

Theatre Guidelines, FAQ's & Tips



Alberta Theatre Projects

Student Matinees

Theatre Guidelines, FAQ's & Tips

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For information about all of the Youth Engagement Programs at ATP visit our website:

<http://atplive.com/students-educators/>

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ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS: BRAND STORY

What is art? What is theatre? Why is it important? To ask these questions would be like asking: *What is life? Why are we here? Does it matter what we do with it?* Theatre is a mirror of our lives, our struggles, our pain, our joys and our triumphs.

Theatre is this crazy person who has the courage, or the insanity (the jury is still out) to show up naked – sometimes literally, to stand in front of an audience and show their work and expose themselves, without the armour of editing or computer effects but with all the risks of mistakes and imperfections. They pour their art out and say..."What do you think?"

It's not that they are not scared, of course they are, terrified sometimes. But that's the price you have to pay to have the ability, the honour, the immense pleasure of touching us, perfect strangers, of moving us to tears, to laughter, to marvel. That's the price you have to be willing to pay to open hearts and minds.

In the end, that is why we do what we do.

We all live busy lives, with work, kids, family, chores, and bills. Things seem to move faster and faster around us. There is so much information, opinions, confusion. It's hard not to feel lost, scared, overwhelmed. How do we make sense of it all? How do we find ourselves and each other amongst all this noise? It's so easy to be distracted; from us, from what matters.

We're not here to tell you what to do, to lead you down the right path. Sorry to disappoint. We're in the same boat you are. We are here to tell you stories. Sometimes they are funny stories, sometimes sad or both. But they are all glimpses of us. It's like peeking at someone's bedroom, or reading their diary. These stories let us in; these very intimate, very personal and very honest slices of life. The funny thing is when we watch these stories, we can see ourselves but most of all, we can see others. We understand choices, we may not agree, but we can relate.

Theatre is where we see *us*, where we poke fun at ourselves and laugh at our shortcomings. It's where we marvel at the human spirit, where we start to see things from different perspectives. It's where we forget where we are for a couple of hours and get transported into stories that touch us, move us or simply delight us.

These are the stories worth telling. These stories break barriers; of time, backgrounds, opinions... they help us make sense of what it means to be alive right now. Hopefully they help us find beauty and peace amongst all the noise and confusion. Hopefully they'll help us find ourselves, and each other.

**This is what we do.
This is why we do it.
This is who we are.**



ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS YOUTH ENGAGEMENT MISSION

Our Youth Engagement programs aim to deepen the theatre experience for young audiences and emerging artists through our plays, varied practical learning opportunities and professional mentorship. These programs foster community engage the inquisitive mind and bring young audiences and artists together in an exchange around the work.

We believe that early exposure to theatre is essential to the learning and development and positively impacts the creativity and overall performance of the young people in our community. It is this belief that fuels our dedication to making ATP and the contemporary live theatre we create accessible to ALL- no matter their economic status, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religious belief, gender, disability or orientation. The plays on our stage include a wide range of stories and perspectives, reflecting our community in all its diversity and are in sync with what it means to be alive right now.

Driven by an attitude of curiosity in all that we do, we encourage a sense of discovery in the young people who engage with us. We delight in seeing young minds and hearts opened through the life-changing experience of theatre.

