

Theatre Etiquette

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A THEATRE AUDIENCE?

If this is your first time seeing live theatre here are a few tips:

- Theatre is 'live' and the performers are real
- You can hear and see the actors and they can hear and often see you
- Because theatre is live it is a dynamic experience, each audience is different and the actors can feel this and they respond to it

How to get the most out of the theatre experience:

- Arrive on time! Theatre is not like the movies - there are no advertisements or trailers in live theatre! If you miss the start you may not catch up with what is happening or worse...you may not be admitted to the theatre at all!
- Turn off your mobile phone and/or iPod. You won't need them and if your phone rings it will disrupt everyone
- Make sure you go to the bathroom before you go into the theatre. You don't want to be that person who climbs over everyone to get out during the show...you really don't
- An usher will help you find your seat so follow their directions
- How do you know when the performance begins? The lights will dim and/or you might hear a voice-over or sound. That's your cue that it has begun – time to quieten down and enjoy it.
- Because the show is live it is important that:
 - There is no photography
 - You don't speak loudly (remember the actors can hear!)
 - No eating (you're not going to be in there for hours, you can last, plus it's distracting)
 - Stay in your seat
- If the performance makes you want to laugh or gasp or respond in some other way then please do – the performers may be distracted by an audience that is talking too loudly, but they will feed off an audience that is genuinely responding to what they are doing on stage
- At the end of the performance the lights will come up and the performers will take a bow. It's customary at this point for the audience to show them how much they enjoyed their work by applauding or even cheering.
- These tips are aimed at allowing you to get the most out of the performance and for the actors and the other audience members to feel the same. You are all in it together!