



# THEATRE ETIQUETTE



## GUIDELINES FOR AUDIENCES OF ALL AGES

**Audiences have a direct effect on the quality of a live theatrical performance. Below are a few tips to help new theatre patrons understand the expectations of excellent audience participation:**

**Be Orderly and Prompt** – Respect other audience members by entering and exiting in an orderly manner. It is best to arrive 15 minutes early. Latecomers disrupt the performance and the audience. Please do not enter or exit the auditorium during the performance.

**Read** – A playbill is often provided to inform you about the play and the actors that you are about to see. Reading it before the lights dim will provide you with a deeper understanding of what you see and hear on stage.

**Listen and Observe** – There is so much to hear (dialogue, music, sound effects and voice inflection) and so much to see (costumes, props, set design, lighting effects and architecture of the theatre). When the lights dim before the show begins, audience members should stop talking and begin listening and watching.

**Unplug** – Please turn off or silence all electronics. Anything that beeps or emits light should be turned off: cell phones, tablets, iPods, cameras, watches, pagers, etc. If you are with a person who has a hearing aid that emits a high-pitched sound, please politely alert them to silence it. Inappropriate noises distract actors and audiences.

**Please, Don't Feed The Audience** – Food, candy and gum are prohibited in the theatre. A great actress, Katherine Hepburn, was once so distracted by an audience member crinkling a candy wrapper that she stopped the show to reprimand the offender!

**Laugh Out Loud** – Natural audience responses are encouraged. Laugh, applaud, cry, and express your natural emotion. Please participate if asked by the actors to contribute a response.

**Think** – Think about your theatre experience during and after the performance. How does the material apply to you? Are there lessons to be learned? Would you make the same decisions as the characters if you experienced similar circumstances? Is the material inspirational? How do you feel at the conclusion of the performance? Think about it and discuss it with fellow audience members if you have the opportunity.

**Enjoy the performance!**

**EbzB Productions ~ Your World Is Our Stage!**