guide be reproduced, distributed, publicly displayed, or modified by an organization that is not Seattle Rep.

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