

# GUIDEBOOK SECONDARY 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 students 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. Students need to be highly focused, which may be hard especially when French is not 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 actual theatre outing. You are invited to adapt them to your students' specific needs and their French language skills.

### STORYLINE

Reading the storyline (available in our season brochure, on our website, or in the study guide) in the classroom will help your students gently discover the world of the performance. Many activities for the classroom, in line with the play, are offered in the study guide. They pave the way for the theatre outing and stimulate French learning.

### OPEN DISCUSSION

A free and open discussion about the topics addressed in the play is often a good approach to stimulate your students' curiosity. Ask them to brainstorm and share their expectations for the show.

### PERFORMANCE RELATED EVENTS

For this season's plays, when applicable, some carefully selected 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.

**During school matinees at Studio 16.**

### SURTITLES

If your students are attending a school matinee at Studio 16, the play will be subtitled in English. Reading subtitles while watching a play may be disconcerting and will take some getting used to. Therefore, we suggest clearly notifying your students they will be attending a French-speaking play with English subtitles. Contrary to subtitles, surtitles are displayed above the stage, hence the prefix "sur" (from the Latin "super", above).

## THE DAY BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

**At your school and during school matinees at Studio 16.** Please remind your students they will attend a French-speaking performance by Théâtre la Seizième on the next day. If need be, you could remind them of the story and its main topics.

## ON PERFORMANCE DAY

**Our show is coming to your school.**

### ON D-DAY

Our team is coming to your school to perform the show before your students. This is a very special day that is going to disrupt their routine and may leave them unsettled. Therefore, it is important they are supervised and accompanied during the whole performance.

Here are some useful guidelines you can remind your students of in order to make your theatre experience as enjoyable as possible for everyone.



**You are strongly encouraged to intervene if necessary. A student who is talking or is 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**

Save in case of an emergency, we suggest limiting bathroom use to before or after the show to avoid disrupting the performance.



### **LISTENING TO FRENCH IN SILENCE**

Please remind your students they are attending a French-speaking show performed by francophone actors. Being quiet will allow them and the audience 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 quietly. They will have the opportunity to interact with their classmates and the performing team after the performance during the scheduled discussion.



### **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 intense or inappropriate reactions. Please remind your students that the show happens on stage only.



### **MOBILE PHONES AND OTHER PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Please remind the students and attendants to fully switch off their electronic devices before the play starts. We recommend warning them that all personal items will be confiscated if needed.



### **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.



### **EATING AND DRINKING**

Remind the students they cannot eat or drink during the play (unless expressly allowed by the actors). This would create noise and disturb the audience.



### **BAGS AND COATS**

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



### **School matinees at studio 16.**

At Studio 16, all guidelines to be followed are the same, except that any exit is final for security reasons.

## AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

### **DEBATING THE SHOW**

A show is a unique occasion for secondary students to develop their critical thinking and analytical skills. Hence, to supplement the discussion with the performing team, you could offer to debate the play's main topic.

The students could develop arguments based on how they perceived the characters' views. You could also organize an open discussion on their general appreciation of the show.

### **ESSAY: HOW TO WRITE A REVIEW?**

Invite your students to roleplay as journalists and write a theatre review by developing a convincing line of argument and supporting it with examples from the play.

## PRACTICAL NOTE

A contact person at your school will be in touch with our audience manager to sort out practical details pertaining to the performance. This person will be able to provide all relevant and necessary information.

Feel free to contact her, should you have any question.

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