

THEATER ETIQUETTE FOR AUDIENCE MEMBERS

Watching a live performance is an enjoyable experience. Just like any other public place, we are expected to behave properly and appropriately inside theaters; thus, there is theater etiquette. Theater etiquette is a set of guidelines about the proper conduct and correct behavior that is expected of theater audiences. It should always be taken in mind and practiced while staying inside the theater and watching performances of any kind. Following the basics of good behavior inside the theater will ensure that you and the people around you will enjoy the performance more.

1. Get there on time. If you are late, most theaters will not seat you until intermission. This is only fair to the audience who arrived on time and is respectful to the performers/dancers. Don't argue with the usher to be seated, they are just doing their job.
2. No talking during a performance ever! Even leaning in to whisper to the person next to you blocks the view of the person behind you and is extremely distracting. No singing or humming either. The audience comes to see the performers, not listen to you.
3. Of course, no flash photography of any kind, ever. This can be very detrimental to the performer. This also includes taking photos with your cell phone (although there is no flash, the screens are very distracting to everyone behind you).
4. Refrain from leaving your seat in the middle of the performance unless it is an emergency. Plan ahead and use restrooms prior to the show and during intermissions. NEVER leave a performance early. All of the performers have worked hard and deserve the respect and full attention on ALL audience members. Plus, it is distracting to those seated near you when you block their view to get up and move.
5. If you must suck on a hard candy or cough drop, please unwrap it BEFORE the show begins or wait until either a loud moment in the show or during applause.
6. Turn off your cell phones, watch alarms, etc. and no texting or receiving texts during the performance. You will survive.
7. Please wait until intermission to dig through your purse or shopping bags.
8. Treat others with the same respect that you would like to be treated. Period.
9. Respect the theater by leaving it in the same condition as when you arrived. You wouldn't visit someone's house and leave your garbage on their floor, so why would you do it in the theater?