

# AUDIENCE MATTERS

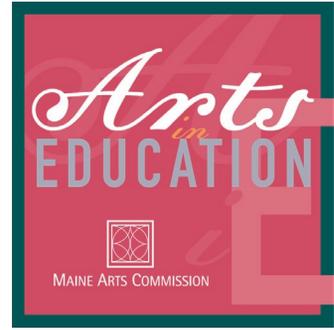


by Leslie Hunt & Charlotte Agell



# About this publication

Preliminary research for this booklet was conducted by the Arts in Education staff and interns at the Maine Arts Commission. Thanks to the following for sharing their experience and ideas on audience behavior: Portland Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Actors Theater of Maine, arts education professionals across the United States, and Maine artists.



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Written by Leslie Hunt.  
Pictures by Charlotte Agell.

*Based on ideas from:*  
Lewis Alessio, Odelle Bowman, Sam Kilbourn,  
Donna McNeal, Robin Mello and Dean Stein.

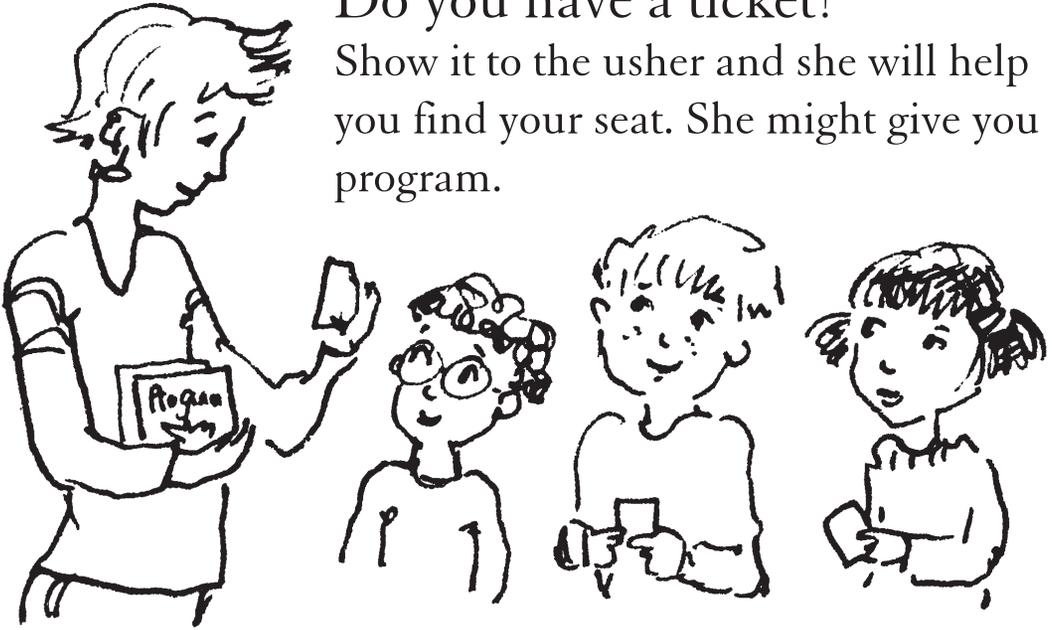
*Thank you.*

Welcome to the show!



Do you have a ticket?

Show it to the usher and she will help you find your seat. She might give you a program.



Sometimes, there are no tickets and you can sit anywhere.

(Almost.)

