

GUIDEBOOK PRIMARY SCHOOLS



Dear teaching staff,

This guidebook has been especially designed for your theatrical experience to become a truly memorable event. It will allow you to fully understand your role as a show attendant and your crucial importance for young-audience performances.

Properly supervising and preparing your pupils for the show is essential to ensure they can make the best out of the play. The circumstances surrounding the performance affect the overall experience. That is why some guidelines are to be followed. Children need to be highly focused, which may be hard given their young age and considering that French is not always their mother tongue.

Your role is truly critical: while offering your students the opportunity to attend a theatre performance, you allow arts and education to meet in your school, which really matters for us.

PRIOR TO THE PERFORMANCE

→ To prepare your students and enable their understanding of the play, we suggest some activities that may be worth doing prior to the performance. You are invited to adapt them to your students' specific needs and French language skills.

THEATRE ≠ MOVIES

Young children may sometimes mistake theatre for the movies. Please remind them of the difference between these two types of art: at the theatre, actors are actually on-stage and do not address the spectator directly. The theatre audience remains seated and listens to the story quietly.

STORYLINE AND PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

Reading the storyline (available in our season brochure, on our website, or in the study guide) in the classroom helps your students discover the world of the performance. Some activities for the classroom are offered in the study guide. They introduce the characters and help prepare your students for the vocabulary used and the topics addressed in the show.

INCLASS DISCUSSION

An open discussion about the topics addressed in the play is often an interesting approach to arouse your students' curiosity. Ask them to think about the main themes and describe how they picture the characters and the setting.

PERFORMANCE RELATED EVENTS

For this season's plays, depending on the news and when applicable, some program-related suggestions for supplemental activities (movies, exhibits, readings) will be made available on our website. Feel free to have a look at them and use them as inspiration to organize an activity of your own.

THE DAY BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

Please remind your students they will attend a French-speaking performance by Théâtre la Seizième at school on the next day. If need be, you could remind them of the story and its main topics.

ON PERFORMANCE DAY

Today is the big day! Our team is coming to your school to perform a play. This is a very special day for your students; therefore, it is important they are supervised and accompanied during the whole performance.



You are strongly encouraged to intervene if necessary. A student who is talking or behaving improperly will further disrupt the performance than an adult restoring calm.

→ Here are a few guidelines to share with your students before the performance.



BAHTROOM USE

Plan to go to the bathroom with your students before the show. During the performance, traffic in and out of the room may disturb others, including the performing team.



LISTENING TO FRENCH IN SILENCE

Please remind your students they are attending a French-speaking show. Being quiet will allow them and their classmates to fully appreciate the play and to perceive the French text subtleties. This is especially true for non-native speakers.



ACTIVE PARTICIPACTION

During interactive shows, actors and actresses invite students to speak, but only when requested. Otherwise, students are invited to enjoy the story. They will have the opportunity to interact with their classmates and the performing team after the performance during the scheduled Q&A session.



LAUGHTER AND INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS

At the theatre, crying and laughing is welcome when related to what is happening on stage. However, we ask you to watch out for exaggerated or inappropriate reactions. Please remind your students that the show happens on stage only.



TOYS OR PERSONNAL ITEMS

As it would distract the audience, the use of personal items is not allowed during the play. We recommend warning your students beforehand that all personal items will be confiscated if they fail to follow the rule.



RECORDING

A play is an original ephemeral work of art. Therefore, taking pictures is prohibited because they are subject to copyright. Images of performances are always readily available on our Facebook page and on our website.



SNACKS AND DRINKS

The public is not allowed to eat or drink during the performance (unless expressly invited to by the actors). This would create noise and disturb the audience.



BAGS AND COATS

Invite all students to take off all pieces of clothing and accessories that might be an inconvenience or create noise during the show (coats, bags, mobile phones, etc.).

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

DEBATE ON THE SHOW

To complement and deepen the Q&A session with the performing team scheduled after the show, you could offer to continue the discussion in the classroom. Engage an open exchange of positions on the show. What did you pupils take out of it? What did they understand? What impressed them? These questions will enable their critical thinking and analytical skills.

ACTIVITIES FROM THE STUDY GUIDE

We are once again inviting you to consult our young audience study guide and direct after-show activities.

PRACTICAL NOTE

A contact person at your school is in touch with our programming agent to sort out practical details pertaining to the performance. Feel free to contact her, should you have any question. This person will be able to provide all relevant and necessary information.

Thank you for allowing your pupils to discover
a new play by Théâtre la Seizième and for helping us
ensure that the French culture thrives
in British-Columbia!