

THEATER ETIQUETTE

Attending a play at The Public Theatre is a special experience, one that you will remember for a long time. Everyone in the audience has been looking forward to seeing the performance just as much as you have, so it's very important to remember the rules of theater etiquette. That way, everyone can have a good time!

Going to the theater might seem a lot like going to the movies, but there's one big difference: the actors are performing for you live onstage, and they can see and hear what goes on in the audience just as you can see and hear them. So the way people behave at a play is different from when they're at the movies or at home watching TV.

Some things to remember:

- Stay with your group at all times. Wait to be seated - we want to make sure everyone is in the right place. Please make sure you have gone to the restroom before sitting down. If you get out of your seat during the performance, it is distracting to the students around you.
- Don't talk, chew gum, or eat during the performance. Everyone likes popcorn during the movies, but in the theater we save the snacks for intermission.
- Don't leave your seat until the cast has taken their curtain call at the end. Not everyone stays to watch movie credits roll, but applauding for the actors is a way you can show them how much you enjoyed it. And applause is a sound actors love to hear!
- Be polite and attentive. Our Student Matinee audience regularly includes teachers and students of theater and/or entire classes and teams of students who have studied the play and are really looking forward to seeing it performed. Remember, your behavior affects the experience for the entire audience!

Tips for teachers:

- Review theatre etiquette with your students and chaperones and set definite guidelines before attending any performance.
- Make sure that your chaperone to student ratio makes it possible for you to enforce your instructions.
- Let your students know that improper behavior will not be tolerated and follow through.
- Make sure that your chaperones know what's expected of them.