

Don't steal the spotlight: A guide to theater etiquette



watching a play or musical. Etiquette is becoming a lost art and, as a result, making it increasingly annoying to attend shows.

No matter if you're at a high school auditorium or a Broadway Theatre, etiquette is a necessity.

There are a lot of things that should be common sense when it comes to being courteous to the other theater-goers. The two most on-the-nose ones are: Don't talk during the show and stay off your phone during the show.

Look, even I whisper over to whoever I'm with periodically during a show, but I make sure it's quiet enough so I'm not bothering anyone around me. I should not be hearing full-blown conversations during a scene change or worse, during a music number.

Talking or being distracting at any point during a theater performance, even if it is a scene change or blackout, can ruin the experience for those around you. When you attend a performance, it's



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Audience members at a performance of "Girl From the North Country" at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre in New York City.

the actor's job to immerse you in the show's world.

However, when Kathy decides to get up in the middle of a scene, or do anything else mildly distracting, it's human nature for our eyes to be drawn to that instead of the people on the stage, taking you out of the scene and the world you paid for.

If you have to get up or if you, for some reason, get to the show late, at least wait until there's a blackout or a scene change so you're not disrupting

the action. While people moving around at any point of a show is annoying, it's better to do it during a part of the show when nothing is happening on the stage so those around you don't miss anything.

While not being loud and disruptive is important, being on time is equally important. If your seats are in the middle of a row, getting to the show during the overture or as the lights go down is extremely inconsiderate to those you have

to crawl over. If you sit in the back of the theater, it's not awful, but if you're walking in front of people, squeezing past those who got there on time, you're obstructing the view for everyone behind you.

If you bring flowers, put them down before the show and don't touch them until you're ready to leave. Those plastic bags that hold the flowers are loud and irritating.

The same goes for any candy or food you bring. Don't open a bag during the show. Open any packages beforehand and, please, don't rustle the plastic.

If you want to cheer or clap, do it after a song ends or during a scene change. Do not cheer or clap in the middle of a scene where dialogue happens right after. If you do, you'll miss what the actors say next, which could be crucial to the plot or even funnier than what you just hollered at.

There's an obvious pattern to all of these: Don't be distracting during the performance. Everyone there wants to have a

good time seeing the show, and if you're moving around, talking, or being disruptive in any sort of way, you're ruining someone else's experience. You wouldn't want someone doing that to you, would you?

ALLIE CARSON

NEWS EDITOR

Growing up going to the theater, nothing grinds my gears more than sitting near someone who doesn't know how to act while

Spring cleaning for your dorm



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

AMELIA YOUNG

LIFE EDITOR

Finals season is quickly approaching and that means cleaning your dorm might be falling to the back burner. Here are some quick and easy ways you can tidy up your dorm room that don't make you feel too overwhelmed and don't take too terribly long.

1. Get rid of old and expired snacks/food. Make sure you go through whatever you keep your food in and check the dates on everything. Leftovers, depending on what it is, usually are only good for three to four days, so make sure you get rid of anything older than that.

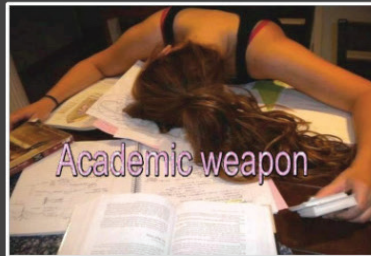
2. Change your sheets and make your bed. This one might seem a little obvious but if you're like me, you don't make your bed everyday even though you probably should. If you have a set of clean sheets ready, changing the sheets shouldn't take more than 15 minutes. In a

dorm room, having clean sheets and a made bed can make the space look so much cleaner.

3. Clean off your desk. It's so easy to just dump stuff on your desk and keep letting it pile up. Cleaning off your desk not only helps your room look clean but it also gives you more space to do work in your room.

4. Sweep or vacuum. Another obvious one, but something that often falls to the wayside when you get busy. It's a small task but it really does make all the difference in a small room where dust and hair seem to never disappear.

5. Donate what you don't want or no longer use. Spring finals season also means moving out for summer is right around the corner. Having less clutter and things you no longer use or want not only opens up space in your room but also makes it less you have to pack up when you move back home.



Finals Study Playlist Curated by Herald Editors

Need help studying for upcoming finals? Lock in and give our playlist, curated by The Herald editors, a listen.

Herald Editors • 3 likes • 13 songs, 56 min

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|----|--|------------------------|----------------|-------|
| 1 | Interrogation
Trevor Rabin | National Treasure | 53 minutes ago | 4:30 |
| 2 | Ballet
Oklahoma! 1998 National The... | Oklahoma! (1998 R... | 53 minutes ago | 10:56 |
| 3 | Visions of Gideon
Sufjan Stevens | Call Me by Your Na... | 37 minutes ago | 4:08 |
| 4 | 1969
Boards of Canada | Geogaddi | 52 minutes ago | 4:20 |
| 5 | Man in the Box
Alice In Chains | Facelift | 52 minutes ago | 4:45 |
| 6 | Where are we
Nerd Connection | TOO FAST | 40 minutes ago | 5:08 |
| 7 | Celebration Dance
Ramin Djawadi | House of the Drag... | 39 minutes ago | 2:14 |
| 8 | Now Or Never
High School Musical Cast, Dis... | High School Music... | 39 minutes ago | 4:31 |
| 9 | BARNEY THEME SONG (F...
Keiron Raven, Trap Music No... | BARNEY THEME S... | 39 minutes ago | 2:13 |
| 10 | Pulsewidth
Aphex Twin | Selected Ambient... | 39 minutes ago | 3:48 |
| 11 | In Bloom
Nirvana | Nevermind (Rema... | 38 minutes ago | 4:15 |
| 12 | Peter Pan Was Right
Anson Seabra | Peter Pan Was Right | 38 minutes ago | 3:12 |
| 13 | Flaming Red Hair
Howard Shore | The Lord of the Rin... | 37 minutes ago | 2:39 |