



PARENT & AUDIENCE INFORMATION

Tips and tricks for an amazing recital experience, plus what every audience member should know.

BEFORE THE START OF THE SHOW

1. Use the bathroom.

Lines for the restrooms at the theatre can run long, especially during intermission. Use the bathroom before arrival or before the start of the show if possible. You'll be happier you did.

2. Dress for the occasion.

Recitals are the culmination of events and can be a special moment for your dancer! Have fun and dress for the occasion. Theatres can be cold, so you may wish to bring a sweater.

WHEN YOU GET TO THE THEATRE

1. Doors open half an hour before curtain.

Guests can gain access to the theatre one half hour before the start of the performance. You can certainly arrive then, get settled, use the restrooms, buy merchandise and more. Which reminds us: Don't be late. Doors are closed in between performance numbers, which means you'll have to watch the show on a monitor in the lobby until the current dance number is complete.

2. Choose the right entrance line.

When you arrive at the theatre, join the correct line. Typically, one line covers attendees who have their tickets in hand and one line covers box office (or "will call") for people who need to pick up their tickets on site. Ask an event volunteer/usher at the main door to the theatre about which line is which so that you don't waste time.

3. While the lights are still up....

Read over your program book to see when your dancer hits the stage! Sometimes the director includes a note that contextualizes what you're about to see. You'll also learn how many acts are in the show, the length of the intermission and more.

4. No Flash Photography.

No flash photography is permitted during the performance. It's distracting to the

performers. So, if you want to snap a photo of your program or use the digital version, take it before the show starts!

5. Tuck your bags away.

For the bags that you did bring, secure them under your seat or in front of you, especially if you're seated on the aisle. Performers may use the aisles as entrances and exits, and you wouldn't want to be the reason they trip!

6. Turn off your phone.

This is the No. 1 rule in theatre etiquette. Turn off your phone. Set to vibrate or silent. Alarms can still go off on those settings, so please be mindful. Don't forget phones that flash and light up. The sounds and lights distract your fellow audience members and the performers onstage. Please be mindful of texting and using your phone as a flashlight to flip through your program.

7. Stay quiet throughout the show.

Aside from a ringing cell phone, talking during a performance is the most distracting offense of theatre etiquette. The more you talk, the more the people around can't hear the people onstage. Avoid other sounds that can disturb the people around you and the performers (snacking, popping gum, excessive laughing, coughing, crying, etc.)

DURING INTERMISSION AND AFTER THE SHOW

1. Keep your comments neutral or positive.

Everyone is entitled to their opinion. Still, we recommend that while inside (and very close to) the theatre, you keep commentary in neutral-to-positive territory. You never know what director or dancer's mom is sitting nearby and listening.

2. Clean up after yourself.

Dispose of trash, including chewed gum, in waste containers. Tell an usher/volunteer if anything was spilled, as a courtesy to the person seated next to you.

