



Welcome to the **WORTHAM CENTER!**

The Wortham Center for the Performing Arts strives to enrich, enlighten, educate, and entertain audiences of all ages.

STUDENT SERIES

We've set the stage for learning.



Photo courtesy of MOMIX

Use this guide before or after the show to learn about the theatre, prepare for your visit, and get the most out of a performance.



The Peking Acrobats

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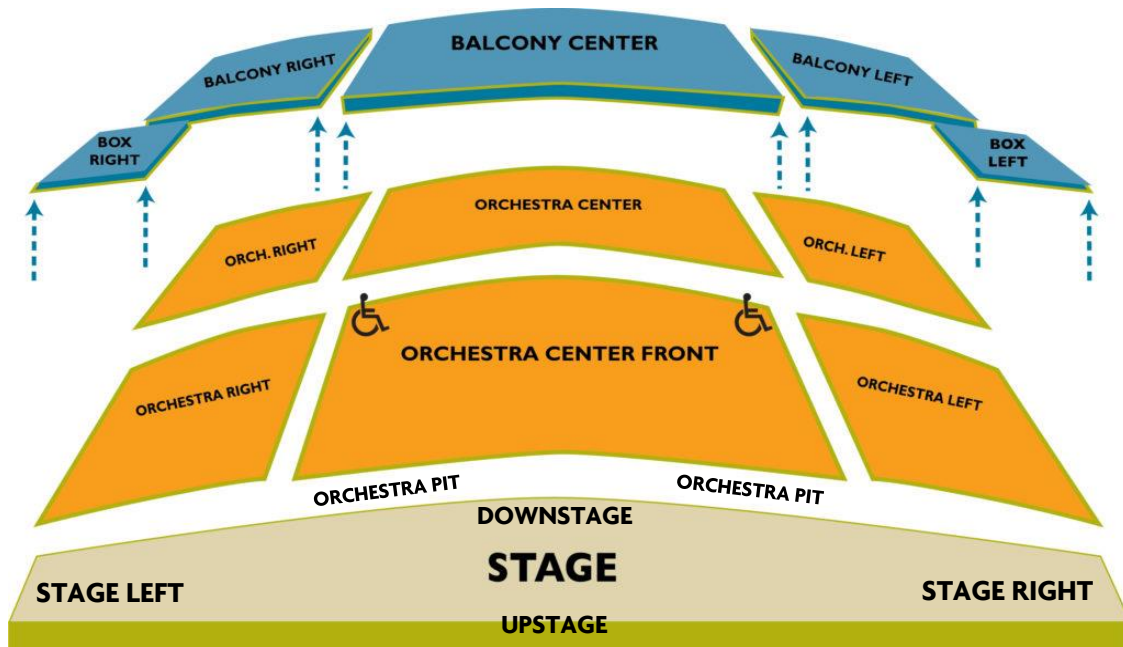
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Theatre, and Music**

** This resource is recommended for teachers, families, and students in 2nd- 8th grades. **

Inside the Diana Wortham Theatre



Stage: The large, raised platform where performers present their acts! Stage right, stage left, downstage, and upstage are different areas of the stage from the performer's perspective.

Orchestra Pit: The lower platform between the stage and the audience where a live orchestra often plays.

Orchestra Level: The lower level of seating where audience members get an up-close look at the production.

Balcony Level: The upper level of seating where audience members watch the performance from above.

Box Seating: The small, private seating area to the upper right and left of the audience.

Outside the Theatre

Lobby: The large, open space where audiences get their tickets, use the restroom, and gather before the show, after the show, and during intermission.

Box Office: The place where tickets are bought, reserved, and picked up before a show.



CAN YOU GUESS how many seats are in the Diana Wortham Theatre?

Theatre Etiquette (*Etiquette* is a French word. It means good manners.)

- **Arrive Early.** *You don't want to miss any of the show or disturb those around you by entering late.*
- **Focus.** *Pay close attention to what is happening on stage. This show is being performed just for you!*
- **Be Respectful.** *Show respect to those around you and the space by not eating or drinking during the performance. Be careful not to kick the seats in front of you.*
- **You're Part of the Show Too!** *Your energy, focus, and reactions help fuel the performers. Laugh, clap, and participate as it feels appropriate to show your appreciation.*

Before the Show

Choose your outfit:

Dressing up for the theater can be fun!

Practice staying focused.

Be prepared for the lights to get very dark or very bright and for surprising sound cues.

Research the show. What production are you seeing? Visit the company's website, watch videos, learn all you can about the artists and content.

In the Lobby

Use the restrooms

before you find your seat.

Turn off all electronic devices before entering the theatre. Remember, no photos or videos are allowed.

Notice how you feel before the show. Pay attention to how the performance changes your feelings.

After the Show

Reflect on the performance and **discuss** with your friends, family, and teachers.

