

In-School Performance Protocol

At Brown Box, we aim to create a positive artistic experience for performers, students, and teachers. We want to foster an anti-racist environment by reducing policing of student behavior, especially BIPOC students. We seek to build a safe space where students can express themselves while also respecting performers on stage. In doing so, we hope to foster an environment where interaction with live performance is celebrated and inclusive of diverse reactions and responses. We strive to synthesize an open dialogue with teachers about their students. Brown Box Theatre Project recognizes that “theatre etiquette” is founded and based on the White experience and is not inclusive of culturally diverse perspectives and reactions. Brown Box aims to be open and respectful to all genuine audience reactions.

Please distribute this to all students and teachers who will attend and participate in our program. Any questions, comments, or concerns can be directed to Alice Corvo, Education Director at Alice.Corvo@brownboxtheatre.org

For Teachers:

- Live theatre is meant to be interactive between performer and audience. Audible reactions are a natural part of theatre and not necessarily disruptive to performers on stage.
- We request that you allow genuine reactions from your students during performances. These may include laughter, gasps, and cheers. Do not let your cultural bias determine what is an “appropriate” reaction to a piece of theatre.
- Please stop and think before shushing or disciplining students’ reactions.
- Only step in if students’ behavior is disrespectful to performers (i.e. heckling, harassing, shaming).

For Students:

- Have fun! Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show.
- Have respect for the performers by listening and watching attentively.
- Turn off your phones.

For Brown Box:

- Before each in-school performance, introduce the show and inform students that their reactions are acceptable and encouraged.
- Answer as many student questions as possible during the talkback post performance. Honor and respect each question asked.
- Combat racism by introducing this protocol prior to visiting schools.