

# Know Before You Go To The Delacorte

## A Visual Guide

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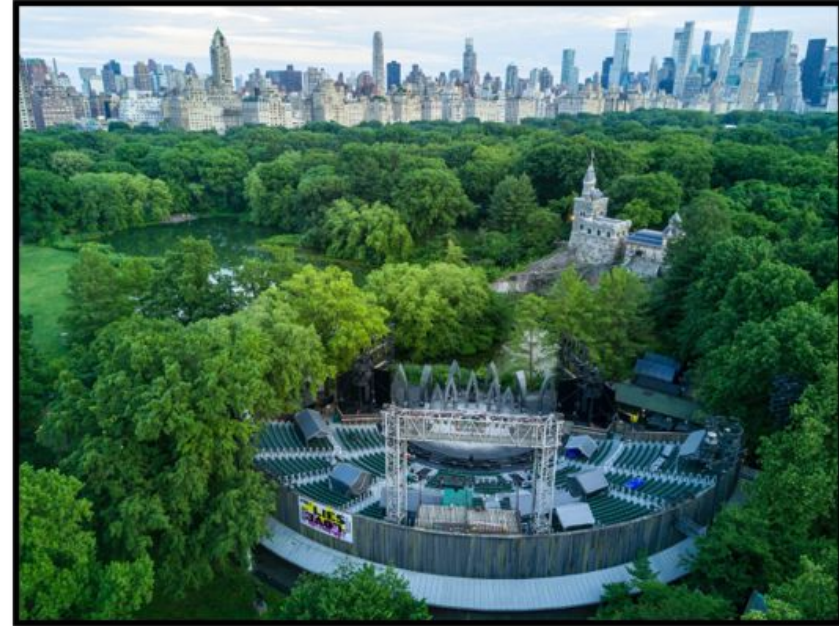


*Photo by Rebecca J Michaelson.*

**This guide is designed to outline what to expect at Free Shakespeare in the Park at The Delacorte Theater.**

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*Photo by Steve Brown.*

# WELCOME TO FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK!

We are so excited to welcome you to Shakespeare in the Park! Whether this is your first or 100th visit to The Delacorte, this guide can help you prepare and feel comfortable before joining us.

While the photos may be from previous seasons and shows, the information in here remains up-to-date and current.



# WELCOME TO FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK!

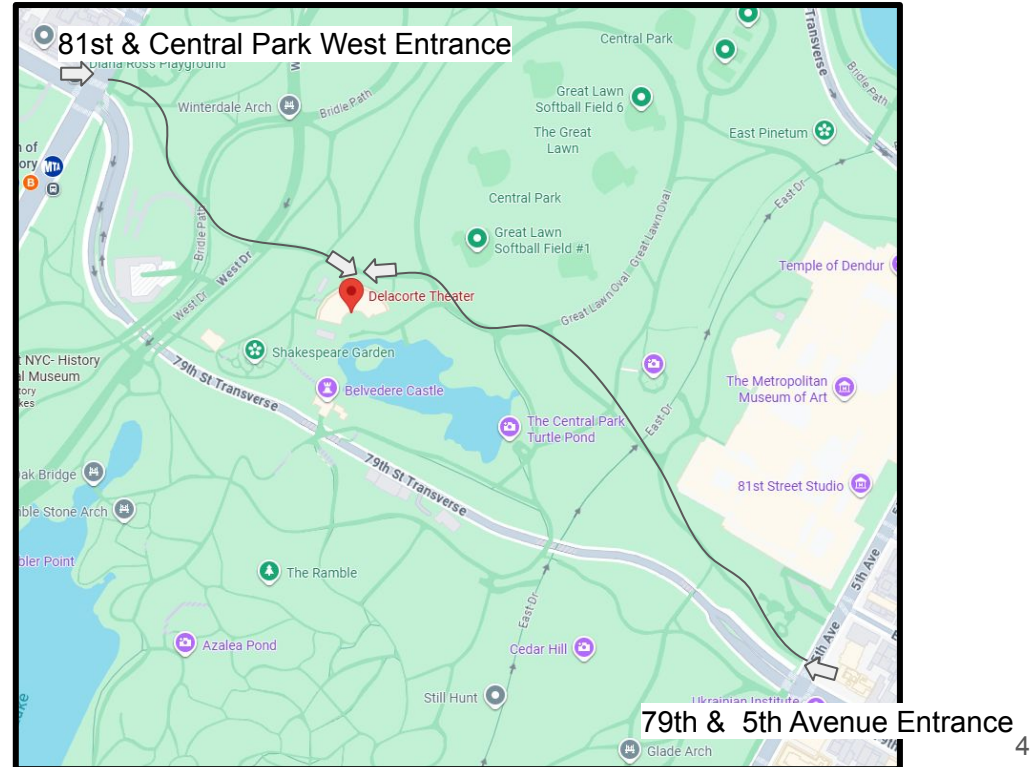
The Delacorte Theater is the home for Free Shakespeare in the Park, one of The Public's oldest and most beloved programs. Tickets are free for all, but required for entry to The Delacorte.

