

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

PROFESSIONAL THEATRE BEHAVIORS—Feel free to adapt as needed.

TERRI ZOPF-SCHOESSLER. KPBSD.

How to Behave Professionally During a Show:

- We open the building for actors, musicians, and crew members two hours prior to each show, so everybody can plan his/her mental and physical preparations accordingly.
- Call time is “body in the building” time. Please be at the theatre OR notify a director that you are on your way by 5 PM for evening performances and noon for matinee performances. (Orchestra members may establish a separate call time.)
- Some actors prefer to do their hair and makeup at home—and arrive ready to warm up. If you are one of these, please let us know!
- Everyone should be ready for physical and vocal warmups onstage 45 minutes before the show starts.
- The house opens a half hour before show time, so we have to be done with warmups in 15 minutes.
- Please use water bottles with caps or lids to avoid spillage.
- Do NOT eat in costume! Nothing says, “Oops!” like a big food spill down the front of your costume. If you must eat, please put a robe or other garment over your show clothes.
- Please leave your personal jewelry, watches, etc. at home for their safekeeping. For this show, I do not mind if actors keep wedding rings, but be aware that in professional shows actors must remove them—unless the character they play wears a ring—or cover them with flesh-colored tape.
- Props and costume checks must take place—find them and put them where they belong—BEFORE the house opens.
- DO NOT touch anyone else’s props unless that person has specifically directed you to do so.
- DO NOT touch other people’s things without that person’s permission.
- If you need to use hair spray or some other aerosol product, please do so in the scene shop. Many others are sensitive to perfumes and sprays, so help them by minimizing their contact with these products.
- Any additional warmups will take place in the green room.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices are NOT permitted backstage. You may have them on silent in the makeup/costume area—but there is the possibility that they could be misplaced or stolen.
- You must be quiet backstage. Walk softly and whisper only when absolutely necessary.
- DO NOT run backstage.
- Please stay out of the way of backstage managers, set flyers, etc. They need to see what is happening both onstage and backstage while listening to their headsets. Give them room!
- You must follow all directions given by backstage crew members. Do NOT argue with a backstage crew member! If there are problems, we will discuss them after the show during cast notes. Remember, if a crew member asks you to jump, the only acceptable answer is, “How high?”
- When a crew member gives you the countdown—“Places in five minutes,” for example—the professional response is: “Thank you. Five.”

Have a wonderful show!