

A Handy Guide to Attending Theatre

What to Expect and How to Behave

Attending the theatre is a magical and exciting experience for all ages. For some of your students, an excursion to The Joan may be their first time they seeing live theatre. To ensure you have a positive and memorable experience, we have put together these helpful tips to go through with your students before attending a show.

When You Arrive at the Theatre

- Visit **Box Office** (located on the Ground floor) to let them know your group has arrived and **pick up your tickets** (if required). If you have **accessibility requirements** for anyone in your group (including wheelchair seating, audio description or hearing loop, please talk to the **Front of House Manager**);

We recommend all students go to the **toilets** at least 20 minutes prior to the performance beginning. This will ensure you have ample time to be seated in the theatre so the show can start on time. There are two sets of toilets on the ground floor – one around the corner from Box Office and the other near the Concert Hall off the Borland Foyer. Accessible toilets are located on the ground floor and level 2 (accessible by a lift).

Entering the Theatre

- **Please wait as a group in the foyer before the show.** An usher will come and collect you when the theatre is ready and show you to your seats. Remember to be courteous and lower your volume when you enter the theatre;
- **Don't forget to turn off all mobile and electronic devices and put them away before the show begins.** This is respectful to the performers and prevents device frequencies from interfering with the theatre technology;
- **If you have a bag** please make sure you tuck it safely underneath your chair, so other patrons do not trip on it.

During the Performance

- **Unless specified, it is against the law to photograph, video or record a live performance.** It is also very distracting to the performers and other audience members. Remember that live performances are created to be experienced and remembered by those who were there! If you/your students wish to gain access to any production stills or footage that may be available, please contact Ian Zammit at ian.zammit@penrith.city following the show.
- If you have bought any **snacks and drinks** to have during the show, please be respectful to the performers and other audience members by eating/drinking as quietly as possible and not playing with food wrappers;
- **Listening to and watching a performance is the key** to understanding and getting the most out of all performing arts, whether it be music, theatre, dance, or other forms of media. There's a story being told, and it's not always

If you have any questions about theatre culture and conventions or would like to arrange a pre-show briefing for your students, contact The Joan on (02) 4723 7600 or ian.zammit@penrith.city

through conventional means: so watch and listen carefully to get the most out of it.

- **Allow to the performers** to lead the way in how you are to interact with the performance. If performers do not address you the audience members directly, it is recommended to stay silent unless prompted otherwise. If performers directly interact with you, follow their lead for how to respond – it makes for the most enjoyable and interactive performances!
- **Laugh** when a performance is funny;
- **Clap** to show your appreciation to the performers and crew at the end of each act in the show and at the end of the performance. If you loved the show, you can stand and clap when the show finishes – this is called giving the cast a '**standing ovation**' and is the highest respect you can pay;
- **Do not** talk during the show, block someone else's view, whistle or scream during or at the end of a show.

After the Show

- Please **place all rubbish in the bins** as you exit the theatre;
- **Listen to instructions from your teacher** and leave the theatre quietly and calmly.

The Golden Rule:

Be respectful to others, listen and enjoy the magic of live theatre!

We look forward to welcoming you and your school to The Joan.