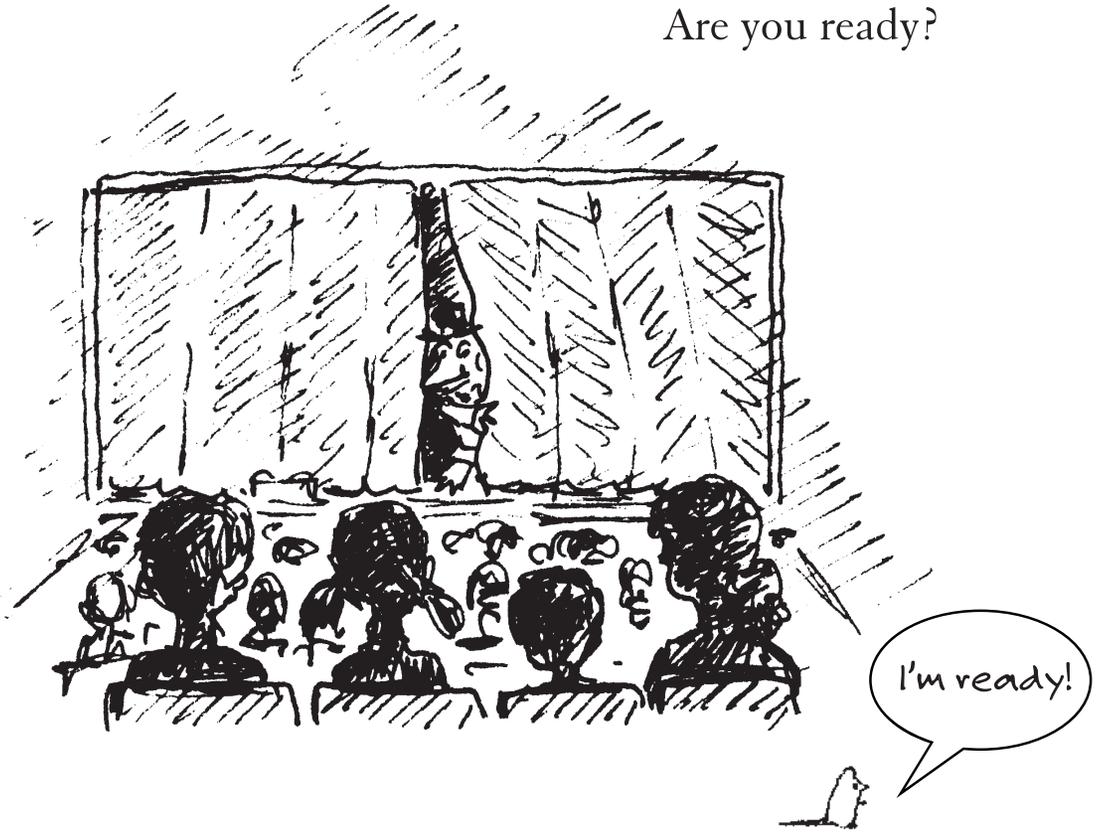


But don't sit on the stage!

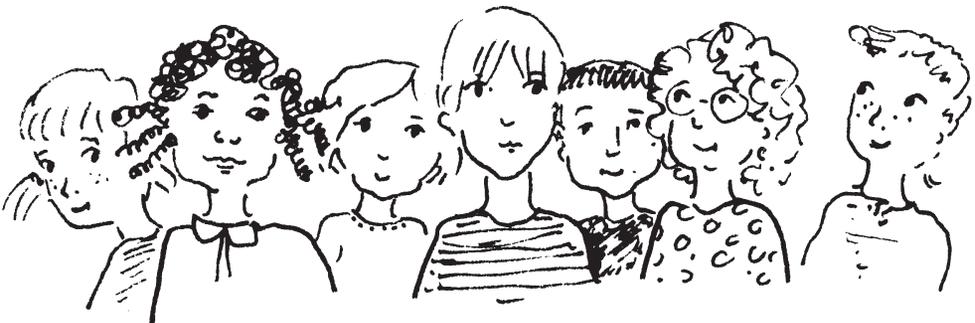


When the room gets darker, the show is about to begin.

Are you ready?



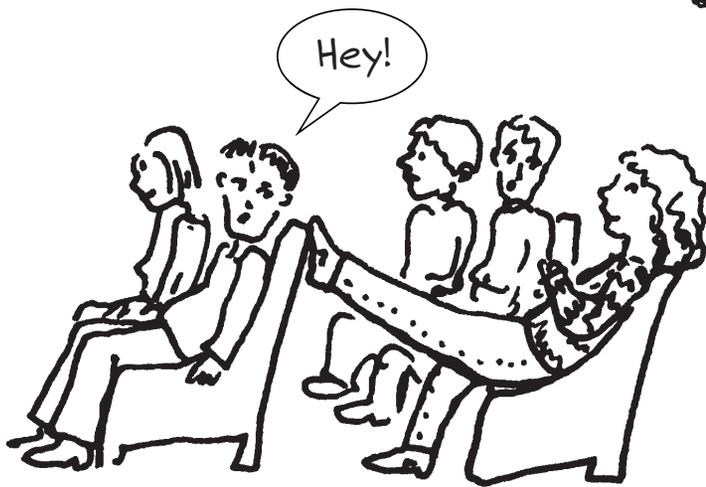
Sometimes, the audience will be **BIG** and the space you have to yourself is . . .



