

Expectations and Salutations

Our Philosophy on the Relationship Between a Theatre and its Audience

Welcome!

The goal of directors, actors, and theatrical professionals is to put on a performance that will make you think and will change how you see the world. William Shakespeare was so good broadening our life's view that these plays are fresh and meaningful hundreds of years later.

We here at The Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre want honest reactions and have tremendous respect for the role that our audience plays in making a show come together. After all, theater cannot exist without an audience! Every person in the seats brings their emotions and energy to the show, so thank you, thank you, THANK YOU for being part of our production.

For Teachers: Feel free to use as much of the Study Guide materials on our website as your class may want or need. Discuss your school or district field trip policies and expectations. Familiarize your students with the location, layout, and philosophy of The Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre. Encourage your students to observe, react to and engage with the play. Support them in the asking of questions and the discovering of answers. Give them permission to react – sometimes when we see something powerful, we feel uncomfortable with those feelings. Remind students that these feelings are normal and interesting – and might not be the same feelings as those of the student in the next seat! Enjoy the performance, and know that you are making a difference by perpetuating excellent theater and introducing a new generation of theater-goers to its magic!

For Students: Browse the Study Guide materials on the website and see what goes into creating a theatrical performance! Brainstorm questions as you look at our theater and meet our actors, and be sure to ask them during our Q&A session after the show. If you don't go to see live theater very often, get excited...there is so much excitement in the air when you are only a few feet away from the actors during the performance. If anything you see onstage makes you laugh, cry, gasp, or feel emotions you weren't expecting, that's a great thing! It means that you were totally connected to the show, and the actors did exactly what Shakespeare wanted actors to do on the stage. Everyone reacts differently to a song, a movie, or a play – and that self-discovery is what keeps us interested in the creative arts, and brings us back for more.

For All Audience Members: Because we strive for all our audiences to have a mutual respect for the actors and other audience members we ask that all cell phones be put away and only used during the intermission and after the performance to text, email, facebook, and/or tweet about your experience. We also ask that any food or drinks brought into the theatre or purchased from the theatre be consumed in the lobby areas.

We are so excited to present our student matinee performances, and we can't wait to hear your questions and comments after the show ends. Thank you so much for being a part of keeping Shakespeare's plays an important part of the Philadelphia arts!