The Delacorte Theater is located near The Belvedere Castle, [about a 10 minute walk into Central Park](#).

You can enter Central Park at:

- 81st Street & Central Park West
- 79th Street & 5th Avenue

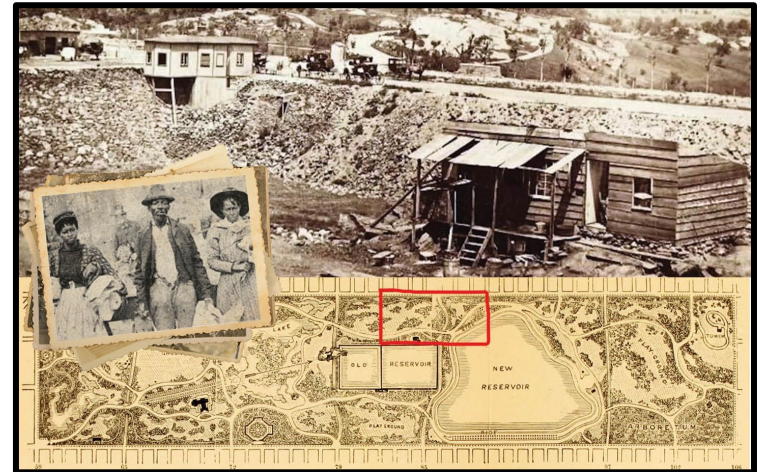
\*\* If you like to arrange a golf-cart to drive you to the theater, please call 347-814-5880 either when you arrive or with a 10-15 minute advance notice.



# The Public Theater & Shakespeare in the Park Land Acknowledgments

The Public Theater stands in honor of the first people and our ancestors. We acknowledge the land on which The Public and its theaters stand—the original homeland of the Lenape people— and the painful history of genocide and forced removal from this territory.

The Public also gives our respect to the people of Seneca Village, a community of Black property owners who were removed from their land and whose village was destroyed in the creation of Central Park. Read our full [Land Acknowledgement](#).



# HOW TO GET TICKETS

Tickets are free and distributed at noon the day of the performance. Typically, there is no option to reserve tickets in advance. For each distribution option, one person can receive 1-2 tickets.

We are excited to offer multiple in-person:

- Lining up at The Delacorte
- In person lottery in our lobby at 425 Lafayette
- Borough Distribution

There is one virtual option:

- A digital lottery through TodayTix

Watch LaChanze explain the [5 Ways To Access Tickets](#).