. . . very small.

Then, it is a good idea not to move or talk much at all.

Try to keep your **Wiggles** to yourself.



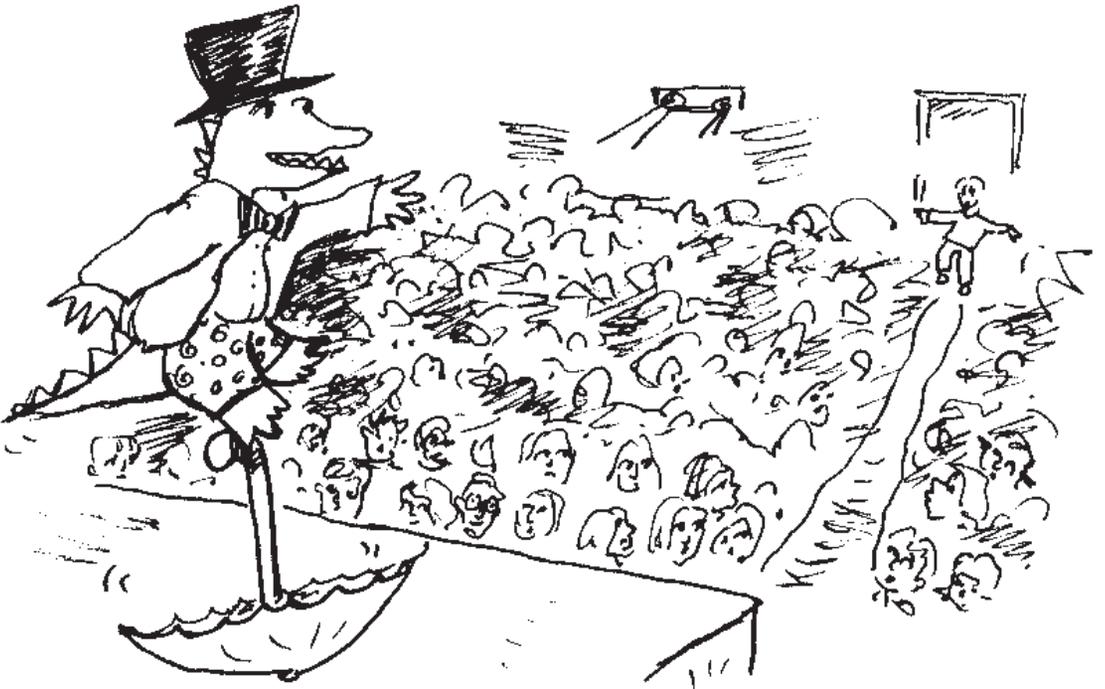
Don't put your feet or knees on the seat in front of you.

It's okay if you're sitting on the edge of your seat – just don't bounce it!





If you have to leave your seat, pass quietly.



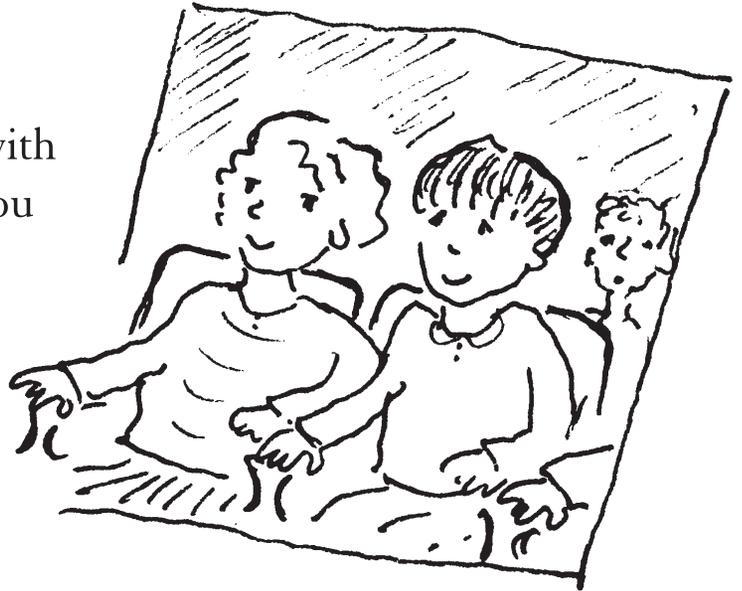
Remember to close doors and move seats quietly too.





