



LAKE CHARLES CIVIC BALLET

Theater Etiquette

1. **Be prepared and arrive early.** Ideally you should arrive at the theater 30 to 45 minutes before the show. Allow for travel time and parking, and plan to be in your seats at least 15 minutes before the performance begins.
2. **Be aware and remain quiet.** You may think that you are being quiet, but in the theater even the smallest sounds are noisy. Whispering, rustling papers, and fidgeting can be heard throughout the theater. So, be quiet for everyone's enjoyment of the show. The international sign for "Quiet Please" is to silently raise your index finger to your lips.
3. **Show appreciation by applauding.** Applause is the best way to show your enthusiasm and appreciation. Performers return their appreciation for your attention by bowing to the audience at the end of the show. It is always appropriate to applaud at the end of a performance, and it is customary to continue clapping until the curtain comes down or the house lights come up.
4. **Participate by responding to the action onstage.** Sometimes during a performance, you may respond by laughing, crying, or sighing. By all means, feel free to do so! Appreciation can be shown in many different ways, depending upon the art form.
5. **Concentrate to help the performers.** Performer use concentration to focus their energy while on stage. If the audience is focused while watching the performance, the artists feel supported and are able to do their best work. They can feel that you are with them!