# GETTING TO THE DELACORTE

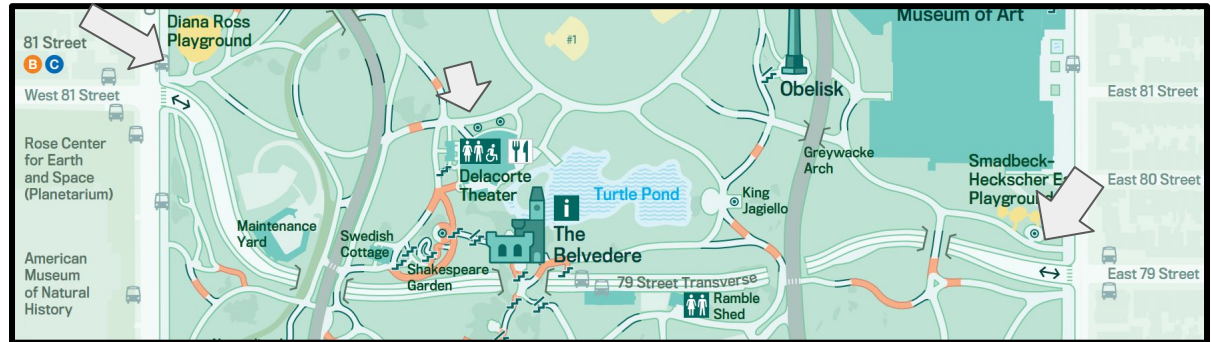
The Delacorte Theater is located inside Central Park, you may enter at:

- [81st and Central Park West \(5 minute walk\)](#)
  - Enter the northeast corner of 81st and Central Park West, this is across the street from the B/C subway stop
- [79st and 5th Avenue on the East Side \(12 minute walk\)](#)
  - Enter the northwest corner of 79th and 5th Avenue

We also offer a golf cart to drive people who require assistance before and after the performance.

- Please call 347-814-5880 when you arrive at the entrance on the East or West side of the park.
- Our team will drive a golf cart over usually within 10-15 minutes, please arrive with extra time

[Central Park Access Map.](#)



If you are taking a car to The Delacorte Theater:

Taxis, Uber, Lyft, or Access a Ride, will drop off directly in front of 81st Street Entrance on Central Park West or 79th Street Entrance on 5th Ave.

- The cars will not be able to go directly to the theater, please allow at least 20 minutes to be dropped off, and either walk or call a golf-cart 347-814-5880 to get to the theater

Please note that there is no parking lot by the theater. You can...

- Find street parking
- Use the app SpotHero
- Access a paid lot by the Natural History Museum on 81st Street. This lot closes at 11pm.



If you are taking the Subway to The Delacorte Theater:

- The closest subway station is the B & C trains at 81st Street - Natural History Museum (5 minute walk).
- If you're coming from the East side, you can take the 6 to 77th St/Lexington. This is a slightly longer walk, about 16 minutes.

Please note, these stations are not wheelchair accessible.

- The closest accessible subway is 59th St-Columbus Circle with the A,C,B,D, & 1 trains.
- Please note that the ground can be bumpy between 59st and The Delacorte



If you are taking the bus to The Delacorte Theater:

The following bus stops are nearby:

- M2, M3 or M4 at 79st and 5th Ave (9 minute walk)
- M10 at 81st and Central Park West (5 minute walk)
- M79 at 79st Transverse/Central Park West (3 minute walk)



# ARRIVING AT THE THEATER FOR THE PERFORMANCE

As you near the theater, it can be very crowded and loud, especially near the Levin Ticket Window.

The Delacorte has over 1800 seats, and is in a popular spot in the park where many people not seeing the show also hang out.

We recommend arriving between 7:00pm-7:30pm if you would like to give yourself time to find the theater, find a spot on a nearby bench, walk around, or purchase concessions or merchandise.

The theater will open around 7:30pm for seating. There might be some waiting before the house opens.



*Photos by Rebecca J Michaelson.*

# ARRIVING AT THE THEATER FOR THE PERFORMANCE

You are welcome to sit on a bench, or stand nearby. If the spot becomes too crowded, The Public Theater Front of House may help direct you to a spot that will keep the pathways clear.

The will be speaking loudly to direct audience traffic to keep pathways clear and relay any important information.