What was your favorite part of the show and why?

How did you feel after the show?

Consider the lights, sounds, props, and/or costumes. How did they create a mood or help tell the story?

What lessons did you learn that you couldn't have learned in the classroom?



REMEMBER: It's okay if your opinion of the performance is different than someone else's. Have fun discussing your interpretations and stay open to and respectful of the ideas of others.

Theatre Vocabulary

Backstage: *the part of a theatre that is not seen by the audience, including the dressing rooms, wings, and the green room (the place where performers can rest).*

Catwalk: *a narrow walkway suspended from the ceiling of a theatre that allows technicians to access lighting and sound equipment.*

Company: *the cast and staff members who work on a production.*

Crew: *staff who work behind-the-scenes in lights, sound, costumes, and scenery.*

Curtain Call: *the performer's bows at the end of a show.*

Director: *the creative leader who guides the company and crew through the rehearsal and production process, developing a specific artistic direction and vision for the show.*

Front of House: *a term used to describe the lobby and all the people in a theatre who interact with the audience like the box office staff and the ushers.*

Matinee: *a morning or afternoon performance.*

Production: *any work of theater, music, or dance that was planned, rehearsed, and presented.*

Set Designer: *the person who designs the scenery for a show, establishing the location or mood of a production.*

Sound Designer: *the person who creates atmosphere and environment by selecting and mixing specific sounds for the production.*

Stage Manager: *the person who oversees everything on stage and behind the scenes.*

Usher: *helpers who assist the audience as they find their seats.*

Wings - *the areas to the sides of the stage where performers are out of view of the audience.*

THINK ABOUT jobs in the performing arts: actor, musician, dancer, choreographer, director, stage manager, lighting, sound, and costume designers, box office, stage crew, etc. What job interests you? What skills would you need to do that job? Why would you be good at that job? What would be most challenging? Most exciting? Write down your thoughts or discuss with a friend.



Use these guides to watching dance, theatre, and music to get the most out of your experience.



DO YOUR RESEARCH: *What style of dance are you watching? Where does it come from? What is special about this dance company?*

READ THE TITLE: *What does the title of the dance say about the choreographer's point of view?*

NOTICE THE TECHNICAL ELEMENTS: *How do the lights and sounds change during the performance? What mood do they set? Do the dancers use props? What do their costumes look like? Do the costumes enhance the dancers' movements? How?*

LISTEN TO THE MUSIC: *What style of music accompanies the dancers? What mood does the music set? Does the music tell any sort of story?*

WATCH THE DANCERS: *Do you notice relationships between the dancers? How do they relate to each other on stage? Can you tell how they feel about each other? How do the dancers use the space on stage?*

NOTICE THE MOVEMENTS: *What specific movements stand out? Are they sharp or soft? Does the way the dancers move stay the same or change?*

HOW DO YOU FEEL? *How does the dance make you feel? What stands out to you most about the performance?*

DO YOUR RESEARCH: *What play or musical are you attending? Who wrote it? Is it based off a book or historical event? What is the company known for? What makes them special?*

NOTICE THE TECHNICAL ELEMENTS: *Where is the play or musical set? In what time period does it take place? What do you notice about the scenery, costumes, props, lighting, and sound? What kind of mood or tone do the technical elements create? How does the look or feel of the show change throughout the production? How do the technical elements help tell the story?*

WATCH THE ACTORS: *How do the actors use their voices, bodies, and emotions to portray the characters? What relationships do you notice between actors on stage? How do these relationships change?*

HOW DO YOU FEEL? *What is the overall message of the production? Was the production a comedy or tragedy? What stands out to you most about the performance? Did you learn anything you couldn't have learned in the classroom?*





DO YOUR RESEARCH: *What kind of musical performance are you attending? What style or genre is the music? Does it come from another part of the world? When was it written? What artists will perform? What's special about the musician or group?*

NOTICE THE TECHNICAL ELEMENTS: *How do the lighting, props, or set design enhance the music? Does the look of the performance set a mood or tone? Do the technical elements change with the music?*

LISTEN TO THE MUSIC: *What words would you use to describe the music? Is it fast or slow? Loud or soft? Percussive or smooth? Simple or layered? Do you notice any recurring musical themes? What do you think the composer was trying to convey? What images come to mind when you hear this music?*

WATCH THE MUSICIANS: *Do they play instruments? What kind: strings, brass, wind, or percussion? Do they sing? How would you describe their voices? If there's more than one musician, how do they interact with each other?*

HOW DO YOU FEEL? *How does the music make you feel? What stands out to you most about the performance? Does the music remind you of anything in your life? How do you relate to it?*

Stay involved at the Wortham Center!

- Attend another show.
- Take a class, camp, or master class.

Learn more at worthamarts.org.



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Wortham Center for the Performing Arts

