

# SWEENEY TODD

## CONTENT AND GENERAL FAQs

### 1. IS SWEENEY TODD APPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN?

Short answer? Probably not. While we fully understand that individuals ultimately must decide for themselves, and we are not necessarily restricting attendance, we would not recommend bringing young children to Sweeney Todd. The musical is of the horror/thriller genre and there are stylized depictions of bloody violence. While much of this is played for laughs (the show is labeled as a black comedy), it could be frightening to younger viewers. The show is about an unjustly exiled barber getting his revenge on the people who wronged him. He does so by cutting the throats of his victims and sending the bodies to the shop below where his accomplice, a meat-pie proprietress, turns them into pies that the residents of London can't get enough of.

### 2. WHAT OTHER CONTENT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT?

Sweeney Todd has several "jump scares" that occur throughout the performance. There is also some suggestive language and two instances of minor profanity.

There is a song about turning the victims into meat pies called "A Little Priest". While played as a very comedic song, the subject matter is... well... interesting to say the least!

On our opening night performance, we have designated the first three rows of the auditorium as 'splash zone'. We are planning some interactive components especially for Halloween. The seats are offered at a discounted price as the audience members sitting in these seats may get wet. We are not planning to use any staining liquids...

### 3. WHAT IS SWENNEY TODD?

Sweeney Todd is a black comedic musical thriller written by Stephen Sondheim. The story is based on a 19<sup>th</sup> century English "penny dreadful" called "*The String of Pearls*". The show opened on Broadway in 1979 starring Angela Lansbury and Len Cariou. The original production won the Tony Award for Best Musical and has sparked many tours and revivals. Most recently, the show was produced on Broadway again in 2023, starring Josh Groban. Sweeney Todd is considered a revolutionary addition to the musical theatre cannon.

### 4. WHAT IS THE RUNTIME?

The show is approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes with a 15 minute intermission.