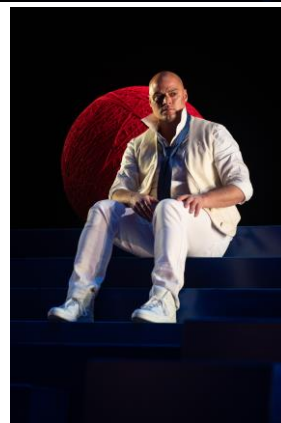


**Alliance Theatre's Production of
A Tale of Two Cities
Sensory Guide**

It's the best of times and the worst of times. The rich are getting richer, and the poor are getting poorer. The oppressed call for revolution. Despots threaten global war. Sound familiar? It's Paris and London, 1787, a powder keg of spies, lovers, madmen, and unexpected look-alikes. This radical reimagining of Charles Dickens's classic tale of the French Revolution forces us to ask: am I who I am because of my actions or the circumstances of my birth? Do I control my destiny? And where do we begin if we want to right the wrongs of history?

This show includes several sound cues such as gun shots, and several guillotine scenes. Please note that this Coca Cola Stage Production has two quiet rooms for your convenience. A Tale of Two Cities has about a run time of 2 hours and 30 minutes and has one 15-minute intermission



Below are descriptions of any sound cues or scenes that you should be aware of. All the timing is approximate.

Courtroom scene

(around 00:15:50-00:16:15) Loud sound. SL, loud hammering onstage: We are introduced to the actor who is chosen to play Charles Darnay, but he is reluctant to play his role. Once he agrees to tell this story, with him as a main player, the courtroom proceeds. The Judge loudly bangs his hammer on the platform he stands on over on Stage Left

(around 00:30:12-00:30:22) Loud yelling/hammering SL and CS cross: The prosecutor is questioning Mr. Alexander Manette. The prosecutor gets a little too carried away and begins to raise his voice.

(around 00:37:43) Uproar from the crowd: Carton releases Darnay from any trouble with a trick. Darnay asks Lucy Manette, and the people, if they feel comfortable killing a man without having complete evidence. Once Carton asks if the audience would be okay with such a possibility, there is uproar from the crowd.

Dinner w/ Carton and Darnay

(around 00:42:54) Actor SL suddenly yells: Charles Darnay has just been acquitted by the state of London. Darnay and Carton have dinner together. Carton asks Darnay if he has feelings for her. Darnay avoids the question, and eventually tells Carton that he “thinks you’ve [Carton] been drinking.” This makes Carton upset, and he yells at Darnay.

Marquis in the street

(around 00:47:10-00:47:16) Loud carriage/horse sounds: The National Assembly introduce themselves to King Louis and the audience. They explain their purpose to the government, and why they are important. Our focus then shifts from the National Assembly to other French political figures. The actor on SR says, “Let’s see what’s happening on the streets of Paris. Where the smaller wheels of history are turning, too.” There is then a loud carriage sound.

(around 00:48:37) Actor CS in purple coat yells suddenly: The Marquis investigates what child he hit with his carriage. The audience is asked to stare at the Marquis. The Marquis notices and yells at the audience members for staring.

(around 00:49:39-00:49:43) Loud carriage/horse sounds: The Marquis stands at the top of the stairs and speaks about plagues and hardships. Things that he wished would come back, as to erase the poor population. Then, the Marquis yells for his coachman, this move back into the coach is accompanied by a carriage sound.

Marquis death

(around 00:57:43-00:57:53) Loud coins dropping to the floor: The Marquis is paranoid about a noise he hears outside. A servant goes to check but finds nothing. We see a dark, cloaked figure sneak into the Marquis' house. The Marquis and the figure see each other, and the stranger kills the Marquis. Many large, loud coins fall out of the Marquis.

National Assembly 2nd entrance

around 00:59:00) 1st guillotine drop: King Louis finds that the Marquis is dead, he speaks of the murderer's punishment. However, the National Assembly proposes the guillotine as a more humane way of execution. They pull a guillotine onto the stage, they put a cabbage inside of it, and let the guillotine drop.

Darnay wants to propose

(around 01:04:05) Loud crashing of birdbath: Darnay and Lucy Manette are speaking in the garden. Darnay has just spoken with Dr. Manette about proposing to Lucy and is hoping to do it now. Darnay mentions Lucy's father, when they are interrupted by a loud crash of glass/ceramic.

Storming of the Bastille

(around 01:21:26-01:22:43) Actor SL uses loud megaphone: The audience is told that they general population of France has stormed the Bastille prison and is planning on overthrowing it. An actor on the SL side will be using a megaphone to make sure that everyone hears him.

(around 1:22:19) Gunshot sound effect.