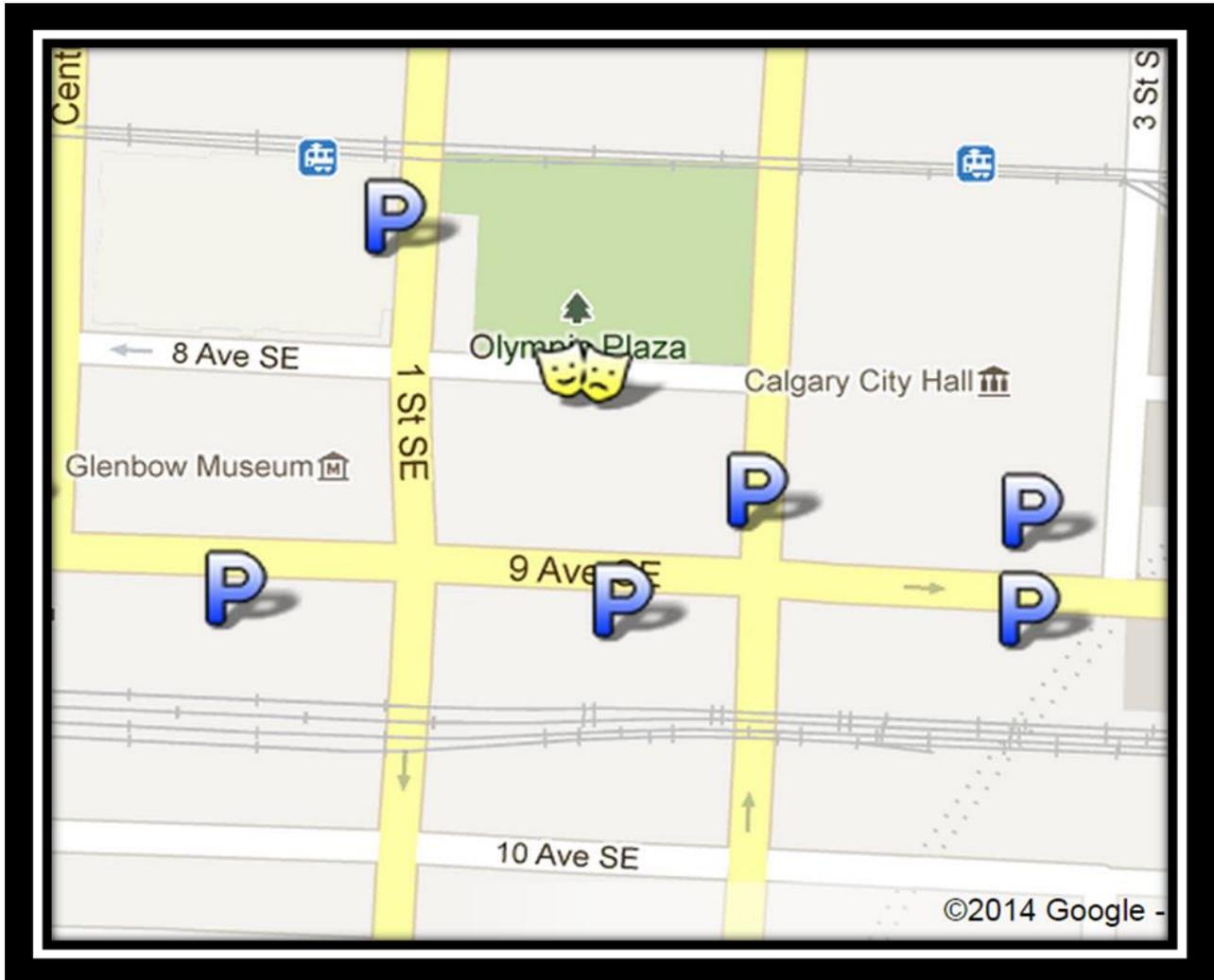
YOUth belong here at ATP!

**[YOUTH
ENGAGEMENT]**



FINDING THE THEATRE

Entrance to the **Martha Cohen Theatre Lobby** is on the south side of 8th Avenue between 1 St SE and Macleod Trail North. This is where buses will park for drop off and pick up.





WHAT TO EXPECT

5 weeks before the show:

- Final payments for the performance will become due. You will receive an email reminding you of any outstanding balance.
- This email will also include:
 - Official running time and educator materials if these have not been made available yet.
 - Bus Permits for use of 8th Ave for loading and unloading to the theatre
- Please inform ATP of any students with accessibility needs so we can make sure to have accessible seating arranged.

The day of the performance:

- The lobby will open at 10:30am. You are welcome to arrive early to eat your lunch in the lobby prior to the show.
- You will meet Talore when you enter the lobby. She will provide you with a package of materials for the show, as well as your lobby meeting area and seating assignments.
- The ATP team will direct you to where your meeting point is in the lobby.
- Once it is time to enter the theatre, ATP staff will come inform you and then lead your school into the theatre to your assigned seating.
- Seating is arranged to ensure that schools are groups together to the best of our ability. For larger groups it may be necessary for schools to be split into separate levels of the theatre.
- When you arrive please have ready the exact number of students and chaperones you have with you on the day.
- The show will start promptly at 11:30am. If you are planning to eat lunch in the lobby before the show please plan for ample time to finish your lunches before we begin seating at 11:10am
- Following the performance students will remain seated, and we will invite the performers back onto the stage for a 15min Q&A.
- After the talkback you will be dismissed to your busses. An ATP staff member will be at the lobby doors to inform you where to find your busses.

