



## Audience Etiquette

Please make sure that your students are aware of some basic rules of audience etiquette before attending Festival events. They should be aware that they will be attending events with the general public who have paid full prices for their tickets and who will want to enjoy the performance without distraction.

These are generic guidelines and will be useful in many other school and community situations. Audience etiquette is also a part of the arts in society outcome for the arts learning area.

[Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser speaks online](#) about the importance of teaching audience etiquette.

It would also be an interesting exercise for students to compare different performance situations and how audience behaviour can differ (eg. Rock concert, football game, orchestra performance). Click [here](#) for lesson ideas and a worksheet.

### Guidelines for audiences

- Make sure phones are switched off
- No use of cameras
- No talking or moving around during the performance as this distracts other audience members
- Make sure you go to the toilet before the show or at interval (if there is an interval)
- Don't rustle the programme or make unnecessary noise during the performance
- No eating or drinking
- Pay attention at all times. Imagine how the performers would feel if they looked up and saw audience members looking elsewhere or even sleeping!
- Applaud at appropriate times
- Don't sing along, clap, or tap your feet in musical performances. This distracts other audience members.
- Make sure you dress in an appropriate way for the performance, the venue and the time.
- Follow your teacher's instructions at all times. They have put in a lot of effort to take you to the event so make sure you show them that you appreciate this through your behaviour and your thanks!
- Got to the performance with an open mind and a positive attitude. Even if you have never enjoyed this type of performance in the past, if you try hard enough you will definitely be able to find at least one part of the event that you appreciate!

And above all, the golden rule of audience etiquette is **not to do anything that makes people notice you instead of the performance.**

Once going through these guidelines students may like to take an [online audience etiquette quiz](#).