

Theatre Audience Etiquette

Going to a play 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. A production team puts in many long hours and a lot of hard work to mount a performance for an audience. If you keep in mind common courtesy for the performers as well as your fellow audience members, everyone's theatre experience will be optimized. What follows are a few reminders for attending the theatre.

1. Plan to arrive thirty minutes before the performance begins, stay with your group at all times, and wait for the ushers to help you find your seat.
2. Gum, food, drinks, or candy, are never allowed in the theatre.
3. Please go to the bathroom before seating for performance or at intermission.
4. **TURN OFF ALL** cell phones, pagers, beepers, alarms, any thing that can disturb the production, actors and the audience members during the performance. It is very impolite to have it go off during the show.
5. Lights will dim just before a performance and then go dark. Show your knowledge by sitting quietly and calmly.
6. Do not talk or whisper during the performance. The actors on stage can hear you which is why you can hear them so well. Laughter is permissible only at appropriate times.
7. Keep body movements to a minimum. You can't get up and move around during the performance.
8. No taking of pictures or video recording is allowed.
9. Don't leave your seat until the cast has taken their curtain call at the end. When the performance ends, wait patiently for your group to be called upon to exit.
10. Show your appreciation by clapping. The actors love to hear applause. This shows how much you enjoyed the performance!