Take off your hat so  
the person behind you  
can see you!

Share the armrest with  
the person beside you  
(please).



If you need to talk,  
you can *whisper*.  
Shhh... quietly please.





What does an audience do?  
An audience is there to have fun.



And to listen.



You can talk back to the  
TV, but not to the people  
on a stage!

UNLESS, they ask you a  
question. If you can hear  
the performers they can  
hear you!

Raise your hand. Don't  
yell (you're not at a soccer  
game, you know!)



Does the music make you feel like dancing?

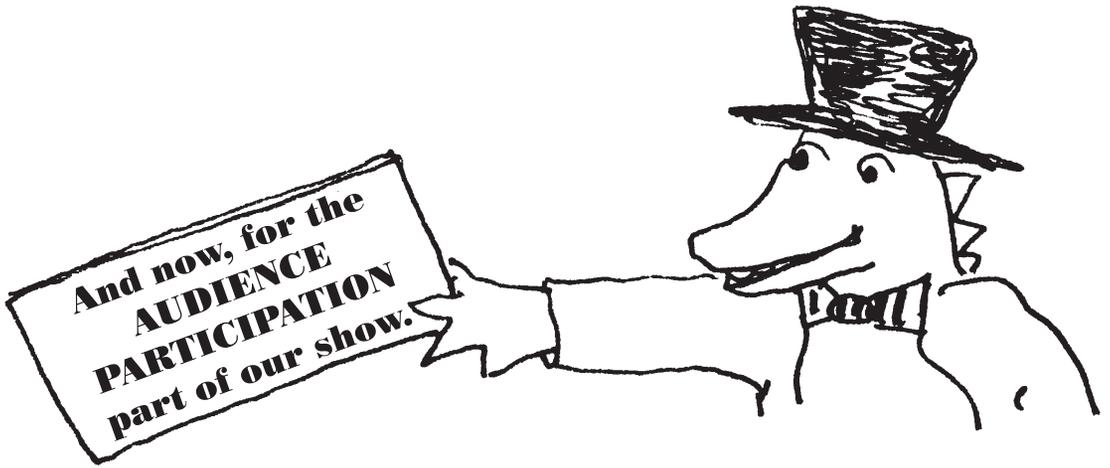


The musician might invite you to!



Even if she doesn't,  
maybe you can still  
move around a little.





AND

If you are asked to CLAP or SHOUT or SING ALONG...  
don't just sit there...

CLAP!



