



MJ

**THE MICHAEL JACKSON
MUSICAL**

**At Crown Theatre, Perth
A Visual Story**

What to expect when you see a general performance of
MJ: The Michael Jackson Musical

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Welcome to the theatre

We want you to know that you are welcome to be your authentic self at the theatre, without judgement.

Please let us know if there is anything we or theatre staff can do that would make you feel more comfortable. This may be showing you to a quieter space, for example.

You are also welcome to use your own strategies to help you feel engaged and relaxed, where appropriate at the theatre.

You can watch the video above to familiarise yourself with Crown Theatre, Perth before you attend.

About *MJ: The Michael Jackson Musical*

What is *MJ: The Michael Jackson Musical*?

***MJ: The Michael Jackson Musical* is a show about Michael Jackson, a very famous singer and dancer. The show tells the story of his life, how he became famous, and how he made his music.**

How long is the show?

The show lasts for 2 hours and 40 minutes in total.

Act 1 (the first part of the show) lasts for about 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Then, there is a 20-minute break.

During this break, you can:

- **Go to the bathroom**
- **Get a snack or drink**

Act 2 (the second part of the show) lasts for about 1 hour and 5 minutes.

Special Effects in the Show

The show has loud music and bright lights, which could be very strong for some people.

If you feel uncomfortable you can bring things to help, like:

- **Headphones**
- **Earplugs**
- **Sensory tools that help you feel calm**

Content Warning: There are some themes of family violence.



Expected Behaviours

During the Performance:

- **Most people sit quietly during the show.**
- **You can talk quietly if you need to, but try not to sing or talk loudly.**

Break Time (Interval)

There is a break in the middle of the show.

During the break, you can:

- **Go to the bathroom**
- **Get a drink or snack**
- **Stretch your legs**
- **When you hear the bells ring, it means the show is about to start again and you should return to your seat.**

If you need to leave

- **You should try to leave quietly and you can leave during the show if you need to.**
- **Try to leave quickly so you don't block anyone's view.**

Phones and Devices

- **You should avoid using your phone, iPad, or tablet or other devices during the show. This helps other people to enjoy the show, without seeing other people's bright lights or screens.**
- **No one is allowed to take photos or videos during the show.**
- **If you are using a device to access captions or other accessibility services, that is okay.**

Clapping

- **At the end of each song, people might clap.**
- **You can clap if you want to, or stay quiet.**
- **At the end of the show, some people may stand up and clap. You don't have to stand up if you don't want to.**



Sensory Information

***MJ: The Michael Jackson Musical* is a highly sensory experience. This means that it can be very joyful to watch, but it can also be challenging for people overwhelmed by intense sensory input.**

The show includes:

- **Bright flashing lights and strobes**
- **Very colourful neon sets**
- **The stage features full length moving images with lots of bright colour, shape and pattern**
- **Darkness in the theatre**
- **Loud music and sudden unexpected noises (for example, music changing from silent to loud very quickly for dramatic effect)**
- **Fast sound and lighting transitions**
- **Sounds like clapping, lots of loud voices, sound effects in the show including glass breaking**
- **Singing and dancing**
- **Crowding**
- **Unexpected touch accidentally by fellow audience members in the row as the seats are close together**
- **Strong vibrations from the music and live band**

As you enter the theatre you will see these warning signs placed near the auditorium entrance:



Here is some more specific information about the sensory experiences during the show:

Act I opens very gently with cast members gradually gathering on the stage. It allows the audience time to stop talking and ready themselves for the start of the show. The first half of Act I from a sensory perspective, is similar to going and watching a live band play.

As the intensity increases in the main character's (MJ's) life toward the end of Act I, so does the sensory intensity of the show, particularly the lighting and strobing.



Act 2 is much more sensory and has more themes of drug use (pain killers) and family violence.



