

## Top Tips for Being a Good Audience Member

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Going to the theatre should be an enjoyable experience for everyone. This includes you, your neighbours as well as the actors and crew working on stage and behind the scenes.

Here are our 'Top Tips for Being a Good Audience Member':

### 1. Arrive early.

Arriving early is important. If you are late for the show, you may not be admitted. Shows start at the time that is advertised. It's not like the cinema; there aren't trailers or advertisements before the main event. Make sure to check your tickets in advance so you know exactly what date you are going!

Being on time gives you the chance to use the bathroom, get a programme and enjoy the ambiance of the venue. Arriving late is incredibly disrupting for other theatregoers and the actors too.

### 2. Turn your phone off...

... and not just on silent. Phones are so much part of everyday life now. It's not just calls or texts, it's the constant notifications from social media feeds too. The best thing is to turn your phone off completely. Don't be tempted to check notifications during the show, as the light from the screen can be very distracting for other audience members. Phone signals also interfere with sound equipment so actors and technicians may not hear their cues...

### 3. No photos, videos or selfies.

It goes without saying that taking pictures or videos during a show is a big no-no. The camera flash is extremely distracting for the actors on stage as well as other audience members. If you want to capture the magic of the night, you can take photos outside the auditorium before or after the show.

### 4. No eating.

The theatre isn't really the place to munch down on a bag of popcorn, a packet of sweets or your packed lunch! Eat before the show and save your snacks for the interval.

### 5. Silence is golden

Talking loudly, or even whispering to your neighbour during a live performance can be very distracting to your neighbours, and the actors can hear you too. There'll be plenty of time for discussion after the show.

## **6. It's ok to laugh**

While talking is a no-no, it is ok to laugh if you find something funny. Part of the magic of the live theatre experience is the energy that exists between the performers and the audience. Don't be afraid to react: to laugh; clap; gasp; or cry. A good audience member is a responsive audience member.

## **7. It's not over until....**

The curtain call. Please stay until the end and show your appreciation to the cast and crew for all their hard work. It's considered bad manners to leave before the curtain call.

## **Finally, the big question...**

Should you stand at the end? Well that's up to you, but don't feel you have to join a standing ovation unless a production literally brings you to your feet!