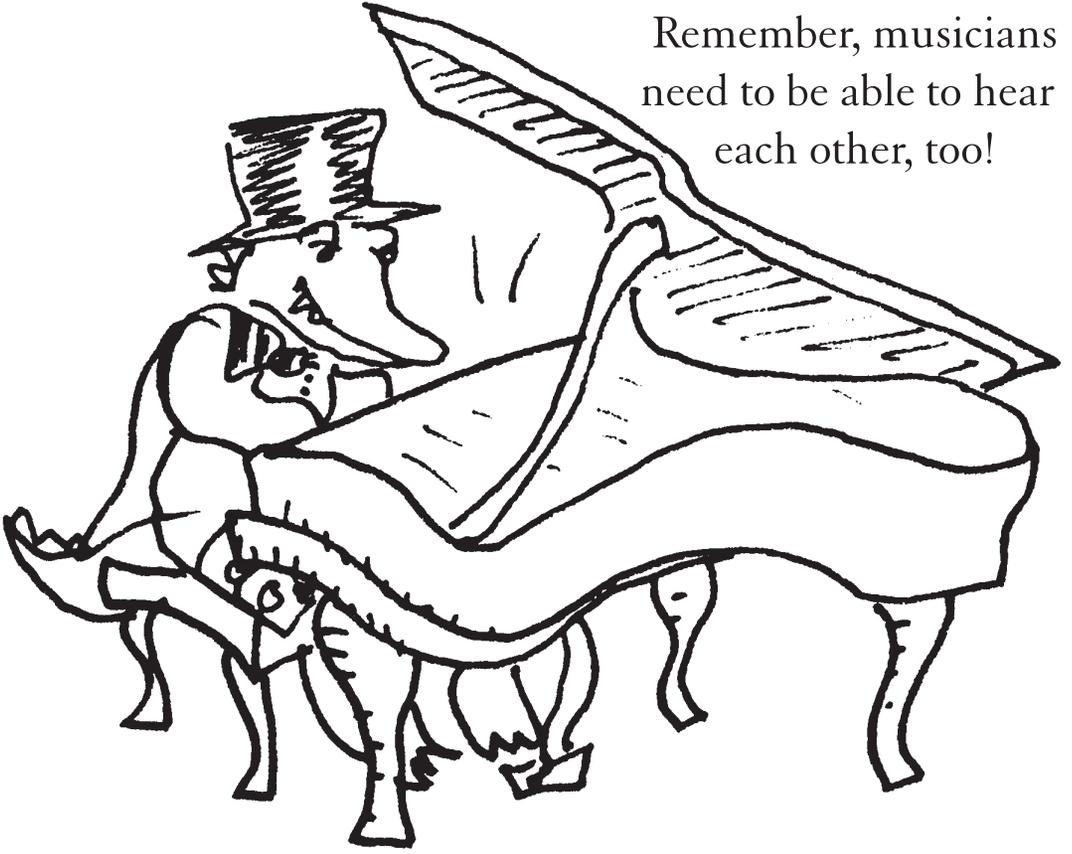
SHOUT!



SING!



Remember, musicians  
need to be able to hear  
each other, too!



Clap only at the end  
of a song, even if its  
music without words.

The person on the  
stage will let you know  
when you can stop.



Such  
talent!



shhh!



Sometimes, the performers will need your help.  
They might even ask you to come up to the stage.



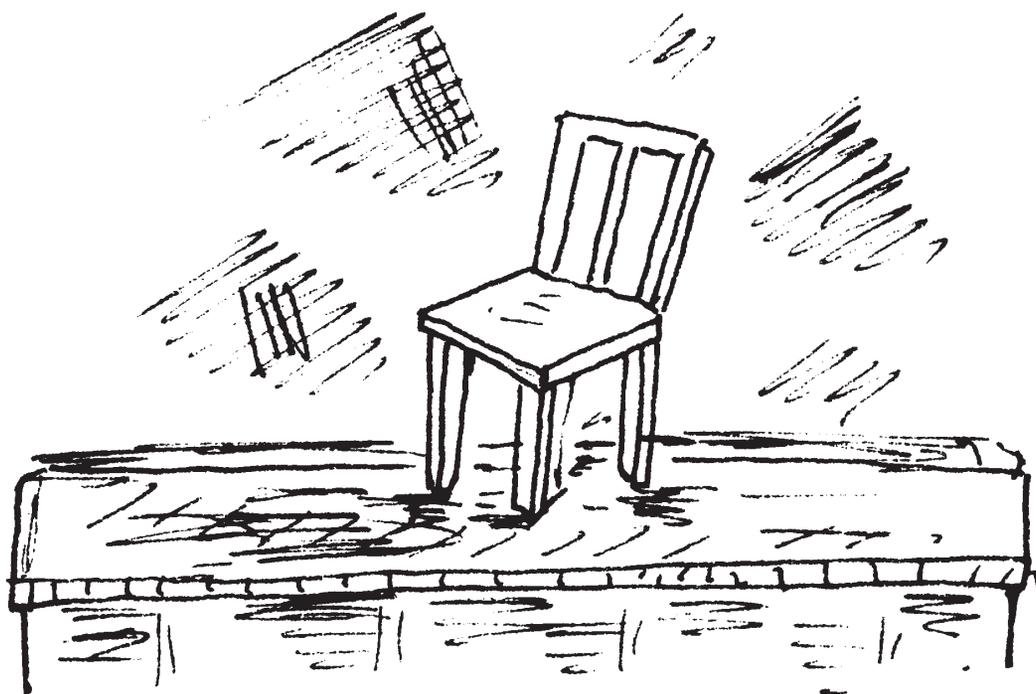
**HOLD ON!**

Only go up on stage  
if you are invited.