Important sensory moments in the show

- **Following on from ‘Billie Jean’, there is a bright and sudden flash into ‘Smooth Criminal’.**
- **Following on from the mellow, ‘Human Nature’, there is a sudden loud noise, scream and flash into ‘Bad’.**
- **There is bright strobing throughout ‘Bad.’**
- **Following on from ‘Bad’, there is a much softer moment with a ‘Price of Fame’ reprise. This immediately goes into one of the most sensory moments of the show with a very startling flash into the song ‘Thriller’. This song is quite loud, visually bright with strobing and a smoke machine.**
- **Following on the ensemble cast singing ‘Man in the Mirror’ there is a bright flash transition to the opening of the ‘Dangerous’ tour. This section also has very loud applause and crowd sounds.**

- **During the following section, there is the finale song with ‘Jam’, ‘Black or White’, and ‘Wanna Be Startin’ Somethin’’. Guests are also invited to stand and dance during this moment. You’ll know it’s happening when the character of MJ is wearing a bright yellow shirt.**
- **You are permitted to take photos and videos during this time of the show only, and may notice other people taking photos and videos.**



What to bring / What not to bring

There are lots of different sensory experiences during the show. It's important to think about the things that will help you to enjoy your experience, without becoming overwhelmed.



Things you might want to bring include:

- **Headphones, ear plugs or ear defenders.**
- **Sunglasses or a hoodie to block out some of the light and colour.**
- **Sensory tools or any other tools to help you cope with the environment and production effects.**

Food and drink



- **There are lots of food and drink restaurants around Crown Theatre if you would like to have a meal before or after the show. You can also purchase snacks or drinks at the bars inside Crown Theatre.**
- **It is ok to bring your own food. If you bring your own food, it has to be packaged. For example, a muesli bar, or a packet of lollies. This is so food doesn't spill in the theatre or on people around you.**
- **No glass bottles or cups are allowed into the theatre. This is so that the glass doesn't break and cut anyone. The theatre staff will pour any drinks into a plastic cup so that you can take it into the theatre.**

Snacks

- **If you bring or buy a snack, try to open it quietly so others aren't distracted by the sound.**
- **No one is allowed to bring hot or smelly food into the theatre.**
- **If you want to eat this kind of food, you can eat it before or after the show, outside of the theatre.**

During the show

Watching Act I

Act I usually goes for about 1 hour and 15 minutes.

**The break happens after the song
'They Don't Care About Us.'**

**The stage will go black, and the theatre lights will
come back on.**

**This means the interval (break) has started.
It lasts for 20 minutes.**

During the break, you can:

- **Go to the toilet (there may be a line)**
- **Buy food or a drink**
- **Look at or buy merchandise**
- **Take a photo at the Shimmer Wall**
- **Stay in your seat if you prefer**

You will hear bell sounds again when it is time to go back into the auditorium for Act 2.

The lights will go dark again when the show is starting.

Watching Act 2

Act 2 (the second half of the show) usually lasts about 1 hour and 5 minutes.

Note: There may be more lighting effects, sounds, or surprises.

After the show

When the show ends, the performers will come back on stage to bow. This is called a *curtain call* or *bows*.

People in the audience may clap loudly. Some people might stand up. You can clap or stand if you want to, but you don't have to. The lights will turn back on.

The orchestra might keep playing music for a little while. Most people will start leaving the theatre.

If you don't want to leave with the crowd, you can wait in your seat until it is quieter.

If people walk past you to leave, you can make it easier for them to get past you by moving your legs or standing up.

Before you leave, make sure that you have all of your things with you, and that you haven't left anything behind.

Frequently Asked Questions

You can speak to a theatre staff member if you need help. They wear white shirts with a black vest and pants, and a silver badge. Staff can help you before, during, or after the show.

Where can I go if I feel overwhelmed or need somewhere quiet?

If you feel overwhelmed during the show, you can quietly leave my seat and go to the foyer.

The foyer is quiet during the performance and has a screen showing the show.

You can stay there until you feel ready to go back in. If you feel overwhelmed before the show, you can ask a staff member to help you find a quiet space.

Where are the toilets?

There are toilets on every level of the theatre.

There are signs on the ceiling to help you find them.

If you're not sure where to go, you can ask a staff member.

It's best to use the toilet before the show or during the interval, so you don't miss anything on stage.

How will I find out about any disruptions or changes?

Changes to the show are rare.

If something changes, you will get an email from

Ticketmaster or the show organisers at the email address you used to book your tickets.

Who can I contact for more information?

You can contact the theatre at:

www.crownperth.com.au/plan-your-visit/contact-us

You can give feedback or ask questions to the show organisers at: <https://michaelcassel.com/contact/>

**Thank you for joining us at
the theatre. We love welcoming
our audiences, and we hope
you visit again.**

