

Preparing Youth for a Live Theatre Experience – Concrete Theatre

Before the Performance

Some youth have never attended a live theatrical performance before, and may need some guidance as to what standards of behaviour apply and how best to enjoy the experience. Others may simply need a quick refresher.

The important point to emphasize is that when they are watching the play they are in a partnership. They contribute as much as to the overall enjoyment and power of the performance as the performers do. The performers appreciate audience response. Laughter, sighs, thoughtful silence and listening, and applause all let us know we're reaching you. The unspoken back-and-forth communication of thought and feeling is what theatre is all about.

Some things to remember:

Please respect the performance space and equipment. That means not walking behind the set where the actors may be preparing. Do not touch or move props, set pieces, cables, projectors and speaker equipment, which may be delicate or finely adjusted for the performance.

Sound carries. Speaking aloud to friends during the performance is not only disturbing for the other audience members, it also distracts the performers. They can see and hear you from the stage. They really rely on your focus, attention and respect to do what they do best.

There is no photography or recording permitted during the performance.

This is because of our agreements with our unions. You are welcome to photograph our set following the performance. Feel free to use #ConcreteYEG if you post it!

No use of cell phones and headphones allowed during the performance.

Texting during a performance is absolutely not allowed. This one is so important we've given it, its own paragraph. Texting is extremely distracting for both the audience and the performers. We ask that adults supervising the performance also refrain from texting. Thanks so much for your help on this one!

Leaving the space. In the case of needing to use the washroom or other urgent need, we ask that the audience leave and return as quietly as possible. Adults can assist by opening and closing doors quietly.

Behavior Issues. We rely on you as adults to manage young people's behaviour, in the unlikely event that they are overly disruptive. You know them best and how to deal with them. Should any youth be continuously disruptive, the Stage Manager may ask that they be removed from the audience. We ask for your cooperation in helping to remove them from the theatre so that the rest of the audience may enjoy the full performance.

We'd Love to Hear From You:

We love to get feedback your feedback on the performance! We encourage you to send us the results of your post show discussions or activities and invite you and the youth to share their thoughts about the plays and the experience of attending Sprouts.

If you have any suggestions for us, we are always looking for ways to make the experience of live theatre enjoyable and the most it can be. Please drop us a line at info@concretetheatre.ca