

A Few FAQs on Attending Theatre Events at OBU

How do I get Tickets?

Ouachita students receive one free ticket to theatre OBU productions using their student ID. The tickets can be reserved online at www.obu.edu/boxoffice or picked up at the Jones Performing Arts Center box office in the afternoon weekday 1-5pm or starting an hour before production time. Please note that showing up right at curtain (starting time) will create a backup at the box office, making you late for the performance. Please show up at least 15 minutes before show time if you if you haven't already reserved tickets

How is attending a Play different from attending other public events?

When you attend a play you are going to a unique, live experience. Unlike a film, each performance is slightly different depending on audience and performers. Your laughter, gasp, or silence becomes part of the event and is received by the performers who sense and adjust their performance. Unlike film or video you are a part of how the event comes out. And not getting in the way of the presentation is an important responsibility of the audience.

Sporting events are other live events that you can attend that have some similarities to a play but are still different. Athletics are contests rather than expressive events and while they can be affected by the audience, for the most part communication with the audience is not crucial. In fact all sorts of rowdy and loud behavior does nothing to affect the event.

So, coming to see a play is most like going to watch storytellers who are doing their best to live out a story for you. Anything that distracts from the story being told is keeping you and others from getting to experience the story. A good theatre audience member helps keep the focus on the stage by interacting with and responding to the story.

What are the OBU Theatre Spaces?

Ouachita has two main theatre space: Verser Stage and the Jones Performing Arts Center. Verser is an intimate 200 seat space where you will experiences plays that are more personal and intimate. In JPAC's ~1500 seat space you will be seeing and hearing Musicals and Operas that are big and presentational with more energy and visual excitement. In Verser a front curtain is rarely used and coming early can allow you to sit with the set in view with preshow music playing and get yourself ready for the story. In JPAC the curtain is usually down but a live overture is usually playing setting the tone for the play hidden behind the curtain to be soon revealed.

When should I arrive?

We suggest you arrive 15 minutes before any event is scheduled to begin. This will give you plenty of time to get your tickets, find your seat, relax, and read the program. Events generally begin as close to the scheduled time as possible.

What happens if I am late or need to leave mid-performance?

Out of respect for the artists and audience members, latecomers will be seated at the discretion of house management if there is a suitable break in the performance. In consideration of the performers and fellow attendees, we ask that you remain in your seat until the event has ended. If you must exit mid-performance, readmission is at the discretion of house management.

How do Intermissions work?

An intermission usually lasts 10 to 15 minutes, and the lights in the lobby will be flashed on and off as a signal that the intermission is ending. You should return to your place when signaled to do so, because the theater may not seat you if you return late, after the performance has resumed.

What should I wear? Is there a dress code?

There is not a dress code. You should dress comfortably. Hats and elaborate up-dos are discouraged because you might be blocking someone's view of the stage.

Can I eat or drink in the performance spaces?

Although you may have had a hectic day and no time for a meal, eating in and drinking in the theatre is a bad idea for several reasons. The sounds and smells are distracting to others trying to focus on a live story in front of them (I once had someone eat a bag of CornNuts next to me in a performance!) The food and drink also make a mess that is trouble for everyone (you know what movie theatre floors are like.)

Can I bring/use my camera, cellphone and other personal electronic devices at an event?

We request that you turn off all cellphones, pagers, beeping watches and other electronic devices before an event begins. Due to copyright law and potential distraction of audience members and performers, camera and video usage is not allowed during performances.