

SEATTLE **REP**

Sensory Guide



MOTHER RUSSIA

BY
LAUREN
YEE

About the Show



Duration:





90 minutes with no intermission

Lauren Yee's ***Mother Russia*** follows Evgeny and Dmitri, two average guys who dream of cushy government jobs—but when the fall of the Soviet Union puts hiring on hold, they find work surveilling a former pop star instead. As they bumble their way through the assignment, both spying and life under capitalism prove harder than they thought. Below, you will find a detailed breakdown of this production's sensory impacts every 15 minutes. Key elements to be aware of include:

- **Scenic:** As our characters travel through different locations in the play, you will see the set spin. You will also see and hear bus seats coming on and off the stage.
- **Lighting:** There are only a few moments in the show where the stage is completely dark. Please note that there are flashing light effects during the performance, and they are listed in the breakdown below.
- **Music:** As our characters transition locations, music of varying genres from classical to rock will play to underscore the transition.
- **Door Sounds:** As characters enter and exit the kiosk (the small store-like set), you will hear the door open and shut. There are a few moments of the door slamming during the performance.
- **Vehicle Sounds:** Throughout the show you will hear bus and vehicle sound effects.

Sound Levels: This production was audited for this Sensory Guide during the final technical dress rehearsal before a small audience of invited guests, where technical elements are 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 100 dB as the show begins or during the curtain call.

Guide Development: This Sensory Guide is tailored specifically to Seattle Rep's world-premiere play *Mother Russia* by Lauren Yee, directed by Nicholas C. Avila. The Guide was produced by Matty Sythandone, Senior Front of House Manager and neurodivergent individual, with training and guidance provided by Sensory Access. The production was audited during the final technical dress rehearsal on March 5, 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

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INTERVAL	DESCRIPTION	IMPACT
0-15 MINUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 83.2 dB Lights dim after actor enters the audience through the aisles Television sounds Spinning light effect and lights change as set turns 	 
15-30 MINUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 89.3 dB Door slams shut Beeping sound during transition Actor enters the audience through the aisles 	 
30-45 MINUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 84.1 dB Bus sound effect Strobe Light transition to immediate darkness on stage 	  
45-60 MINUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 91.1 dB Intimate moment Fake slap Gun shown 	 
60-75 MINUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 93.6 dB Emotional impact Intimate moment Characters shove each other 	 

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INTERVAL	DESCRIPTION	IMPACT
75-85 MINUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 85.8 dB• Emotional impact• Door slam	
85-90 MINUTES	<p>End of Show: Curtain call sound levels may vary past 100 dB when including applause and audience engagement with the performance during the curtain call.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emotional impact• Door slam• Yell• Actor flips over a table• Gun shown• Props unintentionally may fall into the audience• Stage darkens to almost black with flash and off-stage gun affect• Audience members may applaud and stand at the end of the play while actors take their final bows	

Seattle Rep's Sensory Accessibility

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 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.



This Sensory Guide was produced by Seattle Rep for its 2025 production of Lauren Yee's *Mother Russia*, directed by Nicholas C. Avila. 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 and support this incredible organization at sensoryaccess.org.