

Village Theatre

Production Preview Guide

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

Winner of five Tony Awards and seven Olivier Awards, this compelling sensory drama is based on the award-winning book of the same name. When 15-year-old Christopher is wrongfully accused of murdering his neighbor's dog, he sets off to solve the mystery and prove his innocence. Equipped with an extraordinary brain, but hampered by a strong distrust of strangers and a personal struggle to interpret everyday life, this adventure will turn his life upside-down – while giving the audience an intimate look at the world through his eyes.

THE PURPOSE OF A PRODUCTION PREVIEW GUIDE:

Many people have different ideas about what material is appropriate, both for themselves and their families. This production preview guide is provided to give you the necessary information to determine if the content of our production is suitable for you and your loved ones. Please be aware that this document is provided with the intent of full disclosure, and therefore contains plot spoilers. Also, because all of our productions are locally produced, there may be cases where minor changes occur as the director prepares the show for the stage. In such cases, this guide will be updated accordingly. Once the show is open and on stage, there will be no further changes.

A MESSAGE FROM JERRY DIXON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Playwright, Simon Stephens, skillfully uses coarse language and actions to illustrate differences between the corrupted behaviors of the adults in the play, versus the unique, special qualities of fifteen-year-old Christopher Boone.

SCRIPT CONTENT DETAILS:

Language: Strong language is used generously throughout the play. There are multiple uses and variations of “fuck,” “shit,” “hell,” “Christ,” “God’s sake,” “ass,” “bastard,” and “crap.”

Violence: Images or portrayals of a dead dog may be seen onstage at various moments throughout the play. In the opening scene, Christopher screams and hits a policeman. When Ed discovers Christopher’s book, he throws the book, grabs Christopher, then hits him, causing him to fall. Christopher later discovers letters from his mother describing a memory in which she hit Ed, as well as another memory where she threw food across the room and Christopher threw a cutting board at her, breaking her toes. In a moment of frustration, Christopher hits his hands, feet, and head on the ground. When a policeman grabs Christopher at the train station, Christopher screams and the policeman lets go. Judy tries to greet Christopher with a hug when he arrives at her home, but he pushes her away and falls. After some heavy drinking, Roger yells at and grabs Christopher before Judy pulls Roger back. Christopher carries a knife for self-defense and sometimes points it at others when he feels threatened. After finding out that Ed killed the dog, Christopher refers to his father as a murderer.

Sexual Content: Early in the play, Christopher talks about how nonverbal cues can sometimes mean “I want to do sex with you.” There are a few moments where Christopher straightforwardly refers to people “doing sex.” It is revealed that Christopher’s mother had an affair with their neighbor.

Drugs/Alcohol: There are moments in which Christopher remembers how his mother smoked Menthol cigarettes and how his Uncle Terry smoked. After an argument with Christopher, Ed says, “I need a drink.” On a train ride, Christopher encounters two intoxicated passengers as they are retrieving their luggage. In London, Roger is shown drinking four cans of lager before drunkenly confronting Christopher.

Other: Christopher describes a classmate who, “took his trousers off and went to the toilet all over the floor of the changing room and started to eat it.”