The Levin Ticket Window can be quite busy, loud, and crowded. Audiences may experience long lines.

Feel free to wear headphones to muffle some of the noises, but please pay attention to the vehicles.



Please note, The Public Theater staff change shirt colors and design each year, but will always wear a shirt that says "Public Theater Staff" and are happy to help!

# ENTERING THE DELACORTE

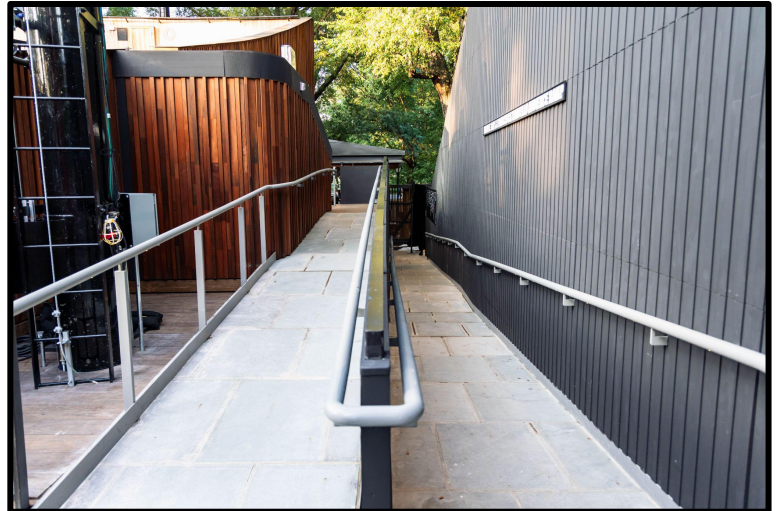
There are four "gates" to enter the theater. Your ticket will show which gate is best for your seat.

Gates 1 and 4 have ramps and are ADA accessible.

The gates can become crowded as people line up to enter and there may be extended periods of standing.

Seats are assigned, so you can chose to sit on a bench or stand further away from the path nearby until the lines clear.

Public Theater staff will also let you know if there is a delay in opening the house due to weather or a technical need of the show.



*Photos by  
Rebecca J Michaelson.*



# ASSIGNED SEATS OPTIONS

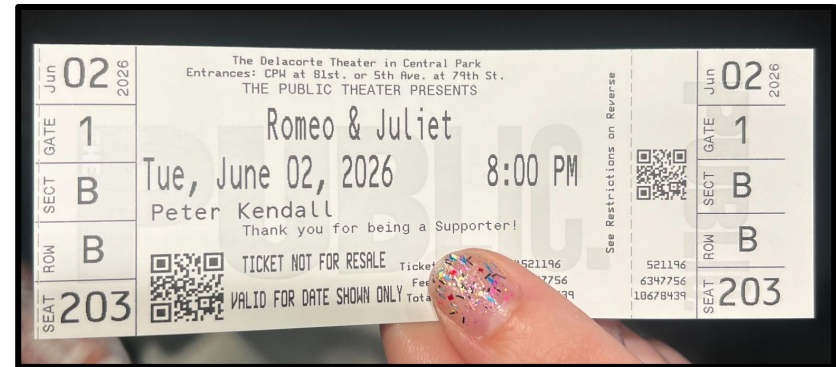
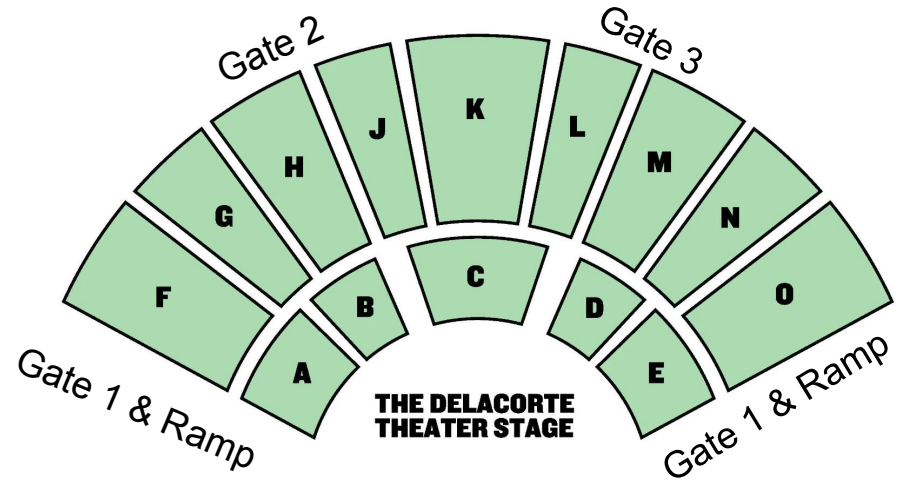
All tickets have an assigned seat. These seats are hard-plastic stadium-style seating without a cushion.