Julie,  
please —  
WALK!

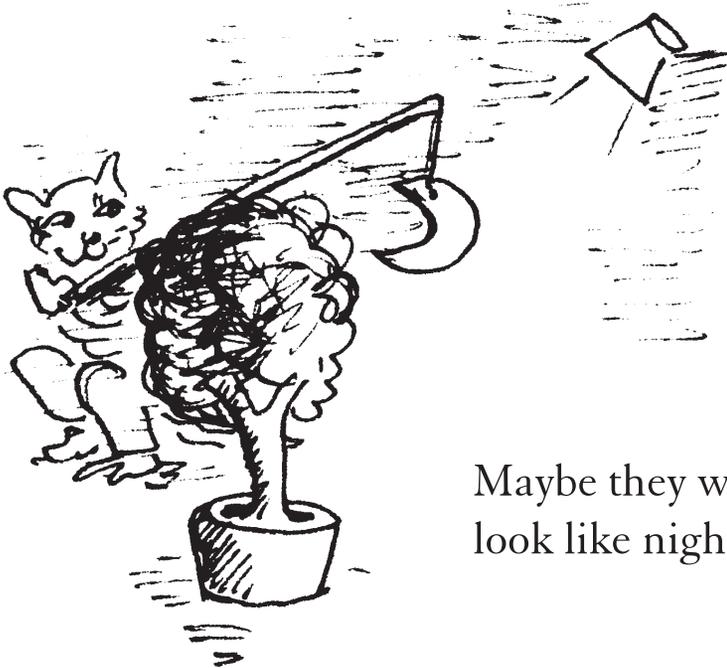
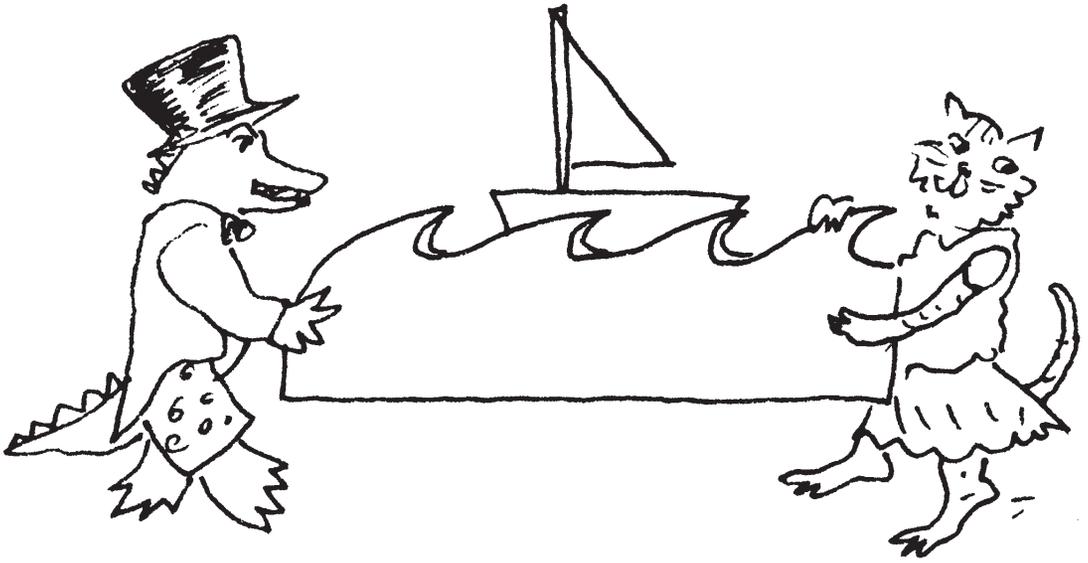
What if the stage suddenly gets **DARK?** or *quiet?*



This is a part of the show . . .  
watch and wait to see what happens next.



They might be changing a scene.



Maybe they want it to look like night.

I like that part with the cat.



If you like that sort of thing.





Now you can move  
— stretch, talk . . .



Get refreshments . . .



Find the bathroom.



BUT running,  
pushing and talking  
loudly is NEVER  
allowed!