The day after the performance:

- We will send a survey to request feedback about your experience at ATP. The results of this short survey are essential to ensuring the continued growth and success of our



Student Programming. The results also help is in securing funding for the programs, helping to keep student tickets affordable.

- To enhance the experience of your students you may also wish to add on one of our **free student programs**:

Conversations with artists:

Capture your students' imaginations through an in-classroom conversation with an ATP Season Artist about the artistry and skills that go into making live theatre.*

**Visits are based on the availability of artists involved in our productions and are subject to change due to illness or show requirements.*



Backstage Tours:

Discover backstage secrets with an educational and interactive, behind-the-scenes tour of the Martha Cohen Theatre. Learn how math, science, language, technology and art are brought together to create new works of theatre in our scenic carpentry shop, costume shop, fly gallery, lighting grid and on stage.*

**Tours are open to all ages and abilities.*



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) What time does the performance start? How long is the show?

All performances begin at **11:30am**. All performances include a 15min Q&A with artists on stage, directly after the curtain call.

All performances will be a maximum length of 2hours. Individual performance times vary. Please review the individual performance running times on our website to plan your bus pick-ups accordingly. For world premier performances it can be difficult for us to predict the exact running time months ahead of the production. We will keep you updated of any changes to running times in advance of your performance.

2) What time should we arrive?

Please arrive to the theatre no later than **11:00am**. We will begin seating schools for the performance at 11:15am.

3) When and where are the students going to eat their lunch?

We open the Martha Cohen Theatre Lobby at 10:30am for students to eat their lunches. Please allow at least 30 minutes prior to the matinee start time so students are able to comfortably eat, and take their seats on time. **NO FOOD OR DRINK IS ALLOWED INSIDE THE THEATRE.**

If you choose to come early you can also take advantage of the Olympic Plaza Park outside of the theatre prior to the show during the warmer months.

4) Where should I tell the bus company to drop us off?

Busses can drop off at the Martha Cohen Theatre entrance, 215, 8th Ave SE(Stephen Avenue). Stephen Avenue will be accessible from 10:00am. Please direct bus drivers to take MacLeod Trail South and turn left onto Stephen Avenue. Please note, due to the high volume of busses using the street we request that all vehicles stop only for drop off and pick up.

ATP will provide you with a city of Calgary street use permit so your busses are able to unload and load on Stephen Avenue. Please ensure that your bus driver is given a copy of this permit on the day.

5) Where will students leave their coats and backpacks during the performance?

When you arrive your school will be assigned a section of the lobby to gather. Students are able to leave their coats/backpacks in the lobby in your gathering spot. Alternately they are welcome to bring them into the theatre. However, coats should be on the back of the seats and backpacks can be under the seats. At no time should the student take food out of their backpack and eat during the performance.



6) Are the students able to leave the theatre?

We encourage students to stay in the theatre for the entirety of the performance. However, if it is necessary for a student to leave, please ask our ushers for assistance in order to exit safely. Students will have to wait to re-enter until an appropriate break in the play when an usher will safely escort them in.

If you have a student who's individual needs require them have the flexibility to leave the theatre please inform Talore Peterson. She will ensure that the appropriate seating is set aside for your school.

Share your experience with us!

We would love to receive your feedback about the performance. Please send your letters, pictures, cards, artwork etc. to:

Talore Peterson
Artistic Associate Youth Engagement
Alberta Theatre Projects,
220 9 Ave SE, Calgary AB, T2G 5C4



THEATRE ETIQUETTE

Before attending the theatre, please take some time to go over proper theatre etiquette with your students. For some students this may be their first theatre experience so being informed of what's expected is important to ensure the best experience for all of the audience members, as well as the artists on stage.

RESPECT the actors and your fellow audience members

- When the lights go dim, it is time to be quiet and engage with the action on the stage
- Be sure to turn off cell phones
- Refrain from texting, talking or eating during the performance
- Photography and video recordings are strictly prohibited.

RESPOND to what you see

- The actors feed off your presence and respond with their work on stage. Feel free and comfortable to respond to the performance through laughter, tears, smiles, giggles or captivated silence.
- Please do not respond by talking to your neighbour. Wait until after the performance to discuss your thoughts.

Note: Some of our productions contain mature themes and language. Please consult any audience advisories and prepare your students for what to expect to see or hear at the performance. This helps to mitigate the students from being shocked or distracted by any more mature content.