(around 01:22:43) Loud gunshot sound effect/very bright lights shone into audience: The audience is asked to produce a noise from just one person in the crowd.

Prison Scene w/ Aristocrats

(around 01:57:22-01:58:50) audience uproar: Charles Darnay returns to France to aid his servant, Gabelle. He is thrown back into prison. We see him return and meet with other Aristocrats while in prison. One by one, the Aristocrats are sentenced and sent on their way. Throughout this section, the audience is asked to yell at/interact with the characters.

King Louis Execution

(around 02:02:58) Guillotine drop: We learn that Louis is tried, found guilty, and put to death by guillotine. He takes in his country, realizes his weakness. An actor asks, "What goes through a dying man's head, Louis?" And when Louis goes to answer, the guillotine is dropped.

Darnay sentencing

(around 02:05:50-02:06:00) Loud yells from audience/loud hammering: After almost 400 days, Charles Darnay is finally able to stand trial. Darnay stumbles down the stairs in a daze. The people are excited to see him be tried. There is loud yelling/interaction from the crowd. And the judge hammers on the stage to get order in his courtroom.

(around 02:07:03-02:07:23) Audience disapproves loudly: A citizen is put on trial. John Basra claims that this citizen is a counter-revolutionary, and that the citizen is still loyal to the executed King Louis. The crowd is angered by this, and is asked to respond with disapproval.

(around 02:07:30) Loud hammering CS: The judge listens to the witness testimonies for the Citizen Bertrand who has been brought forward. After hearing the evidence, he condemns the citizen to death by guillotine. He announces that the executions are now 76, and then he hits his gavel on stage.

(around 02:08:17-02:10:26) Charles Darnay is brought to the jury: He pleads his case with the people and brings forward witnesses. Many times throughout his testimony, as well as Dr. Manette's, the crowd is asked to produce many "huge appreciations" and "unsettled noises"

Darnay's final trial

(around 02:14:23) Loud hammering: Charles Darnay gets arrested once again by the state of France. He is taken into custody, and Carton brainstorms a way to get him out. Carton finds John Barsa in a bar. Carton asks Barsa for a way to get into the prison where Darnay is being held. Once Barsa asks, "Why on earth would you want to do that?" The judge bangs his gavel on the floor to gain order.

(around 02:15:09-02:15:13) Loud uproar from the crowd: Charles Darnay has been accused by three citizens. The DeFarges, and one other citizen who remains a mystery. During the trial, we learn that the other citizen is Dr. Manette. The crowd is asked to respond loudly.

(around 02:23:15-02:23:25) Loud hammering/uproar from the crowd: Madam DeFarge reinforces the idea that punishing the Aristocrats of France is the right thing to do. She finishes with a promise to make the Aristocrats pay for their crimes. The judge joins in downstage, he condemns Charles Darnay to death, and hits his gavel. Madam DeFarge asks for the audience to cause a scene.

Dr. Manette recites his letter

(around 02:16:56) Loud horse/carriage sounds: Dr. Manette is reciting a letter he once wrote while in the Bastille prison. He is recounting what led to him being put in prison. He remembers that a carriage almost ran him over in the street, the noises of the carriage accompany his story.

(around 02:17:35-02:17:42) Loud hitting between actors: The two Marquis are brought into the room with the injured girl. The Marquis in the purple coat asks a servant where the other woman went. The servant informs the Marquis that she escaped; the Marquis hits the servant

(around 02:19:03) Loud stinging sound: The Marquis in the purple coat and Dr. Manette are discussing the family situation of the injured girl. Her father was tied to an ox cart, and her sister ran away. The injured girl begins to count to twelve. The Marquis in the purple coat bends over to get a better look, and the injured girl cuts the Marquis' forehead

DeFarge gun scene

(around 02:30:37) Loud gunshot sound: John Barsa confronts Madam DeFarge. He bargains his safety for the information he has. He tells Madam Defarge that Darnay has possibly

escaped. Madam DeFarge gets extremely angry, points her all-white gun at him, and sets the gun off.

Last Guillotine drops

(around 02:35:20) Carton is waiting in line for his execution next to a young boy: We see the two of them going through the line, getting closer to their turn. The boy is talking to Carton about rights, liberties, freedoms, and what the revolution means to him. The executioner calls for 13, but the boy hesitates. He eventually goes up for his turn after Carton gives him a comforting hand. The boy gets into his spot, there is a bell tolling sound, and the guillotine drops.

(around 02:36:45) Carton is about to be executed, he is number 14. The executioner asks Carton about what is going through his head. Carton explains what he is thinking about. At the end of his speech, he hopes that he has “[this] is a far, far better rest than I go to, than I have ever known” There is a low ringing sound, and then the guillotine drops.