



ATC EDUCATION UNIT

Guidelines for Theatre Attendance



A theatrical performance is a special occasion. It is special for an audience, the actors and all the production crew. Without an audience there is no performance, only a rehearsal.

There are five simple conventions that audience members must learn and carry out in order to fulfill their part of the performance. These conventions all relate to making the performance enjoyable and successful for all people involved – you, the other audience members, the actors and the crew. We need your help to ensure that you and everyone else in the audience get the most out of the experience.

- The theatre is a public building and needs to be looked after. Eating or drinking is not permitted during a performance.
- The theatre is designed for acoustic sound. All sounds from the stage and the body of the theatre are amplified and can be clearly heard. Audience members sometimes make the mistake of thinking they cannot be seen and heard. They can! Therefore, please do not talk or whisper during the performance.
- Audience members are asked to muffle any sneezes or coughs with a handkerchief as a single cough can distract a performer. Please also turn off any mobile telephones, pagers or wrist watch alarms.
- Please respect the right of other people who have bought tickets to hear and see the performance. None of us has the right to spoil a performance for any other person in the audience or on the stage.
- The theatre staff has the right to ask any member of the audience to leave the performance if that person refuses to observe any of these conventions.

It's really important to us that you enjoy your visit to the theatre. We hope to bring the text alive for you and therefore to help you with your studies.

Auckland Theatre Company operates a **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY** on cell-phones in school matinee performances. Please don't bring them!