Whoops! They're  
forgetting where  
they are!



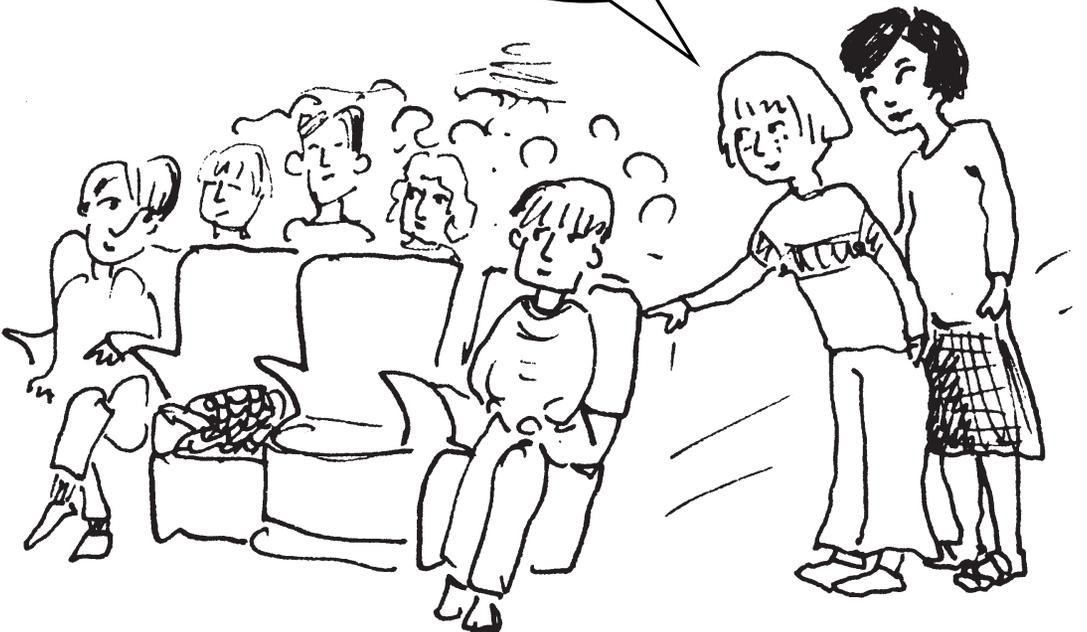
At the end of intermission,  
the lights blink.

This is a special signal.

Quick! Finish that cookie  
and find your seat!



I think I was in  
#32... see, there's  
my sweater.

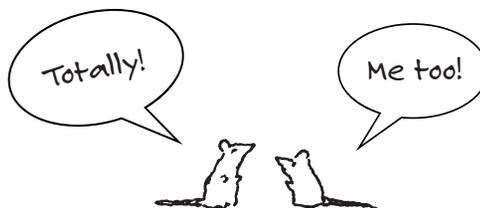




When the show is all over, the lights go back on.  
Everyone is clapping. Sometimes they stand up to clap.

This is a signal to the performers.  
It means that the audience REALLY liked coming.

Did you?







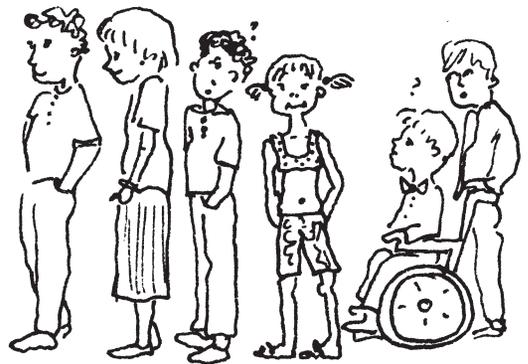
Arrive early and find a seat before the event begins.

No food or drinks are allowed in theatres and concert halls. Not even in the cafeteria when a show is going on!



Cameras are not allowed either, most of the time. You can ask to take a picture of one of the performers after the show is over.

If the music or play will be performed in a formal concert hall or stage, formal dress is best! "Formal" means "fancy." Maybe you shouldn't wear those old sneakers. And no bathing suits at the ballet.



When you leave the event, use the same manners you did when you were sitting down. Watch out for other people, keep your voice down, and don't go running out the door.