



PARENT GUIDE: ARNIE THE DOUGHNUT

We are excited for your upcoming visit to Lifeline Theatre for *Arnie The Doughnut*! This guide will help you prepare your family for the experience and any moments that might possibly be overwhelming.

ABOUT THE PLAY

Arnie the Doughnut is a loveable chocolate-frosted, rainbow-sprinkled doughnut that has been freshly made at the bakery. He meets other fresh-made doughnuts — Jelly, Powdered, and French Cruller — who all hope to be chosen by a customer.

Mr. Bing, a frequent customer at the bakery, arrives to order his usual plain doughnut. The baker is unfortunately out of plain doughnuts, so Mr. Bing has to go outside of his comfort zone. He chooses a chocolate-frosted, rainbow-sprinkled doughnut: Arnie.

They travel to Mr. Bing's home at the Cozy Confines Condo Community, where there are a lot of rules that the residents follow. Arnie speculates as to what his life at Mr. Bing's will be like and then is taken by surprise when Mr. Bing tries to eat him.

After Mr. Bing gets to know Arnie, he decides he can't eat him and they ponder what to do next. But Mrs. Plute, the President of the Cozy Confines Condo Community declares that doughnuts are for eating and Mr. Bing cannot keep Arnie.

Mr. Bing and Arnie finally come up with a plan for Arnie to become Mr. Bing's doughnut dog, the only idea that doesn't break any rules! The other community members vote Yes and agree to start making the Cozy Confines Condo Community a more tolerant and pleasant place to live.

The Running Time of the show is 60 minutes with no intermission.

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ACTORS/COMMUNICATION

There are five actors in the play. One actor plays Arnie, one actor plays Mr. Bing, and the other three play multiple characters. The actors playing doughnuts wear large doughnut costumes to indicate what type of doughnut they are.

The three actors playing multiple characters populate the other members of Mr. Bing's community: Ronnie, Sheila, and Mrs. Plute. One actor also plays the Baker.

The play also features three doughnut hole puppets which serve as backup singers.

In the world of the play, the doughnuts talk and sing. Mr. Bing doesn't notice that the doughnuts can speak until Arnie lets out a scream when he is about to be eaten.

SCENERY & PROPS

The set for the production is based on the illustrations from the book and we have a bakery interior on the left side of the stage and the exterior of Mr. Bing's house on the right side. The bakery also has a display case that is rolled on and off stage. When we go inside Mr. Bing's house, the exterior bushes are removed to reveal a table, chair, and phone, and a door frame is also added. The bakery interior flips and bushes are added to become an exterior setting.

There are a various rule signs that are displayed and other small props used throughout, including the Cozy Confines Condo Community Code of Conduct book.

LIGHTS & SOUNDS

Arnie The Doughnut is a musical with various other sound effects used throughout the show to punctuate sillier moments. The house lights will be left up during the show. The sound will be reduced by approximately 25%.

THEATRE LAYOUT

When you enter the theatre, you will walk across the stage floor and up two steps to the first row of seats. The seating is eight rows total, and all stadium style so you have a good view of the stage from anywhere.

There is a second entrance into the theatre in the middle of the seating bank. This has stairs and a small hallway that leads back out to our lobby. The main entrance to the theatre will be left open during the performance so if anyone needs to take a break it will be easy to enter/exit.

There will be a yellow line on the stage floor indicating the path to come in/out of the theatre so that the pathway is safe during the show.

ARNIE THE DOUGHNUT PARENT CUE SHEET

Action on Stage	Sensory Sensitivities & Difficult Concepts
House Manager will give a curtain speech	Stage lights will dim.
Doughnuts appear	Music starts as the stage goes dark. Lights up on Powdered Doughnut, Jelly Doughnut, and French Cruller onstage.
Opening number	Musical number: "Sunshiny Goodness". The three doughnuts argue about who will be purchased first. Arnie enters through the center audience stairs. Three actors introduce the Doughnut Hole puppets. The lights will change colors as the doughnuts describe the color of Arnie's sprinkles. Arnie makes a comment that Jelly Doughnut's "brains are oozing out," but it is just jelly.
Mr. Bing arrives at the bakery	Mr. Bing enters through the center audience stairs. Mr. Bing is a very nervous and anxious character.
Mr. Bing and Arnie travel home	Musical number: "Bumpy Ride". Mr. Bing drives a two-dimensional representation of a car with Arnie beside him, holding up an oversized brown paper sack. When Arnie sings, Mr. Bing cannot hear him and vice versa. The Doughnut Holes serve as backup singers. The song includes many instances of the actors loudly shouting "Whoa!" and "Aahh!" and "Slow Down!" as they travel. The actors move the scenery, changing the bakery interior into the condo community exterior and revealing Mr. Bing's condo interior.
At the Cozy Confines Condo Community	Ronnie startles Sheila when she enters. Musical number: "Terrible Mrs. Plute". Sheila and Ronnie are startled and hide from Mrs. Plute twice during the song. Mrs. Plute will yell as she is looking for Sheila and will talk directly to the audience. The song features some very high notes. Mrs. Plute and Ronnie both exit down the center audience stairs.
At Mr. Bing's house	Mr. Bing will shift the doorway scenery to create his condo. He will also bring out a large oversized plate for Arnie. The Doughnut Holes appear behind the plate as back up singers.
Arnie's about to be eaten	As Mr. Bing goes to take a "bite" out of Arnie, Arnie and the Doughnut Holes let out a loud scream. The lights change colors during this moment.
Arnie wants to escape	Musical number: "Arnie at the Plate". The Doughnut Holes urge Arnie to get out of Mr. Bing's house. Arnie calls the bakery to warn them that Mr. Bing will eat the doughnuts. The Baker and Doughnuts confirm that they know they are to be eaten and are looking forward to it. French and Jelly appear with their hats on behind the plate when they are the doughnuts.

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Action on Stage	Sensory Sensitivities & Difficult Concepts
Mr. Bing decides to not eat Arnie	Mr. Bing and Arnie discuss what they should do for fun since Mr. Bing won't be eating Arnie. Mr. Bing discusses all the rules of the Condo Community. Mr. Bing recalls when he broke the rules, and Mrs. Plute appears in memory with a distorted voice and a thunder sound cue telling him the rules.
Mrs. Plute meets Arnie	Mrs. Plute scolds Mr. Bing for having a spring decoration on his door that was not approved by the Condo Community. Mrs. Plute lets out a yelp when she discovers Arnie. Musical number: "Doughnuts are for Eating". Mrs. Plute tells Mr. Bing that Arnie must be eaten or he'll be thrown in the trash by the end of the day. Mrs. Plute exits out the center audience stairs.
Finding Arnie's purpose	Mr. Bing decides to stand up to Mrs. Plute and not eat Arnie, so they must find a new purpose for him. Musical number: "More Than Just Delicious". The Doughnut Holes sing backup and the lights will change colors during the song. At the end of the song, Mr. Bing yells "Stop!" loudly.
Arnie leaves the Condo Community	Arnie is very sad as he says goodbye and leaves the Condo Community.
Finale	Musical number: "Sunshiny Goodness Reprise/Play with your Food". Mr. Bing and Arnie play catch on the center audience stairs and then exit. French Cruller, Powdered, and Jelly appear again for the "Play with your Food" song. Mr. Bing and Arnie re-enter through the audience stairs and play catch again. The lights will change during the song and at the end the cast encourages the audience to clap along.