You may purchase a seat cushion at merchandise, or bring your own.

Unlike purchasing tickets for our shows downtown, seating is typically assigned randomly.

It is not possible to choose where you sit, except if booking ADA seating. If you book an ADA ticket, there are no or limited stairs, all other seats may require walking up stairs.

Please talk to the Public Theater staff if you have additional questions or concerns about your seat.



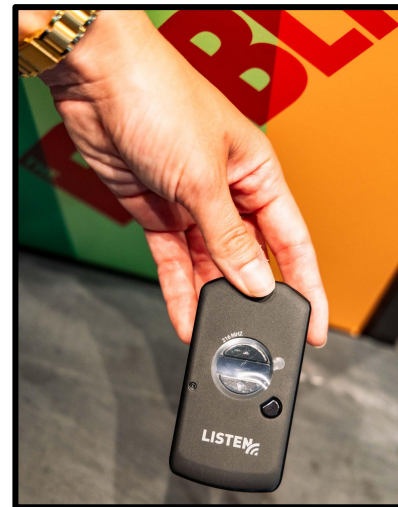


# ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

The revitalization at The Delacorte has increased our accessibility options with ramps at both Gate 1 and Gate 4 as well as:

- Bariatric seats (wide seat with higher weight capacity)
- Wheelchair / Scooter accessible seats
- Companion seats
- ALD (Assistive Listening Device) available at the Levin Ticket Window with headphones, earbuds, and t-coil options.
- Alternative formats for the Playbill including Large Print, Braille, and online for screen readers. You can access the [digital version](#) here.
- To request a document in an alternative format, please email Audience Services at [accessibility@publictheater.org](mailto:accessibility@publictheater.org) before your performance date.
- Closed Captioning with GalaPro, tablets can be checked out at The Levin Ticket Window or accessed on your own device.

For additional accessibility questions or concerns, please feel free to email [accessibility@publictheater.org](mailto:accessibility@publictheater.org)



*Photo by Rebecca J Michaelson.*



## Extended Accessible Performances

The Public Theater works with [TAP at TDF.org](https://www.tdf.org) and [Hands On](https://www.hands-on.org) to contract interpreters, captioners, and audio descriptors for accessible performances.

We try to offer Open Captioned Performances, Sign Interpreted Performances, Mask Required Performances, Audio Described Performances, and more for every show.

Review the scheduled upcoming accessible performances on the [Accessible Performance Calendar](#).

If you have sound, light, or content sensitivities, there are warnings on each show page based on the show design. **You can also always call the Audience Services team and ask for more details at (212) 967-7555.**



# SENSORY-ADAPTED PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Sensory Adapted Performances Include:

- Reduced Capacity to minimize crowding

Technical Adjustments:

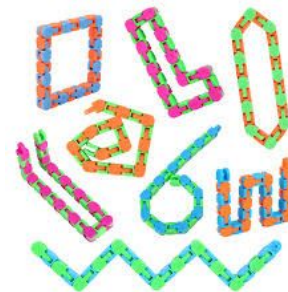
- Lighting, sound, and transition cues are adjusted slightly.
- The house lights remain on and dim throughout the performance.

