Visiting the Theatre

A Guide for Schools and Groups
Introduction

A trip to the theatre is a great opportunity to experience the magic of live performance. It can be fun, inspiring and exciting. However it can also be quite intimidating, and is very different to going to the cinema or to a gig.

We want to make sure that you have a wonderful time at Norwich Theatre Royal, and that the rest of the audience does too. To help that happen, we have written this short guide. It includes advice and hints, as well as some rules we ask everyone to follow to make sure that everybody in the audience has an enjoyable and memorable experience.

Before the Performance

• **Arrive on time**
  
  We recommend you arrive 30 minutes before the performance starts. This gives you plenty of time to take your seat in the auditorium.

• **Remember your ticket!**
  
  You need your ticket to get into the performance.

• **Go to the loo!**
  
  There are toilets throughout the Theatre. Once the performance starts you will not be able to leave your seat until the interval.

• **Be mindful of other people**
  
  The theatre can get very busy just before a performance. Be aware that there are other people around you, and treat them just like you want to be treated. If you are in a large group, try to stand to one side so others can get by without knocking you over!

• **Head to your seats**
  
  Follow the signs on the walls to find the best door to reach your seat. Show the Usher your ticket, and they will direct you to your seat.

• **Switch off your mobile**
  
  Don’t just put it on silent– the light from a screen is very bright in the auditorium. Switch it off and put it in a pocket or bag. If you need to check it you can get it out at the interval.
During the Performance

- **Stay in your seat**
  Unless it’s an emergency please stay in your seat. This is so other people behind you can see over your head. During the interval you can get up if you need to.

- **Avoid conversations—even about the show**
  Theatre performances are much quieter than films at the cinema. This means that any talking, even whispering, can be heard by everyone around you. It can also be heard by the actors on stage and is very distracting and rude.

- **Please don’t eat or drink**
  Because the theatre is very quiet, everyone will hear you rustling, chewing and slurping. This is very distracting (and a bit gross!) and stops people enjoying the performance. Getting sweets out silently is impossible (trust us we’ve tried) and doing it slowly just makes even more noise! You can eat and drink during the interval if you need to.

- **Be mindful of other people**
  You will be seated with up to 1300 other people in the theatre. So that everyone has the same fun experience try not to move about too much or kick the chair in front of you. If you need to cough then use a tissue or cough into your hand. If you think you’re going to cough lots try taking a sip of water.

- **Keep your mobile off**
  You don’t need to turn it back on again until after the performance is finished we promise. Not even if you’re a doctor or lawyer!

- **Don’t take photos or videos**
  If your phone is off you probably can’t, but if you do have a camera with you please keep it switched off. Firstly it is against the law to record a performance without permission, and secondly the light from your camera will be very distracting for the actors and other people in the audience.

- **Enjoy the performance!**
  Really good live theatre will make you laugh, and maybe even cry. This is great! Don’t be afraid to laugh at the funny parts, gasp at the scary parts, and cry (quietly) at the sad parts. At the end of the performance you can show your appreciation for the performers with applause. Some people will stand up when they applause to show how impressed they are. This is called a ‘Standing Ovation’.
During the Interval

Some performances will have a short break in the middle. This is normally about 20 minutes long and is called the Interval.

- **Stretch your legs**
  If you want to stretch your legs you can stand up, or go for a quick walk. Just remember to take your ticket with you and be back in time for the second act.

- **Talk with your friends (quietly)**
  Want to tell the person next to you how much you're enjoying the show, or ask a question about something that happened on stage? Great, now is your chance to do it. Just remember to finish your conversation when the second act starts.

- **Enjoy a quick snack**
  Now is a great time to enjoy an ice cream, or eat a sweet or two. You can eat these in your seat or go outside to the foyer. But please put any rubbish in the bins, and put away your snacks before the second act starts.

- **Go to the loo!**
  There are toilets throughout the Theatre. If you need to go after watching the first act now is your chance! Remember, you won't get another chance till the end of the performance.

After the Performance

- **Put any rubbish in the bin**
  If you have any rubbish, or see any around your seat please give us a hand by putting it in the bin. There are also recycling bins for anything which can be recycled.

- **Collect your belongings**
  Check to make sure you have everything with you before you leave. Check under your seat to make sure nothing has fallen out of your pockets or bag. If you find an item that doesn’t belong to you like a purse or hat, you should take it to the Welcome Desk by the front doors so we can put it in lost property.

- **Turn on your mobile**
  Once the performance has finished you can turn your phone back on. Feel free to tweet, text, and snapchat everyone to tell them how great the show was!