

## SENSORY SCREENINGS

A sensory-friendly screening changes the sensory experience of the film in the theater but the film itself does not change. Not every theater will offer the same experience, however, you can typically expect for the house lights to be on and the soundtrack volume to be turned down. Sensory screenings are often a preference of individuals who have sensory sensitivities or experience sensory overload such as people with anxiety, autism, hearing loss, concussion, or post traumatic stress disorder.

While the Sundance Film Festival is supportive of sensory screenings, the final decision is up to the Filmmaker. Therefore we encourage film teams to research and understand the value of offering sensory screenings.

While sensory screenings and relaxed-performances both offer sensory-friendly experiences, they are technically separate things and the experience is not identical. Relaxed-performances are live shows whereas sensory screenings are recorded content. Live events and performances slotted for the Sundance Film Festival may also request a sensory-friendly event.

### What to Expect with Sensory Screenings?

- House lights on (often dimmed)
- Soundtrack volume lowered
- The film content remains unchanged
- More children and families are likely to attend
- The audience may be noisier
- People may move around in their seats or around in the theater
- More audience members may be snacking; anticipate increased sounds and smells
- Some people may bring additional sensory experience items such as:
  - Noise muting or controlling earbuds
  - Weighted blankets or vests
  - Fidget or sensory gadgets

### Resources:

- [Sensory Friendly Solutions](#)
- [Finding Sensory-Friendly Movie Theaters](#)
- [Article: For those on Autism Spectrum, Theaters Hosting Sensory-Friendly Screenings](#)