



Dear Educator,

To fully appreciate and enjoy "Experience PPAC" at the Providence Performing Arts Center, we have compiled a list of guidelines that may be helpful for your students. We appreciate your efforts to teach students about appropriate behavior for the theatre and ask that you share the following information with them prior to your upcoming visit. Our emphasis on theatre etiquette is based on providing a safe environment and showing respect for all people involved in a live theatrical performance -- whether they are onstage, backstage, or in the audience. The questions below can help guide meaningful pre- and post-show conversations.

- What are the differences between live theatre and the cinema/television? (Three-dimensional vs. two-dimensional; life-size vs. larger than life on the screen; live vs. recorded; unique vs. reproducible; etc.) Discuss the nature of film and television and mass-produced vs. the one-time only nature of live performances. Talk about original art works vs. posters or reproduced art. Why is original art more valuable than reproductions?
- What is the audience's role at a live performance vs. its role at a movie or watching television? What are some of the things that can happen at a live performance that can't happen with film or television?
- Discuss the elements that go into production for a live performance ... lights, sets, props, costumes, stage direction. Ask students to deliberately look for these production elements as they watch the show. Observe the lighting and set changes. How do the special effects work?
- Take a good look at the architecture and decorations of the Providence Performing Arts Center. How old is the theatre building? (It was built in 1928 as a Loew's movie palace.) Imagine yourself attending a silent movie in 1928. How would this be different from attending a modern movie theatre? Why is it important to preserve buildings such as this theatre?

The performers are interested in knowing about the students' reactions to the performance. Encourage students' questions during the Q&A period following the show. Provide classroom time for them (and you) to complete the teacher/student evaluation forms the day after the performance. The forms will be mailed to you with your tickets. Returning the evaluation forms is imperative as it provides valuable feedback and helps us to sustain funding to support programs such as "Experience PPAC."

We want you to have a great time at PPAC. If you have comments or questions, feel free to let us know. We enjoy hearing from you.



**PROVIDENCE
PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER**

Audience Theatre Etiquette

1. Plan to arrive 30 - 35 minutes before the performance begins, always stay with your group, and wait for the ushers to help you find your seat.
2. Please use the restroom before the performance starts or at intermission. Keeping aisle ways clear is imperative.
3. TURN OFF ALL cell phones, pagers, beepers, alarms, and anything else that can disturb the production, actors and the audience members during the performance. It is very impolite to have these go off during the show.
4. Lights will dim just before a performance and then go dark. Show your maturity by sitting calmly and quietly.
5. Do not talk or whisper during the performance. The actors on stage and others around you can hear you, which can be very distracting. Laughter is permissible at appropriate times.
6. Keep body movements to a minimum. Don't get up and move around during the performance.
7. No photography or video recording is allowed.
8. Don't leave your seat until the cast has taken their curtain call (final bow) at the end. When the performance ends, wait patiently for your group's turn to exit the theater.
9. Show your appreciation by clapping. Actors love to hear applause. This shows how much you enjoyed the performance!
10. Please remember: No gum chewing, hats, smoking, feet on seats, spitting, or throwing of any objects is allowed in the theatre.