

CHOOSING

Look on the **website** or in the **brochure** of your local theatre, and pick something which appeals to you. There are **no age laws** for theatre like you get at the cinema so you can legally see anything, but sometimes there may be a **recommended** age to give you an idea of who the play is most suitable for.

BOOKING

It is often possible to buy tickets just before the show at the theatre, but to make absolutely sure you have a **seat** it is best to book in advance. Some theatres let you choose your seats, some are more expensive than others- the website or the people at the box office can tell you which is which. The **stalls** are the seats nearest to the stage, the **circle** is upstairs and further away, there may also be an **upper circle** which is even further away and higher up.

Prices vary a lot at the theatre depending on the venue and the show. You may find tickets for **as little as £5** or for over £100, brochures and websites should list prices clearly. Remember that price doesn't necessarily reflect how enjoyable the show may be.

Concessions are cheaper tickets. Most theatres have discounts for **children, students** and **pensioners**. Sometime groups and families can also get concessions.

On the phone you can call the box office who will ask you some questions about the time, date and name of the play you want to see as well as your name and some contact details in case the performance is cancelled. You will need to give a credit/debit card number and choose if you want your tickets posted to you or if you want to pick them up from the theatre on the night of the show.

On the internet you will need to fill in some questions about the time, date and name of the play you want to see as well as your name and some contact details in case the performance is cancelled. You will need to give a credit/debit card number and choose if you want your tickets posted to you or if you want to pick them up from the theatre on the night of the show.

In person you can go into the theatre box office throughout the day, (check their opening times online) and ask for a ticket. The box office assistant will ask you some questions about the time, date and name of the play you want to see as well as your name and some contact details in case the performance is cancelled. You will be able to **pay with cash**, or credit or debit card. Buying tickets in person can often save you paying extra booking fees and card charges.

AT THE THEATRE

The show will **start** at the advertised time, you should get to the theatre early if you need to pick up tickets or would like to buy any snacks or programmes. Not every show has a **programme** and they are **not necessary** for enjoying the performance. They contain extra information about the cast, company and story which you might find interesting.

At the door into the **theatre auditorium** an **usher** will take your ticket and tell you where to find your seat. Ushers will also be able to answer any questions you have and direct you to the **toilets**.

An **interval** is a break in the performance to stretch your legs or get refreshments, it usually lasts around 10-15 minutes, an announcement or a bell sound will let you know when you have to return to your seat. Not all shows have an interval. The **running time** is the length of the show, which can range from less than an hour to over three hours.

Just like at the cinema it is **not usual to talk** while the show is on; leaving your phone on, shouting out or walking in and out of the auditorium will probably annoy other audience members. If the show involves any **audience participation**, it is the performers' job to make it clear what they would like from you. At the end of the show it is usual to **clap** to show how much you enjoyed it, if you didn't enjoy it, whether you clap or not is up to you!