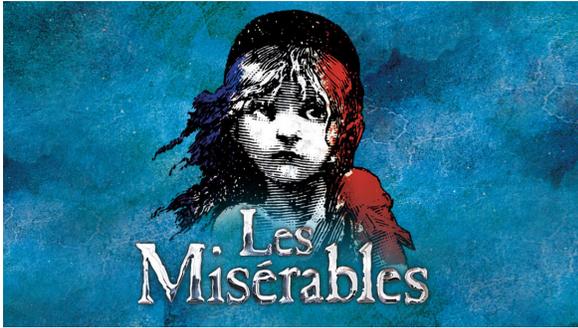




# CENTRAL YORK PERFORMING ARTS

## PARENT GUIDE



### ABOUT LES MISERABLES

#### **SYNOPSIS** (from [MTI.com](http://MTI.com)):

Les Misérables is the world's longest running musical — a true modern classic based on Victor Hugo's novel and featuring one of the most memorable scores of all time. The multi-award-winning Les Misérables is

as groundbreaking today as it was when it first premiered in London in 1985.

In nineteenth century France, Jean Valjean is released from years of unjust imprisonment, but finds nothing in store for him but mistrust and mistreatment. He breaks his parole in hopes of starting a new life, initiating a lifelong struggle for redemption as he is relentlessly pursued by police inspector Javert, who refuses to believe Valjean can change his ways. Finally, during the Paris student uprising of 1832, Javert must confront his ideals after Valjean spares his life and saves that of the student revolutionary who has captured the heart of Valjean's adopted daughter.

Epic, grand and uplifting, Les Misérables School Edition packs an emotional wallop that has thrilled audiences all over the world. The sung-through piece is ideal for a cast of exceptional singers and overflows with melodies that are already standards.

#### **WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW** (from [commonsensemedia.org](http://commonsensemedia.org))

Parents need to know that Les Miserables is based on Victor Hugo's classic 1862 novel. Les Miserables is a gritty, often-heartbreaking tale of justice, duty, love, and revolution. The film deals with abject poverty, prostitution, imprisonment, corruption, war, and death. Characters suffer painful beatings, degrade themselves out of desperation, engage in gun and bayonet fights, claw their way through unspeakable filth, and more. Expect some bawdy lyrics/references, a very sad scene in which an unwilling prostitute "entertains" a client, some scenes referencing violence, and a few sad deaths (including one suicide). But ultimately, Les Miserables is about the redemptive power of love and faith, and there are many moments of hope and beauty amid the miserable ones.

#### **RATING:**

LES MISERABLES has been assigned a rating of PG-13 by MTI (Musical Theatre International). It is worth noting that this show will be produced in a "Concertized" manner, meaning much of the blocking and staging implemented for a regular stage production will not be employed. In many ways, it will look and feel like an enhanced choral concert with costumes, lights and sound.

**FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:** *(from Theatre De La Salle)*

Various elements of the plot of LES MISERABLES pose powerful questions for the audience to consider. As such, performers and theatre-goers may have a number of questions about the production and it may be worthwhile to allow them a space to talk about these lingering questions. Part of the rehearsal process has been dedicated to discussing some of these questions with the cast and crew, and we encourage families to consider exploring some of these questions with your child. Feel free to check out more with the Study Guide below:

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1582811902/delasalle/dznehampvx6kly4xaxt/LESMISERABLESTeacherGuide2020.pdf>