



# PARENT GUIDE: LYLE, LYLE, CROCODILE

We are excited for your upcoming visit to Lifeline Theatre and *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*. This guide will help you prepare your family for the theatre experience and any moments that might be possibly overwhelming or triggering.

## ABOUT THE PLAY

Our play is a very sweet story about the Primm Family who discovers a Crocodile living in the bathtub of their new house on 88<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City. A note is left explaining that the crocodile was a performer who has played on stages all over the world, only eats Turkish caviar, is actually quite friendly and is named Lyle. The Primms come to love Lyle and he becomes a member of their family. However, not everyone is a fan of Lyle and the Primms' neighbor, Mr. Grumps and his cat Loretta, threaten to call the police. When Mrs. Primm and Lyle decide to go to Macy's, Lyle encounters his old stage partner, Hector P. Valenti and the two perform one of their old routines for the shoppers. They are discovered by Mr. Grumps, who happens to be the store manager, and he calls the zoo to take Lyle away. The Primm family visits Lyle at the zoo and later that evening, Valenti comes and rescues Lyle. As they leave the zoo, they discover Mr. Grumps house on fire and Lyle decides to save his neighbor and Loretta. Lyle becomes a hero and Mr. Grumps finally accepts Lyle for who he is.

## ACTORS

There are 4 actors in the play with just two that are double & triple cast. Lyle is played by one actor and only speaks directly to the audience. When he is in the scene with the human characters, he makes crocodile 'roars' for his responses. Mrs. Primm is played by one actor and has just one other bit part in the beginning of the play as a neighbor. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> actor plays both Joshua and Valenti, who has an Italian accent. That actor also plays the voices of the other zoo crocodiles, various neighborhood characters, and the zoo keeper. Our final actor plays both Mr. Primm and Mr. Grumps. Mr. Grumps can speak harshly at times and often has an angry expression. That actor also plays various neighborhood characters, different sales people at Macy's and is the voice of the cat, Loretta.

(Cont.)

## SCENERY, PROPS, COSTUMES & PUPPETS

The set for the play is a backdrop of a city street with two large panels in front that are apartment buildings. There are sections of the panels that open up to reveal the inside of the Primms' house and Macy's. There are 2 counters that convert from a kitchen table to the Macy's counters and lots of small props that help define the location we are in such as a set of bars that represent the cage in the zoo, a flat ice cream truck, and flat drawings of NYC landmarks.

There are 3 puppets in the play. Mr. Grumps cat, Loretta, and 2 crocodiles that Lyle meets in the zoo. These are all manipulated by the actors and the crocodiles only appear as the heads.

There are also 2 flat puppets that represent large groups. One a group of shoppers at Macy's and the other a group of firemen putting out the fire at Mr. Grumps' house. These are brought and manipulated by the actors.

The props are all realistic small props such as a telephone, board games, etc. The costumes are all in the style of the mid 1960's when the story is set.

## LIGHTS, SOUNDS, & EFFECTS

There is a Fire Effect towards the end of the show with an orange, red and yellow lights that rotate on Mr. Grumps house and a fire crackle sound. There are also 2 sirens (one fire truck, one ambulance) that are heard and some blue and red lights that flash back and forth during the fire sequence.

The play is a musical and also includes some tap dance numbers. The actors on stage will be doing the moves for the tap dancing, but the sounds of the tapping are embedded in the songs you hear so it may seem as if the noise from the tapping is coming from a different source than the feet hitting the ground.

The sounds heard in the show will be lowered by 20% and the house lights will be left up during the show.

## THEATRE LAYOUT

When you enter the theatre, you will walk across the stage floor and up 2 steps to the first row of seats. The seating is 8 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.

