

A layman's guide to show etiquette

Some of our audience members may be unsure about the etiquette in a theatre or general cultural performance. We have written this quick layman's guide on how to behave in a theatre to help you with that.

- There are NEST members helping during the show. Please **listen to the instructions** they give you. This concerns both your safety and to ensure a good show for everyone.
- To avoid any delays for the show starting and long lines at the ticket counter, we ask that you **arrive well on time (20 to 30 minutes in advance)**.
- Should you **arrive late** and the show already started, the organising crew outside the showroom might still be able to let you in through a back entrance. However, we ask that you are as silent as possible and move with care through the audience.
- In order for the entry into the showroom to happen as smoothly as possible, you need to buy a ticket at the ticket counter as you enter the foyer. Even if you already purchased a ticket online, we need to hand you a **physical ticket**. We will be **collecting** them at the entrance and ask that you do not damage them in the meanwhile.
- While you can **leave empty glasses on the tables** in the Foyer, we ask that you throw your **trash into the bins** that are assigned for them.
- As per the rules of the Vrijhof we are not allowed to have anyone **consuming food or drinks** inside of the show rooms. This applies to any room we might have a show in.
- While you can dress for the occasion and we always love to see people in costumes fitting the show, you can come in **almost all attire**. From suit and tie, to jeans with t-shirts, we are happy to see you at our shows. Nevertheless, we would suggest leaving gym pants and sleeping wear at home.
- To avoid disrupting other people in our tightly packed theatre, we ask that you are aware of your own smell, which includes the exuberant use of perfume. Do **not apply any perfume or deodorant** inside the showroom.
- The **door to the showroom will stay closed** until a member of the organising team opens it for the audience. Do not open the door yourselves.
- You may **not block doors, staircases or emergency exits**. This is to ensure your safety and that of everyone else.
- During the show it is **prohibited to use any devices with screens**, as the light disrupts other audience members. This includes texting.

- While it should be obvious, we want to explicitly state that the usage of **laser pointers is not allowed**.
- We ask that you **remove any hats** and tall items that can obstruct the view of the person behind you.
- We are happy to provide entertainment to both old and young guests of the theatre, however, we ask that should your **infant or toddler** become restless, you try to step out of the showroom to calm them in order to avoid disturbing others.
- Please do not speak during performances, this includes talking to your neighbours unless you can not avoid it. We do encourage audible reactions like laughter to the play.
- The sitting spaces in the Agora and Amphi are sadly rather small. Therefore we ask that you **compromise with your sitting neighbours** on the use of the armrests as well as the space in front of the seats.
- To avoid any copyright claims and to ensure the enjoyment of the show for both yourself and the other audience members, we ask that you **do not film or photograph** any part of the show. NEST shows are photographed by a professional photographer who will make the pictures available to the members of the performing group.
- We ask that you **do not sign or speak along** with the songs or texts of the show unless otherwise encouraged to do so by the crew or cast.
- As **leaving the theatre** during the show creates noise and general disruption, we ask that you **minimise** these instances. This is both distracting for the audiences as well as for the cast and crew.
- If there is an **intermission** in the show you are watching, you are asked to **leave the showroom**. This is meant to allow the crew to change the set and to give the cast a moment to breathe.
- You are invited and strongly encouraged to stay in the Foyer after the show to applaud the cast one last time when they come out. You will also be able to catch up with them at that point.
- Should you wish to, it is a **nice tradition to bring flowers** or small gifts to members of the cast that you know to congratulate them on finishing their show.