



THEATER ETIQUETTE FOR FESTIVAL

The METG believes that one of our most important jobs as theater educators is to inspire, teach and guide our students to be better audience members. With this goal in mind, we request that you share, review and discuss the following with your students and with any adults that will be attending Festival as part of your Festival group.

- **Be respectful while waiting for a performance to begin.** In any waiting time, i.e. before a show, before the awards ceremony, the audience should keep the noise to a quiet conversation level. The school preparing to perform deserves the time to focus, mentally prepare and to develop the concentration required for performance.
- **The role of the Emcee is to welcome the audience, introduce a school and announce their play, and read the rules of the METG.** It is up to each Hosting School to educate their Emcees to follow this policy. Emcees should not perform skits, tell jokes or conduct themselves in a manner that will incite “stadium behavior” from the audience - it is not fair to the school that is preparing to perform.
- **Help eliminate distractions in the theater** by prohibiting students from bringing in cell phones, iPods, laser pointers, beepers, beeping watches, and food and drinks. The METG encourages Host Schools to prohibit food and drink in the theater (even if your school typically allows it). Remind your students of the noisy effects food wrappers can have in a quiet space.
- **Be respectful of the space.** You are a guest in someone else’s theater. Wearing hats, stepping on and over seats, and putting feet up shows disrespect.
- **Pay attention to the show.** Conversation, listening to an iPod, or text messaging are not appropriate.

Theater is an illusion. Any disturbance that takes an audience member out of that illusion can be detrimental to both the performance and its impact.