

Five Theatre Etiquette Principles

- 1. Tickets are a contract.** If you have a ticket, whether you paid for it or not, that means you are committing to filling a seat in the theatre. If you have a ticket and don't show up for the play, you might have prevented someone from seeing it that really wanted to. Show up. Be early. Stay for the whole thing. Only an emergency should prevent you from appearing.
- 2. Forget you have a cell phone for two hours.** Going to the theatre is a glorious opportunity to disconnect for a short period of time. Texting during a show can be incredibly distracting to those around you and the actors on stage. Trust me. They can see you.
- 3. Engage.** You're not watching television. Actors are real, breathing humans, right there in front of you. Demonstrate respect by fully engaging with the story. You'll probably enjoy it more.
- 4. Stay quiet.** If you save your comments for intermission or the end of the show, then you and your friends will have something to talk about! Don't waste your brilliant remarks in a whisper that is distracting to both fellow audience members and actors.
- 5. Stay awake.** Drink some coffee before the show. Go on a jog. Just stay awake. Unlike a movie, you can't press "pause" on a play and finish the rest later. You fall asleep, and you miss your only chance of seeing it (but believe me, we can still see you).