

SO YOU'RE VISITING THE THEATRE?

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR SCHOOLS

HOW TO
ATTEND...

AN
OPERA

NORWICH | THEATRE | ROYAL

ARRIVING AT THE THEATRE

Arriving On Time

Often, with a live performance, audience members will not be admitted if they arrive late, because they disturb the performance for the actors and other audience members. You will normally have to wait until a suitable break in the performance before being admitted so it's best to arrive *at least* 15 minutes before the start of the performance and give yourself time to find your seat.

Taking Care Of Your Personal Needs

It is a good idea to make sure you go to the toilet before the performance starts for although you will be able to leave your seat mid-performance you may not be able to return to it until an appropriate time in the performance which may be considerably later. Alternatively you should wait until the interval or the performance ends.

Dress Code

As you are with your school friends, representing your school, your teacher may decide that you all wear your school uniform, which we would recommend. However, if you are allowed to wear your not-at-school clothes, you might want to dress up in something smart as some

want to give the performers the highest praise then you might stand and applaud.

Rubbish

If you have eaten sweets or had a drink in the interval then you can put your rubbish into the small rubbish bag provided on the back of the chair in front of you. Please don't leave it on the floor as this often leads to people walking in it and it makes the theatre harder to clean.

Stuff That Doesn't Belong To You

If you find something that does not belong to you (a purse or a coat, for example) then please hand it in to one of the theatre stewards that are at every exit of the auditorium and tell them where you found it. Also, there are binoculars that you can rent for 50p that are placed on the back of the chair in front of you. Please replace them back into their fitting and don't take them home with you. This way the next person who sees a show where you were sitting can enjoy using them too.

Leaving the Norwich Theatre Royal

There will be a lot of people trying to leave at the same time so always try and stay in your group with your teachers and friends, so that you don't get separated, and you can leave in an orderly manner.

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

Applauding

When the performance is over, it's important to show your appreciation by applauding the performers. In some performances, you might hear people applaud or cheer during the performance, and sometimes that's ok. At operatic performances you might get the audience applauding after the orchestra has finished the overture or after a singer has performed a certain piece, and at the end of an act. However, often the audience will wait until the end of the show to applaud. If you are not sure when to applaud, trust your instincts or let the rest of the audience's behaviour guide you.

The Curtain Call

At the end of the performance there is usually a curtain call. This is when the performers come on stage to receive your appreciation. Don't leave during the curtain call. Wait until the curtain has come down and leave with the rest of the audience.

Stand And Applaud If You Really Liked The Show

Performers are thrilled when they receive something called a 'standing ovation'. If you

of the other audience members may also have dressed up for this special occasion.

Tickets

As you are visiting Norwich Theatre Royal as a group your teacher will have all of your tickets and will probably decide where you will be sitting. However, if you do get given your ticket you have a responsibility to not lose it. Your tickets have a Row letter and a Seat number printed on them (e.g. Stalls - Row V Seat 23). Be sure to sit in the right seat so that there are no mix-ups.

Mobile Phones

If you have to bring a mobile phone with you, you **MUST** turn it off when you enter the auditorium so that it does not disturb the performance or those seated around you. You will be embarrassed if it goes off in the middle of the performance and the performers (and the other members of the audience) will not like you for it.

The Start Of The Performance

The main lights in the auditorium that will be on when you take your seat will slowly fade to darkness as the show is ready to begin. You should be ready and seated when this happens so prepare yourself to be comfortable by taking your coat off and relax.

DURING THE PERFORMANCE

Look and Listen!

This is important because you will be hearing musicians and singers perform LIVE FOR YOU! It's important that you listen and watch very well so that you don't miss anything and you don't disturb others around you.

Responding

This is a live performance before a live audience. Your part is to let the performers know that you appreciate the show. That means laughing at the funny parts, when it's called for, and applauding when you like something. Remember to always respond respectfully and appropriately. These are *live performers* and their performance will be affected by your reactions.

Being Considerate Of Those Around You

Don't kick the back of the seat in front of you, and don't talk to your friends during the performance as you will disturb the other audience members around you. Don't put your feet on the seats; try to keep them on the floor.

Sweets, Drinks And Food

You should not be drinking, eating sweets or food, or chewing gum while watching the performance, as this can be unsettling for the other audience members and the performers. There is an interval and that is when you can drink or have something to eat. The interval normally lasts about twenty minutes.

Cameras And Camera Phones

You will not be allowed to take photographs while you are inside the auditorium so unless you want to take photographs of your group arriving and departing from the Theatre Royal please, don't bring a camera. Due to the individual production copyright agreement using a camera phone is also strictly prohibited.

Stewards

If you require help during the performance (if you feel ill, for example) or if you become separated from your group and can't find your seat then please ask a steward. They are easily recognisable, as they all wear name badges, and will be happy to help you.