# LYLE, LYLE, CROCODILE

## PARENT CUE SHEET

Action on Stage	Sensory Sensitivities & Difficult Concepts
House Manager will give a curtain speech	Stage lights will dim.
Opening Scene in NYC	As the stage goes dark we will hear the sound of a busy street with traffic and cars honking. As the lights come up, actors appear in the window's of the apartment building. They all use New York accents for these characters. Lyle appears on stage and peeks around the building. One of the characters will talk directly to the audience about seeing a crocodile in the neighborhood.
Opening Song: "Soapy Crocodile"	Joshua, the Primm's son, introduces us to Lyle and the house on 88th street where the Primm family and Lyle live. Lyle brings on a 2-dimensional bathtub scenic piece for the song and uses a small bubble shooter for bath bubbles. Sounds of water splashing will be heard when Lyle jumps into the tub. The lights change colors during parts of the song. Mr. Primm will pretend to slip on water that has spilled out of the bathtub.
Lyle introduces himself & the Primm family	Lyle will talk directly to the audience while the Primms are off stage or in a frozen tableau.
How Lyle and The Primm Family met	Lyle takes us on a flashback to when the Primms met Lyle in their bathtub. The flashback and flash forward are indicated by flashing lights and the Primms twirling in a circle and repeating a phrase. When the Primms' discover they Lyle, they yell and raise their voices in panic. A mysterious man appears in silhouette in the windo of the Primm's front door and leaves a note about Lyle. A voice over of Valenti reading part of the letter will be heard.
Lyle's song: "Where I belong"	Lyle sings about his life with the Primm family. The Primms' join him on stage as back up dancers and help act out parts of the song. Lyle does a signature tap dance during the number. The lights will change colors a few times during the song.
The Primms and Lyle begin their day	Lyle will have his first 'roar' in response to Mrs. Primm. Lyle will use the center stairs to play stick ball with Joshua. Lyle will perform a new magic trick during the scene. Mr. Grumps will enter with Loretta who will hiss at Lyle. Mr. Grumps will be scared of Lyle and threaten to call the police.
Lyle & Mrs. Primm walk through New York City	Lyle & Mrs. Primm will walk in place as various NYC landmarks and people pass. The sounds of city traffic and cars honking will be heard. They will meet Mr. Delight with his 2-dimensional Ice Cream Truck, Lyle will ring the bell on the ice cream truck. Lyle will perform a song, juggle and tap dance for kids they meet.
Macy's Department Store	Mrs. Primm & Lyle will enter Macy's, the right apartment building scenic piece will open up to reveal the inside of Macy's and a flat cutout of a crowd of shoppers and a sound effect of the crowd talking will be used in the scene. Mr. Grumps will make an announcement over the intercom system and his voice will be heard live as well as the pre-recorded sound. Lyle will get caught in a wave of shoppers and he and Mrs. Primm will be separated.

(Con't)

Action on Stage	Sensory Sensitivities & Difficult Concepts
<p><b>Hector P. Valenti &amp; Lyle reunite. Song: "They Loved Us"</b></p>	<p>Valenti will set up the counters for his pajama department. Valenti will speak with an Italian accent. Valenti &amp; Lyle will perform for the crowd a song, tap dance and mime for the crowd. The lights will change colors during the show and we will hear the sound of the crowd cheering, clapping and whistling. The scene will cut back and forth between Valenti &amp; Lyle and Mrs. Primm looking for Lyle all over the department store. Mrs. Primm will use the vom entrance and exit multiple times during the scene.</p>
<p><b>Mr. Grumps calls the zoo. Song: "People Like You"</b></p>	<p>Mr. Grumps is mad that Lyle is in his store and yells at Mrs. Primm, Lyle and Valenti. He calls the zoo to take Lyle away which upsets Mrs. Primm very much and she raises her voice. The zoo keeper will ask if he can tranquilize Lyle, but will decide to handcuff him instead. When Lyle talks to the audience, the lights will go dim on the rest of the stage. Mrs. Primm will exit the vom.</p>
<p><b>Lyle at the zoo. Song: "Bring you Home Again"</b></p>	<p>Lyle meets 2 other crocodiles in his cage at the zoo. The other 2 crocodiles are puppets that are manipulated by one of the actors. They tease Lyle and tell him he should act more like a crocodile. The Primms visit Lyle at the zoo and are sad that he is not at home with them. The lights will have a blue color to them to indicate evening. There will be three bells heard to indicate the zoo is closing.</p>
<p><b>Valenti visits Lyle. Reprise: "They Loved Us"</b></p>	<p>Valenti sneaks into the zoo to break Lyle out, he drops a large ring of keys and that startles Lyle. The sound of the lock opening and the creak of the jail will be heard. The lights will shift when Lyle speaks directly to the audience. Valenti wants Lyle to go to Australia, but Lyle protests. Eventually, he convinces Lyle to travel to Australia with him, reprising his song and doing a few magic tricks, They run in place towards the airport while the NYC landmarks pass them by.</p>
<p><b>Lyle encounters a fire</b></p>	<p>Lyle &amp; Mr. Valenti discover Mr. Grumps' house on fire. The fire effect is portrayed with yellow &amp; orange rotating lights on the right apartment and the sound of fire crackling. Mr. Grumps will yell for help out of the apartment window. The sound of a fire truck siren will be heard and blue and red flashing lights will be seen. The Firemen will appear as a 2-dimensional crowd brought on by the actors. Lyle rescues Mr. Grumps and then uses his magic trick to save Loretta from the window.</p>
<p><b>Mr. Grumps likes Lyle</b></p>	<p>Mr. Grumps declares Lyle the bravest crocodile and should not be in the zoo. The lights will shift when Lyle speaks directly to the audience. The sound of an ambulance arriving and flashing lights will be seen.</p>
<p><b>Everyone loves Lyle. Reprise: "Where You Belong"</b></p>	<p>Lyle &amp; Mrs. Primm dance together during the Reprise, they are joined by Joshua and Mr. Primm. The stage lights will go dark at the end of the song.</p>
<p><b>Bows. Reprise: "Soapy Crocodile:</b></p>	<p>Lyle &amp; The Primms reprise "Soapy Crocodile". A disco ball will be used during the scene.</p>