Sensory Guide



omaha performing arts

General Considerations

- This guide is based on an audit of the 2026 performance of Death Becomes Her at The Orpheum Theater, by a neurodivergent O-pa staff member. Details may differ at other venues.

- Strobe Lighting, Fog/Haze are used throughout this performance

- This show contains sexual humor, costume effects depicting light gore/body horror, body dysmorphia tendencies, and depictions of excessive alcohol.

Act 1 | 1 hour 13 minutes
20 minute intermission
Act 2 | 49 minutes

Sensory Impact Key


Auditory Impact


Visual Impact


Emotional Impact


Strobing Effects

Common Decibel (DB) Levels

70	Office/classroom chatter
80	Busy traffic, dog barking
90	hairdryer
100	lawnmower, consruction site
110	Concert, night club
120	Police Siren, airplane taking off

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Act 1

Scene/Song	Description	Sensory
Prologue "If you want Perfection"	• House Lights dim • Unseen voice pre-show speech • Thunder/Lightning • Shiny Costume the reflects light toward the audience	 "101.0 Db
Scene 1 Inside of a Theater "For the Gaze"	• Bight Spotlight • bright neon color changing lights around the set framing • Strobing • Projections on the walls	 104.7 Db
Scene 2 Dressing Room "What is this feeling?"	• Jokes about body appearance	93.7 Db
Scene 3 Outside the theater "That was Then, This is Now"	• Bright Neon Lights on set	 96.8 Db
Scene 4 Madeline's Penthouse "Tell Me Ernest"	• Jokes with Sexual Inuendos • Excessive Alcohol use • Character experiencing sadness	 98.2 Db

Act 1

Scene/Song	Description	Sensory
Scene 5 Madeline's Apartment "The Wedding"	• Moving Bright Lights on the Set • Digital Backdrop with moving effects • Shouting	 101.1 Db
Scene 6 Hospital Cooridor "Madeline"	• Dark Set • Unsettling music • Psych Ward depiction	 91.2 Db
Scene 7 Madeline's Beverly Hills Home "I see Me" "Till Death"	• Bright Spotlight • Jokes about threating violence with a prop axe	 93.5 Db
Scene 8 Restaurant "Tell Me Ernest Reprise"	• Flashing light effects • Thunder/Lightning when "viola" is mentioned • Bright/sudden changing lights	 93.5 Db
Scene 9 Restaurant continued "Falling Apart"	• High notes being sung • stark change to purple stage lighting • Thunder/Lighting at end	 100 Db

Act 1

Scene/Song	Description	Sensory
Scene 10 Viola's Mansion "Siempre Viva"	• Bright pink/white lights on set • Thunder/Lightning • Fog • Complex Visuals (ensemble dancing) • Intense Music	 100.1 Db
Scene 11 Madeline's Home "Let's Run Away Together" "Confrontation"	• Strobing Lights • Jump Scare with surprise character appearance • Slapping a character • Thunder/Lightning • Slow Motion Falling/Depiction of Death using body horror	 98.9 Db

Act 2

Scene/Song	Description	Sensory
Scene 1 A Dark Road "Don't Say I Didn't Warn You"	• Sudden start • Thunder/Lightning (loud boom) • Body Horror Effects • Moving Lights	 101 Db
Scene 2 Madeline's House "Hit Me"	• Gun prop & shot sound effect • Car Alarm • Fog • Bright neon blue/pink set lights • Characters Fighting	 96.2 Db
Scene 3 Basement "The Plan"	• Excessive Alcohol Use • Yelling • Animated Props • Moving Lights on Set	 100.1 Db
Scene 4 Madeline's House "Stefan's Turn" "Another Plan" "You're Dead and I'm Parting"	• Neon Lights on set framing • Existential ideas	 99.2 Db

Act 2

Scene/Song	Description	Sensory
Scene 5 Viola's Mansion "Live to Serve" "Siempre Viva (Reprise)" "The Chase"	• Strobing • Intense Lights (green/red/blue) • Fog • Palpable Bass • Thunder/Lightning • Complex Visuals • Blackout	 99.3 Db
Scene 6 Rooftop of Mansion "Til Death" Reprise "Alive Forever"	• Body Horror makeup effect • Bright spotlight	 103.9 Db
Scene 7 Cemetery "50 Years Later" "The End"	• Intense Strobe Lighting • Black Out	 102.9 Db
Scene 8 Bows	• Loud Audience Applause • Palpable Bass	 104.2 Db