

# Going to the Theatre & What to Expect

This information is provided for you and your children, to give you an idea of what to expect when you get there...



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### What's so special about going to the theatre?

Unlike television or cinema, when you watch a theatre performance, it is live and happening right in front of you. This means every performance is unique and the people in the audience are as much a part of the show as the people on stage.

#### Do I need to wear smart clothes?

You don't need to wear your best clothes - in the past, people used to get very dressed up to go to the theatre, but nowadays it is more common that people dress casually, however, many people still make an effort to look nice for their theatre visit!

#### What should I do when I get to the theatre?

- Make sure you get to the theatre in plenty of time. We would advise following the guidance from the theatre or arriving at least 30 minutes before the start of the show.
- When you and your family arrive at the theatre, please follow the advice given in your e-confirmation. It may be hot and busy in the foyer (entrance area), please be patient as you may have to queue for a short while.
- If you are in the Stalls, you are sitting downstairs. If your ticket says Dress circle, Royal Circle or Upper Circle you will find your seat upstairs

## Is there anything I need to remember to do before the performance begins?

- Check to make sure you can bring snacks and drinks into the venue you are going to; you can find this information on the theatre website and your econfirmation
- Make sure your children have gone to the toilet before the show begins especially if the show does not have an interval!
- You will also need to remember to turn off your mobile phone.
- Make sure you have eaten any food before you enter the auditorium
- Put any drink or sweets away until the interval (the break half way through the performance). Noisy munching can be disturbing to other audience members!
- Please keep very quiet when you are watching talking is very disturbing to other people in the audience, and to the performers on stage.

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#### Are there any rules I need to know?

There are some etiquette guidelines that you should observe in order to make sure that you, your family and everyone else in the audience has the best possible experience.

- Please don't talk
- You are NOT allowed to take photographs
- No eating in the auditorium during the performance
- Turn off your mobile phone
- Try not to wriggle around too much
- The main thing to remember is that there are lots of other people around you and everyone wants to concentrate on the show and not be disturbed by noises, smells and movement around them

Please note that some of these rules do not apply for relaxed performances. These performances are aim to make the atmosphere as relaxed as possible, so you won't have to keep still, or completely quite, or remain in the theatre for the full performance. If you have any questions, let us know.

#### What happens at the interval?

- The interval usually lasts for about 15-20 minutes then you may hear an announcement or bells. It's important you are back in your seats quickly so you don't miss any of the second half!
- During the interval, you may have the opportunity to buy an ice cream, a drink or a programme, however this will be dependent on the venue. Remember though—snacks and souvenirs in theatres can be very expensive—so check before you buy it!
- For some younger or shorter shows there may not be an interval, so do make sure that your family have gone to the toilet in plenty of time before the show starts!

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#### **Anything else?**

#### **Booster seats**

If you are attending with very small children, you can request a booster seat before the performance. Please ask one of the front of house staff when you arrive. This is subject to availability.

#### Have a great time!

Have any questions about the venue or the show, the theatre will be able to answer any queries, so don't hesitate to contact them.

