

# What to expect at the Theatre

# theatre AT THE J



I am going to the JCC to see  
a Theatre at the J show.



A show is a way to tell a story.  
Actors will go on the stage to tell  
the story by pretending.



We will park our car and walk into the  
J. Once we are inside, there will be  
someone to check me in. We will tell  
them our names and they will find it  
on a list. There may be a lot of people  
coming to the play. We will get in line  
and wait our turn.

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After we check in, we will go through gates by the Welcome Desk. We may have to wait our turn again and the gates may make noise when they open. I can wait my turn even if I am excited.



We will walk to the auditorium. An usher may be outside handing out programs. The program will have information about the show and who is in it. I do not have to take one. If I do take one, I can read it at my seat.



We can choose any open seat in the auditorium. I will talk to the people I came with to choose a seat we all feel comfortable in.

If a seat says RESERVED it is for someone specific. If I want a reserved seat, I can call or email before I go to the show and a seat will be marked for me. If I need a special seat and don't have one reserved, I can find an usher or talk to someone at the check-in table. They will help make sure I have what I need to enjoy the show.



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Sometimes the theatre may be crowded. To get to my seat, I may walk in front of other people or other people may walk in front of me to get to their seats. People might accidentally bump me while they walk by me. If I am feeling overwhelmed, I can take a deep breath or step outside.



During the show, I will sit with the people I came with. There may be people I don't know sitting close to me too. They are also excited to see the show!



Once everyone has their seat, the show will begin. The director will come out and explain the show and how the audience should behave during the performance.

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At the beginning of the show, the auditorium lights will darken. Only the stage will have lights so we can see the actors. Everyone, including myself, will be quiet so that we can hear the show.

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Everyone that I see in costume on the stage is an actor playing pretend. They are telling a story together.

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The actors and the story may make me feel a lot of feelings. I may feel scared, happy, or excited. It is okay to laugh, cry, or even cheer.

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There may be things that make me nervous like loud noises or bright/flashing lights. If I get nervous during the show, I can cover my eyes, wear headphones/earplugs, or step outside.



If I see something that I like or think is funny, I can clap my hands or laugh. Others sitting by me might clap and laugh at things too. If the audience or show is too loud, I can cover my ears, wear headphones, use earplugs, or step outside.



Audience members stay in their seats during the show. If I need to move my body, I can step outside the theatre for a break. I will walk quickly and quietly out of the theatre so others can continue to watch the actors. If I need or want someone to come with me, I can ask quietly ask someone in my group.



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If sitting feels too hard for the entire show, I can stand quietly in the back and watch.

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I will know the show is over when people clap and the actors come out to bow. If someone really liked the show, they may stand up and clap which might make it hard for me to see. That's okay, the show is over. Clapping can be loud. If the clapping is too loud, I can cover my ears, wear earplugs, or use headphones.

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Once the actors are done bowing, the lights will turn on and people will walk out of the theatre.

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Everyone will be trying to walk out at one time, so it may get crowded. I will have to take turns with other people in the audience. Some people might bump into me or want to talk about the show.

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If my group and I liked the show, we can wait until the actors come out from backstage. They may not be in their costumes anymore. I can tell them "Good job!" and ask them to take a picture with me or sign my playbill. They might say no, and that's okay.

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Coming to the theatre is fun and I can come back again for another show soon.