Sensory Supports:

- A variety of fidgets are available.
- Noise canceling headphones and sunglasses are available.

Flexible Expectations:

- The Public is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming space where audience members can be free to be themselves.
- Expectations about audience etiquette are relaxed at this performance. Audience members are invited to react as they need, make sounds, and move around in ways that feel comfortable.

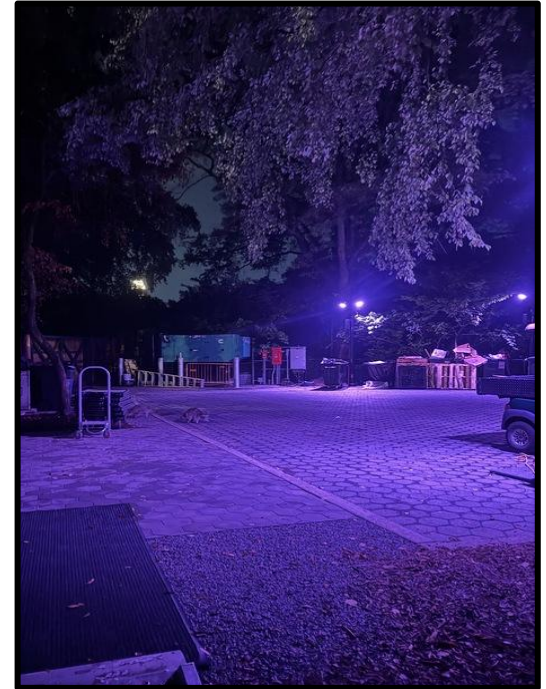


## MOVING WHILE IN THE SPACE

### **For Sensory Adapted Performances:**

- There is a movement and break area near Gate 4 where audience members can exit the seating area and continue to watch the performance on a screen.
- Actors occasionally pass through this area.
- There may be raccoon sightings, they often just sit by the trash waiting for some food.
- There will be a mini-break area by gate 2
- There will be an small indoor space air-conditioned space for 1-2 people at a time.
- If you need a more private space, please see an usher and they will direct you to an alternate space.

**For Non-Sensory Adapted Performances:** If you expect to take a break during an event, please check with the usher before the show starts to understand when you will be able to re-enter. You may be able to ask a staff member for a seat closer to an exit.



# PUBLIC FARE & FOOD OPTIONS

Many people chose to make a whole day at the park and pack a picnic.

You may do the same, or purchase food at PUBLIC FARE, our concessions.

Public Fare is open from noon-8:30pm. [See what they serve here.](#)  
The frozen drinks are a big hit!

The lines for Public Fare can get long, especially close to when the show begins. It's ok to arrive extra early to try to minimize the crowd.

All food is allowed to be eaten in the theater - whether purchased at Public Fare or not!

- You may not bring any glass containers or bottles.
- If you have one, security will take it upon entering.
- This is to prevent shattered glass and injuries.



## WEATHER & NATURE

The Delacorte is a big open Amphitheater under the stars in Central Park.

Rain, wind, raccoons, mosquitos, & New York City sounds like helicopters, can all make an appearance or sounds. We recommend bringing layers to wear, a raincoat, bug spray, and ear defenders if you would like!

No performance will be cancelled before its scheduled curtain time, even if there is rain in the forecast.

- The show may delay its start time for rain to clear up, or there may be a brief hold during the show for the rain to pass.
- While you wait, you may exit the theater and stand under the overhang to stay dry.
- As long as it is safe, the show will go on.
- The Public Theater staff will closely monitor the weather radars, if there is thunder or lightning nearby, the performance for that night may be cancelled.
- The Stage Manager or Theater Manager will make an announcement over the speakers about a rain hold or a cancellation.
- Tickets cannot be transferred to another date.
- Umbrellas may be used before the performance begins or during a rain hold. But they cannot be open during a performance.
- Ponchos are available for purchase at the merchandise stand.



