

# MY VISIT to the THEATRE!

A Social Story



I'm going to see a performance at the Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre!



This is a very exciting adventure! Going to the theatre to see a PLAY or MUSICAL is a little like seeing something on TV and maybe even a little more like going to a movie. The difference is that the ACTORS will be right there on the stage! An ACTOR is a person that uses their body and their voice to help tell a story on a stage!







For one of our productions, THE CAT IN THE HAT is a book that has been turned into a play. A play uses ACTORS to tell the story with their bodies and their voices and with their PROPS. The ACTOR who plays The Fish uses a puppet!





We will go to the theatre in a car or maybe in a bus! My family or teachers will know how we will get there.

If we go in a car, we might park in a big garage with lots of other cars.

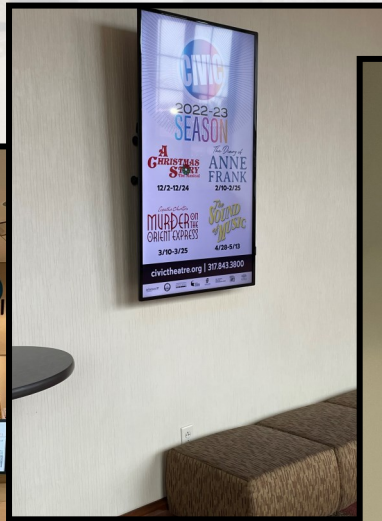


If we go in a bus, we might be dropped off at the LOBBY in front of the building.





At the Tarkington, I might see big signs or TV screens!



We might have to wait in line to get our tickets or to go into the theatre. I will see lots of people of all ages. Everyone is there to have fun and to see the play! I will stand patiently and quietly while we wait. If it is too loud, I can cover my ears, put on headphones or ask an adult for help.





When it's time to go into the theatre, a nice person called an USHER will help us find our seats.



To go into the theatre, we might go down a long ramp or up some steps or use the elevator.





I may want a drink from the water fountain or need to stop by the bathroom before we go in. I can ask an adult to help me find them.



If we want, we can sit and rest before we go into the theatre. Other families will do this, too.





Then we will go into the theatre. It is a BIG room with lots of seats!



An USHER will help us find our very own special seats. Since we have our own special seats, we don't get to choose where to sit. We already know!





There is also a big stage in the theatre where the ACTORS will perform the play or musical we are there to see!





When I get to my own special seat, I will sit down nicely and wait for the play to begin!



When it is time for the play to start, an announcement will ask everyone to turn off their phones and to not take pictures. Everyone will get quiet and the lights may get dimmer. I will try to be as quiet as I can during the play so I can hear everything!





When the play begins, I may hear loud music from the orchestra or sound effects like thunder or dogs barking. If these sounds are too loud or a little scary, I can cover my ears, put on my headphones or ask an adult for help.



I will also SEE ACTORS come onto the stage and begin to act out a story. If something happens that is scary or intense, I can remember that it's just pretend. The ACTORS are pretending so they can tell the story!





ACTORS wear costumes and make-up—just like people do on Halloween.



Sometimes, characters in the story can seem mean or scary. But I can remember that the ACTOR is playing a part and it's all pretend. If I feel afraid or nervous, I can cover my ears or my eyes or ask an adult for help.





It is important that I stay in my seat during the play. If I feel afraid or nervous, I can cover my ears or my eyes or ask an adult for help.



The play may be fast-paced and exciting! There will be lots of movement and the ACTORS will be speaking and sometimes even shouting as they tell the story with their bodies and voices. If the sounds are too loud or there's too much running around, I can cover my ears, put on my headphones or ask an adult for help. I know that even though the sights and sounds of the play may feel scary to me, none of it can hurt me.





If it's still too loud and scary, I can let my family know that I need a break and we can go to a quiet area.



I can come back to my seat to see the play when I'm ready but I will be quiet and not bother others seated near me.



During the play, some people may clap. Clapping is nice because it tells the ACTORS that you like their performance and the story. If I want to clap, I can. I don't have to clap if I don't want to.



If the clapping is too loud, I can cover my ears, put on my headphones or ask an adult for help.



I know that even though the clapping can be loud and can feel scary, none of the noise can hurt me.



At the end of the play, all of the actors will come out on stage. This is called the CURTAIN CALL. Many people will clap a lot so the ACTORS know how much they liked the show.



If I want to clap, I can. I don't have to clap if I don't want to. If the clapping is too loud, I can cover my ears, put on my headphones or ask an adult for help.





When the play is over, we might meet some of the ACTORS in the LOBBY. The LOBBY might be very crowded with lots of people who also watched the play. If it is too loud, I can cover my ears, put on headphones or ask an adult for help.



When it's time to leave, we will go back to the car or get on the bus and go home or back to school.





**I am very excited to see a performance at  
Civic Theatre!**

