

AUDIENCE CONSIDERATIONS – OLIVER!

Below are descriptions of the audience considerations for *Oliver!* More detailed descriptions and pictures will be provided in the show's Visual Story, which will be available [on our website](#) by December 13th.

Be warned - this page contains spoilers!

ADULT THEMES

This includes sexual references, discriminatory themes (ie. misogyny), references to violence (ie. hanging), use of alcohol, and child slavery.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Two of the show's characters, Nancy and Bill Sykes, are in an abusive relationship. Throughout the play he threatens her with physical violence, tries to control her, and even hits her on a few occasions. Even though he is cruel and violent to her, she still loves him and stays with him because she thinks he needs her.

ONSTAGE VIOLENCE

There is physical fighting and violence throughout the show. Sometimes, this involves adults hitting children.

DEATH

Death is discussed by the characters relatively often, including descriptions of how Oliver's mother died when he was young, or the dead people at the funeral home where Oliver works. We also see three characters die on stage. All of these deaths happen in Act Two.

Old Sally comes to see Mr. Brownlow to tell him how she took care of Oliver's mother before she died. Sally is very sick, and at the end of the scene she dies.

Nancy is beaten to death by Bill when he finds out she was helping Oliver escape.

An angry mob chases down Bill at the end of the show, trying to save Oliver. Someone from the crowd shoots him and he dies.

NON-TOXIC HAZE

Haze will be used throughout the show for atmospheric effect.

WEAPONS, FIREARMS, & GUNSHOT NOISES

Several of the characters carry weapons. Bill has a cudgel which he uses to threaten and beat people. A fake gun will also be carried by at least one character.

In the final scene the fake gun will be used and a sound effect of a gunshot noise will be heard.