

A Guide to Theatre Etiquette

We understand that for some of your students this may be their first experience with live theatre.

For a lot of students this can be very exciting and we want you and your students, as well as all the other patrons coming to the theatre, to have the best theatre experience possible.

If it is likely that your students are unfamiliar with general theatre etiquette (or even if they are and might need reminding) we strongly suggest going over the following points with them in preparation for your excursion...

- The nature of live performance is that it is designed to bring out a reaction from the audience. Therefore, it is definitely okay react to what you're seeing onstage by clapping, laughing, crying or interacting with performers at moments that are appropriate within the context of the performance. However, behaviour intended to cause disruption to the performers or interfere with the experience of other patrons is greatly discouraged. This behaviour includes heckling performers, talking during the performance or laughing at inappropriate moments.
- The use of mobile phones, ipods etc is prohibited inside the theatre. **This includes taking of photos and video.** Please ensure that both students AND teachers switch off all these electronic devices completely before entering the auditorium. Even when on silent mode, mobile phone frequencies can interfere with sound equipment.
- Occasionally, food and drink are allowed into the theatre (mainly for senior students who purchase their food from the Riverside Bar). If you are allowed to bring in snack food or drink, please be mindful of consuming your snacks discreetly and quietly in a way that wont disturb other patrons or the performers. Also, please take all rubbish with you when you leave the theatre.
- Overall, the most important thing to remember is to simply behave in a way that you would expect others to behave and I am sure you'll have a wonderful time at Riverside and enjoy everything that live theatre can offer!

If you have any questions, or would like to arrange a pre-show theatre etiquette briefing for your students by a Riverside staff member, contact us on 8839 3308 or education_riverside@parracity.nsw.gov.au