# RESTROOMS

There are two restrooms provided by Central Park Conservancy available for use before you enter The Delacorte. They are located in the stone cottage as you approach The Delacorte Theater, right across from Gate 2 and the Levin Ticket Window.

- The "Women's" restroom is closer to the main path.
- The "Men's" restroom is off of the path to Gate 1.

You are welcome to use whichever restroom that best aligns with your gender identity. There is an all-gender restroom available, please ask a staff member to access it, as it is not publicly available.

All restrooms have accessible stalls.



## WAITING FOR THE SHOW

While you wait in your seats before the show to begin, you can read the program, sometimes referred to as a Playbill.

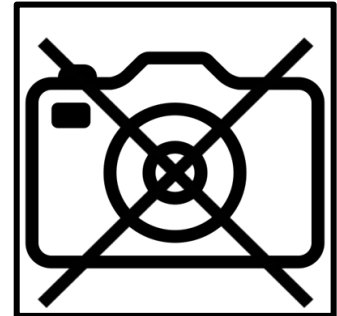
- The program shares more information about the company and may include a director's note and interviews.
- We also include a brief synopsis of the play to help you follow along.

Each night there is a welcome speech by a Public Theater staff member, sometimes there might be an elected official joining them, or a community member sharing a brief story. Afterwards, the show begins.

**We also encourage you to use this time to silence cell phones. You may take pictures before the show, but during the show, no pictures or videos can be taken of the performance.**



*Photo by Rebecca J  
Michaelson.*



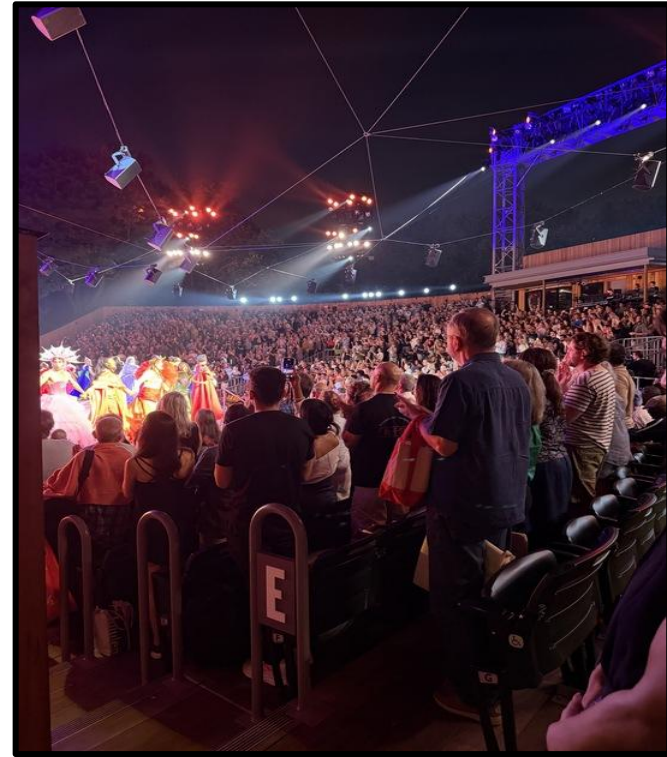
## AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

When the show is over, the actors will take a bow as people will clap and cheer.

Then, you will exit the theater. This may take some time due to the crowds because the whole audience will be leaving.

You may choose to wait in your seats until it clears more to avoid the crowds.

If you need to access a golf cart after the show, please let the Front of House staff know, they will radio for one. They will direct you to the best place to wait.



*Photo by Jody Bell*

# THE PUBLIC.

No matter your journey to The Public Theater—whether you're a first-time attendee, new to our theaters, or a frequent patron—you are warmly welcome.

Feel free to engage with the show genuinely: react, vocalize, laugh, or cry. If you need to make some noise, take breaths, stim, or move, that is OK.

We hope to see you again at Free Shakespeare in the Park or at [The Public Theater](#).