

LIVE THEATRE: What, Why and How TO HELP IT HAPPEN

Live theatre refers to the experience of an audience which comes together at one specific time in order to watch a group of actors who appear before them - or amongst them - in person. While the performance may be augmented with video and audio effects, the principal effect occurs from that very special meeting of living, moving people looking at each other, listening to each other and reacting to each other in an exchange of energy which creates a true cycle of communication.

When an actor steps out on the stage, no matter how many weeks or months he or she has thought about and rehearsed what is about to happen, something unique occurs - because that particular audience watching is gathered together for the first time, bringing whatever experiences to the process which have motivated them to come to that one theatre at that one time. As the actor reaches out to their minds and their hearts with all the energy he or she is capable of sending forth, the audience responds - they laugh, or they sneer, or they gasp, or they move forward to the edge of their seats and clench their hands into fists - and send their energy back to the actor. This then, energizes the actor anew and excites greater efforts reaching forward to the audience once again. If it all works right, the audience and the actor form a creative collaboration which makes the whole experience fulfilling and memorable for all involved.

We ask you to become involved in this collaboration and to bring your own creative energy to share with our performers. Please follow these guidelines for appropriate behavior in a live theatre auditorium to help you and the actors have the best experience possible:

Guidelines

1. Enter the auditorium prepared to listen and participate by focusing your attention on the stage action. If you need to get a drink or go to the bathroom, allow yourself enough time to do so before the start of the performance or at intermission.
2. During the performance do not conduct conversations with others, leave your seat or make other movements or noise to distract actors or audience. Actors sometimes use aisles as exits and entrances and any movements by audience may not only be disruptive but dangerous.
3. No cameras, recording devices, food or beverages are allowed inside the theatre. Audience members who are eating, drinking or chewing gum will not be allowed to enter the auditorium.
4. Please bring an appropriate number of chaperones to accompany students and to insure that a good experience is had by all. Actors Theatre has found that it is usually best to have one adult for every 20 students, depending on age and individual class. (Elementary students may require more chaperons per student).
5. Remember that the performers and the audience inhabit the same space. Watching a play is not like watching a movie or a video. Together the actors and the spectators create the magic - look forward to it and help it happen!