



THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES BY MOUNTAIN THEATRE COMPANY

PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

SEATING

Because we serve many school groups at our shows, seating assignments are predetermined by MTC. We do our best to seat groups together, but this is not always possible due to the number of attendees. Therefore, groups may be seated in multiple sections. Please confirm that we have the correct number of attendees (including students, teachers, chaperones, and bus drivers) and any accessibility needs that will affect seating assignments before you arrive.

ARRIVING TO THE SHOW

We ask that all groups arrive at the Highlands Performing Arts Center 30 minutes prior to the performance start time. Once you arrive, please send one representative to check in at the Box Office. Once you have checked in, you will receive your seat assignments.

LATECOMERS

As a courtesy to the multiple school groups attending each performance, we will make every effort to start performances at their published time. Latecomers will be seated as soon as possible and at the timing and discretion of the Mountain Theatre Company staff. In order to minimize disturbance to our audience and performers, you may be asked to wait until an appropriate break in the action on stage before taking your seats.

PARKING

There is ample room in the parking lot of the Highlands Performing Arts Center for vans, cars, and buses. Vehicles may also drop passengers off outside the front entrance and then park in the lot behind the building.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHERE IS THE HIGHLANDS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER LOCATED?

Mountain Theatre Company performances will take place at the Highlands Performing Arts Center: 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands, NC 28741.

HOW LONG IS THE SHOW?

Home for the Holidays will last approximately 70 - 90 minutes. We will have an exact runtime the week before the show opens. There is no intermission. A 10 - 15 minute Q&A session with the cast and creative team will occur directly after the performance.

WHEN WILL WE RECEIVE OUR TICKETS?

MTC does not use paper tickets. Upon arrival, send one representative into the Box Office to check in. You will receive your seat assignments at that point.

WHAT SHOULD WE BRING WITH US TO THE THEATER?

It can be chilly inside the theater, so students are encouraged to bring a light sweater, jacket, or sweatshirt. Please do not bring lots of additional items that may be left and forgotten inside the theatre.

CAN WE PACK A PICNIC LUNCH?

Yes! Depending on your school lunch schedule, feel free to bring a picnic lunch to eat in our uncovered courtyard. There is also a public park in Highlands, Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park, which is a short walk from the HPAC.

HOW CAN I PREPARE MY STUDENTS FOR THE SHOW?

We offer a free online **study guide** for each of our shows! You can find those guides here: <https://www.mountaintheatre.com/tya-x-mtc>

For many students this may be their first experience seeing professional live theatre. Our **Theatre Etiquette for Young Audiences** sheet below offers great information about being a good audience member. **Please go over this information with your students before they arrive.**



THEATRE ETIQUETTE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

PLEASE REVIEW THESE RULES OF THEATRE ETIQUETTE WITH YOUR STUDENTS.

To be a good audience member it is important to know how to act in the theatre.

Arrive on time!

Plan to arrive 20 - 30 minutes before the show begins.

Don't forget to use the restroom and have a drink of water before the show starts because you won't be able to leave your seat once the play begins until after it is over.

Turn off your cell phones.

Remember to turn off your cell phone and silence any other device that might make noise that could distract the actors and the audience members around you. Keep in mind that the actors are working hard on stage to give you the best performance they can. They need to stay focused. It is very distracting to them if something unexpected makes noise in the audience and could make them mess up during a scene.

Take your seat once the lights go down.

When the lights in the theatre dim, that is the audience's cue that the show is about to start!

Stay still in your seat.

When you are sitting in your seat during the show, please don't stand up, bounce, kick the seat in front of you, or put your feet on the seats. This is very distracting to the other audience members around you.

Do not stand or sit in the aisles.

Many times actors might make entrances or exits through the audience in the aisles. They could trip over you if you are in the way. It is also a fire hazard.

No food or drink in the theater!

It is unkind and disrespectful to the actors on stage to be eating food during a play.

No cameras allowed.

Live performances cannot be photographed or recorded in any way. It is almost always illegal to do so because a play is a copyrighted piece of material.

And most importantly, remember the following:

The audience has the most important part in the play! Without the audience, live theatre wouldn't exist. You are an active participant in the play, and actors on stage are affected by your energy and responses. Every performance of a play is a little bit different depending on the audience, and the quality of the performance depends as much on you as it does on the professionals on stage and behind the scenes.

- The actors on stage are not like actors in a movie or TV show. They can hear you and see you, just like you can hear and see them!
- Please do not talk during the show. Even a whisper is distracting to the actors and the audience members near you.
- Save all questions and comments until after the show is over. You'll have time afterwards to ask questions and talk to your friends about what you watched and experienced.
- Listen and watch intently. We want you to stay engaged and react to the story as it is happening!
- It's ok to react if something on stage is funny, sad, scary, or surprising. Laugh when something is funny! That's a good way the actors can know if they are doing a good job. It's also ok to gasp if you're frightened or cry if something makes you feel sad.
- Keep in mind that the audience will have older and younger people mixed together in the audience, and they may react to the play in different ways than you. That's ok! Respect the differences in the reactions you may hear around you.
- Applaud and cheer at the end! Actors love to know that you had a good time and enjoyed the performance. If you really enjoyed a show, you can even stand up during the applause - this is called a "standing ovation." Receiving a standing ovation is a big deal and lets the actors know that the audience truly enjoyed what they experienced.