

SSSSHHHH ...

A live ballet performance is an interactive experience; the dancers perform for the audience, and the audience shows its appreciation to the dancers. Many students and families have never attended a ballet and it is important to know the behavior suitable for the theater.

Please take a moment and read the following points.

1. The ballet performance is a live event. The dancers appreciate your attention; they can see and hear the audience and it is acceptable to laugh, clap, and respond to the performers.
2. Applause is how dancers gauge your appreciation and approval of their dancing. Most often, applause is reserved for the end of the ballet, when the dancers take their final bow.
3. Noise is a distraction to both the dancers and the other audience members. Talking, whispering, unwrapping candy, and “shushing” those who make noise, spoil the experience for the rest of the audience.
4. Food, beverages, and chewing gum are not allowed in the theater.
5. Cell phones, pagers, and anything electronic must be turned off during the performance.
6. For the safety of the dancers, all photography, including flash photography and video recording, is strictly prohibited.
7. Remember to respect the ushers, theater staff, and the theater itself.

CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!

Take-Aways

- How does showing respect and appreciation of the dancers in a ballet compare or contrast from showing respect and appreciation for people in other roles in other venues (i.e., athletes at a sports match, teachers in a classroom, politicians at a debate)?

