

Following are best practices for children and youth audiences. From below please choose the recommendations that best match the developmental level of your group and discuss with them prior to coming to the performance.

Audience How-Tos for Children

A **theatre** is a charged space, full of energy and anticipation.¹ When the **house lights** (the lights that help you see around you) go down, the excitement level goes up! Theatres are designed so that the voices and music of the performers can be heard. But this also means that any sound in the **audience** (that's you!)—whispering, crunching your papers, talking, wiggling—can be heard by other audience members *and* by the performers. This can spoil a performance for the other audience members and for the performers.

The performers on stage show respect for their art form and for you, the audience, by doing their very best possible work. You show respect for the performers by looking and listening carefully.

Applause (clapping) is the best way for you to share your enthusiasm and to say thank you to the performers. Applaud at the end of a performance! Sometimes the audience will clap during a performance or after a performer does something by him or herself (a **solo**). Audience members may feel like laughing if the action on stage is funny or crying if the action is sad. You can show respect for the performers in many different ways, depending on the performance. You might sit quietly at a dance performance. You might clap and sing at a music performance.

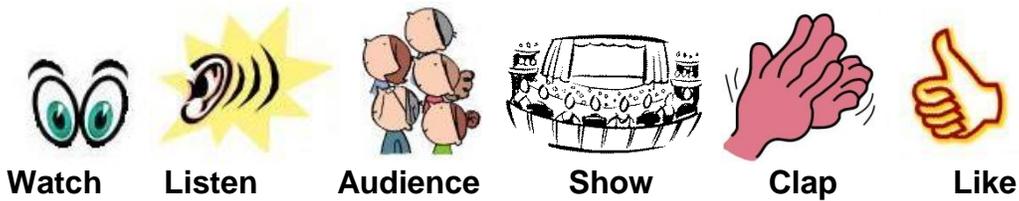
At the end of the performance, the cast will take a bow for what's known as a curtain call. Reward them by acknowledging them with your applause. At this time you may rise from your seat to give a **standing ovation**.



Best practices for children audience members

- Notice how costumes and lights add to the performance.
- Show the performers your respect. Do not talk or whisper during the performance. Open food, drinks and gum are not allowed in the theatre. Using cell phones—including text messaging—is forbidden.
- Listen carefully and watch closely.
- Clap at the end! The performers will take a bow. If you really like it, give the actors, musicians or dancers a **standing ovation** (rise from your seat and clap really hard)!
- Enjoy! The performers perform for *you*. They have worked very hard to bring the production to the Center for the Performing Arts and to share it with you.

¹ PA Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities 9.4. Aesthetic Response C. Recognize that the environment of the observer influences individual aesthetic responses to works in the arts



Hooray! You are going to  a performance at the theatre!²

When you  and  to a performance, you are part of the  . The  is an important part of the  .

To hear all the sounds of the performance,

the  must  carefully! If you talk, other people in the 

will not be able to hear. When the performance ends,

 to let the performers know you  the  .

² PA Learning Standards for Early Childhood: Arts and Humanities 9.4: Aesthetic response to works in the arts: know how to show appreciation of works of arts.

Audience How-Tos for Youth

Your role as an audience



A theatre is a charged space, full of energy and anticipation.³ When the house lights go down, the excitement level goes up! Theatres are designed so that the performers can be heard. But this also means that any sound in the audience—whispering, rustling of papers, speaking, and moving about—can be heard by other audience members and by the performers. Distractions like these disturb everyone’s concentration and can spoil a performance. Think of all the hard work that went into this moment. Many people have worked for several months to bring it all together, just for you.

You are the reason why this performance can take place.

Best practices for youth audience members

- Use the restroom before you get to your seat in the theater. There is no open food, drink or gum allowed in the theatre, also no photos (the flash can be dangerous for the musicians) and no cell phones—including texting.
- Show the performers your respect by not talking or whispering during the performance.
- Please—laugh when you hear something funny! Reward the musicians with your applause! At the end of the performance, the musicians will return to the stage to take a bow for what’s known as curtain call. At this time, if you really enjoyed the performance, you may rise from your seat to give a standing ovation.
- Enjoy! The performers are performing for your entertainment—they have worked very hard to share this time with you.
- After the performance is over the lights will come back on but stay seated until someone in charge dismisses your group

³ PA Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities 9.4 Aesthetic Response C. Recognize that the environment of the observer influences individual aesthetic response to works in the arts