SociaL narrative for the
Relaxed Performance on Oct 12

World Premiere Musical

The Big One-Oh!

Music by Doug Besterman
Lyrics by Dean Pitchford
Book by Timothy Allen McDonald
Based on the Novel by Dean Pitchford
Music Direction by Britt Bonney
Directed & Choreographed by MK Lawson

Heather Baird
Director of Education

Tyler Easter
Education Manager
We are going to *The Big One-Oh!* at Atlantic Theater Company.

**When are we going?**
We will see the show on Friday, October 11th or Saturday, October 12th. We might come by bus, subway, car, or by walking.

**Where are we going?**
The show will be at the Linda Gross Theater. The address is 336 W 20th Street. The show starts at 10:30 A.M., but we can enter the theater starting at 10:00 A.M.

**Bathrooms**
There are bathrooms on the bottom floor of the theater. We can take the stairs or the elevator to get there.

**Ushers**
When we get to the theater, we will be greeted by ushers and volunteers from Atlantic Theater Company. We will pick up our tickets from the box office.

**Theater**
We will head into the theater to find seats. There is no assigned seating, which means we can choose wherever we want to sit. A seating chart with more information is at the end of this story.
**Stage**
The show will happen on the stage. We will stay away from the stage, but we can walk around the rest of the space if we need to. When the show starts, the lights dim, but they will never go all the way off.

**Lights**
There will be many different lights with different colors that change during the show. If we don’t like the lights, we can cover our eyes, look away, or take a break.

**Sound**
Since this show is a musical, there will be live music coming from the stage and a few sound effects. If the sounds are too loud, we can cover our ears, use headphones or take a break. Staff will have headphones we can use if we need them.

**Quiet Space**
If we need a break, we can go to the lobby to move around or sit down. There will be an activity area with coloring sheets and fidgets. There will also be a live video of the show, so we don’t have to worry about missing out on the action.
Meet the Cast

Laura Axelrod
Jennifer/Alien

Aaron Banes
Charley

Sarah Kowalski
Donna/Swamp Thing

Thomas Prast
Cougar/Dad

Austin Sanders
Garry/Vince

Heather Sawyer
Scottie/Mrs. Cleveland

Samantha Joy Singh
Mom

Daniel Soto
Darryl/Zombie King

Sarah Sutliff
Lorena/Boing Boing
Here are the puppet characters you will see in the show:

- Swamp Thing
- Zombie King
- Alien
- Boing Boing
In the musical...
This is a story about Charley and his birthday party.

Lights up!

The story will start with a frozen image – called a tableau – of a birthday party gone wrong.

Flashback

After the opening scene, the story goes back in time.

It is one month before Charley’s birthday, and he has just moved to a new neighborhood where he doesn’t know anyone. Charley’s Dad has sent him an early birthday present. The present is Charley’s favorite comic book, *Monsters and Maniacs*. We meet some of Charley’s imaginary friends, the monsters from the comics, in a song.

Dinner time!

Charley cooks dinner before his mom and his sister, Lorena, come home. Dad taught Charley how to cook before he moved out; Charley remembers a song he and Dad used to sing together as he finishes dinner.

Charley shows us his supersecret notebook, where he has his birthday party planning list, with all the things he needs to have an awesome celebration.
Step One: Make Friends

At school, we meet the people on Charley’s list of potential new friends. Donna Pointer, the beautiful, popular girl; Darryl Eggbert, the smartest kid in fourth grade; Cougar, the school tough-guy, and Scottie, Cougar’s sidekick; and Jennifer Mobley, another new kid who likes the same comic books as Charley.

On the way home...

Charley runs into his weird neighbor, Garry Quarky, who is carrying a human foot! Don’t worry, Garry assures, the foot is just a special effect. Garry makes special effects for a living.

“Every good party starts with Champagne!”

Vince Champagne, Mom’s new boyfriend, offers his party planning services to Charley. He tells Charley the three things he needs for a perfect party: friends, a theme, and a cake.
“Freak”

Vince thinks it’s weird that Charley cooks, so Vince calls Charley a “freak.” Mom kicks Vince out of the house. Charley takes Boing-Boing, the dog, for a walk and hears Garry’s girlfriend, Stephanie, calling him a “freak” too. Once Charley hears the same word used to describe him and Garry, Charley works even harder to have an awesome birthday party.

Step Two: Get a Theme

When Charley asks his classmates for suggestions for a theme, Jennifer tells Charley about her best party ever: a trip to *The Lion King*, which ended in sobbing, policemen, and vomiting.

The Charley Maplewood House of Horrors

Charley helps Garry pick up his spilled groceries, and Charley gives Garry cooking advice. Garry is so thankful for Charley’s help that he shows Charley his special effects workshop. There may be some scary objects here, but they are all fake. Charley picks his theme for his party: The Charley Maplewood House of Horrors.
Invitations

The next day at school, Charley invites Donna, Darryl, Scottie, and Cougar to his party. Jennifer hears about the party and waits for her invite.

Taking Matters Into His Own Hands...

Charley uses Garry’s new shipment of latex to make his own special effects. He puts a space heater near his creations so that they will dry faster. Charley accidentally knocks over the space heater. Suddenly, the garage catches on fire! Garry is upset with Charley for taking his latex box, and Mom tells Charley that the birthday party is called off.

A Birthday Wish

Charley’s classmates encourage Charley to have a birthday party even though his mom has said no. When Charley has to confront Jennfier to tell her she wasn’t invited, Jennifer shares what she wishes for on her birthdays. Charley invites Jennifer to the party.
Present Day: The Big One-Oh

Charley is upset because today should be his special day, but his mom has to work and can only celebrate later tonight. Lorena decides to help Charley with his birthday party. They put up old Halloween decorations and make a gross cake.

The kids arrive and wait for scary surprises. At the birthday party, a person dressed as a ghost jumps out to scare the kids.

The big scare!

Then a large blow up ghost emerges. These are not real but are tricks played by someone to scare the guests at the party. It will be a surprise to find out who is dressed as the ghost. The kids scream and create the scene from the beginning of the show.

What a Cake!

Mom and Garry are revealed to be the ghosts, and Garry shows Charley the horror-themed cake he made. Charley blows out his candles and makes a wish.
After the show...

The actors will take a bow, and the audience will clap for them. If the clapping is too loud, we can cover our ears or go to the lobby of the theater.

We will exit the theater through the lobby.

Thank you for joining us at Atlantic Theater Company!
A seating guide to the Linda Gross Theater

Linda Gross Theater Seating Chart –

STAGE

IF YOU NEED TO STAND, MOVE AROUND OR NEED A QUICK EXIT, THIS ROW IS ALSO WHEELCHAIR & COMPANION ACCESSIBLE.

CLOSE TO THE ACTION (ACTORS MAY GO IN THE AISLES)

AWAY FROM DIRECT LIGHTS & SPEAKERS

EASY EXITS

WHEEL CHAIR & COMPANION

NOTE: SEATING IS GENERAL SEATING AND NOT ASSIGNED. THE THEATER WILL OPEN 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE SHOW TIME.