

What to Expect at The Public Theater



A Social Narrative Guide

This guide is designed to outline what to expect at The Public Theater.

It will share information about arriving at the theater, getting settled at the theater, and expectations during the performance.



The Public Theater, photographed in 1986 by Martha Swope

Welcome to The Public Theater!

We are happy that you are joining us for a performance.

The Public Theater is an open building, and you are welcome here whether you have tickets to a show or not! Our normal Box Office hours are Monday, 5-10PM, Tuesday to Sunday, 2PM-10PM. We have public bathrooms, free wifi, and multiple seating areas.



Wifi Information

Network name: PT-Guest

No password

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

We recommend purchasing tickets ahead of time. You can try to purchase tickets on the day of the show, but they may not be available.

You can purchase tickets for any show before your visit by:

- Going to the Public Theater's website: <https://publictheater.org/>
- Calling Audience Services: **212.967.7555**
- Visiting the Public Theater's Box Office at **425 Lafayette Street**.
Please check the website for the [box office hours](#) as they vary.

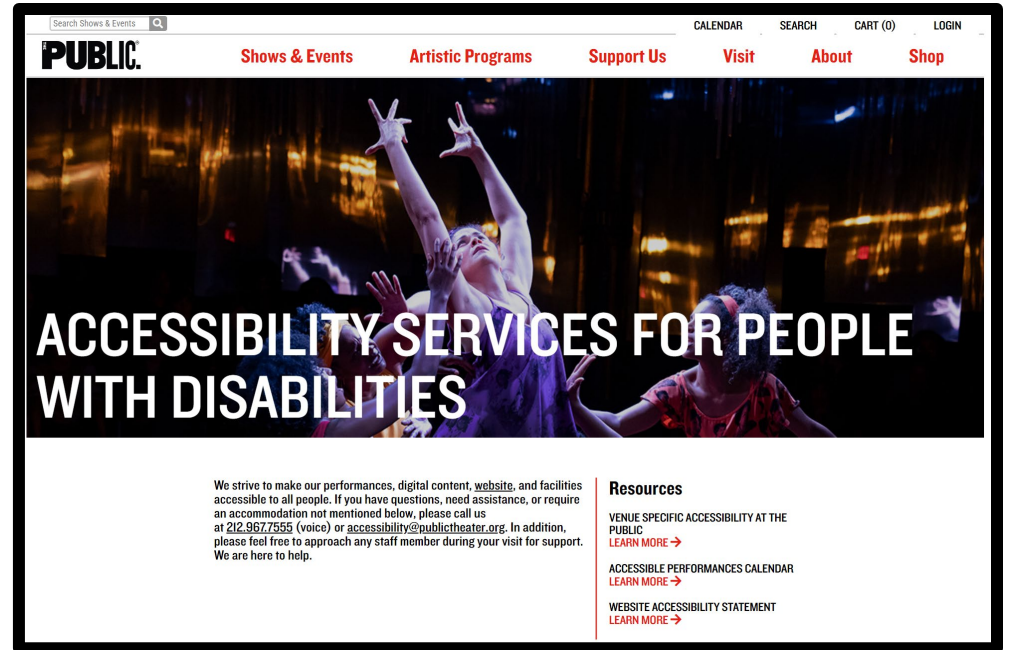
[Click here to learn more about venue accessibility at The Public Theater.](#)

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

We recommend you read through [our page about Accessibility Services](#).

To see a calendar of our upcoming Accessible Performances, either look at the [Accessible Performances Calendar Page](#) or on each individual show page, next to the calendar of performances.

[Click here to learn more about venue accessibility at The Public Theater.](#)



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Public Theater website. The logo "PUBLIC." is on the left, and navigation links for "Shows & Events", "Artistic Programs", "Support Us", "Visit", "About", and "Shop" are on the right. A search bar and links for "CALENDAR", "SEARCH", "CART (0)", and "LOGIN" are also present. The main content area features a large image of performers with the text "ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES" overlaid. Below the image, there is a paragraph of text and a "Resources" section with three links: "VENUE SPECIFIC ACCESSIBILITY AT THE PUBLIC", "ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES CALENDAR", and "WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT".

Search Shows & Events

CALENDAR SEARCH CART (0) LOGIN

PUBLIC. Shows & Events Artistic Programs Support Us Visit About Shop

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

We strive to make our performances, digital content, [website](#), and facilities accessible to all people. If you have questions, need assistance, or require an accommodation not mentioned below, please call us at [212.967.7955](tel:212.967.7955) (voice) or accessibility@publictheater.org. In addition, please feel free to approach any staff member during your visit for support. We are here to help.

Resources

VENUE SPECIFIC ACCESSIBILITY AT THE PUBLIC
[LEARN MORE →](#)

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES CALENDAR
[LEARN MORE →](#)

WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT
[LEARN MORE →](#)

When you purchase a ticket, you can select your seat based on the seats that are available.

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

If you like to take breaks during an event, you may want to pick a seat close to an exit. Reentry is at the discretion of the Theater House Management .

If you already purchased tickets and need to change your seats based on this information, please call Audience Services at (212) 967-7555. They will do their best to move your seat.

Extended Accessible Performances

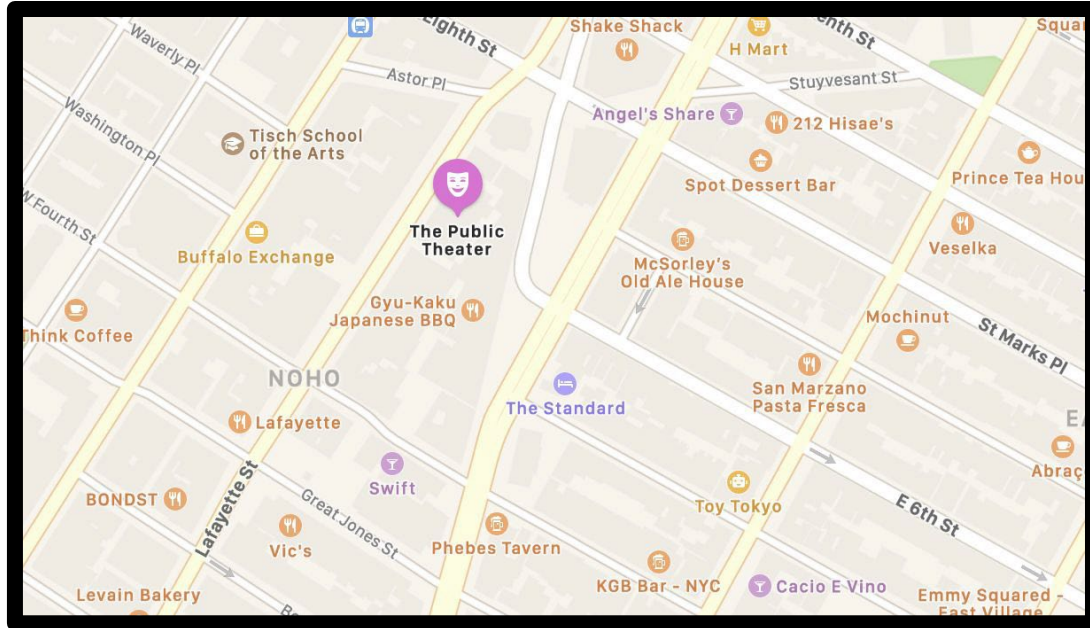
The Public Theater works with [TAP at TDF.org](https://www.tap.org) and [Hands On](#) to contract interpreters, captioners, and audio descriptors for accessible performances.

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

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

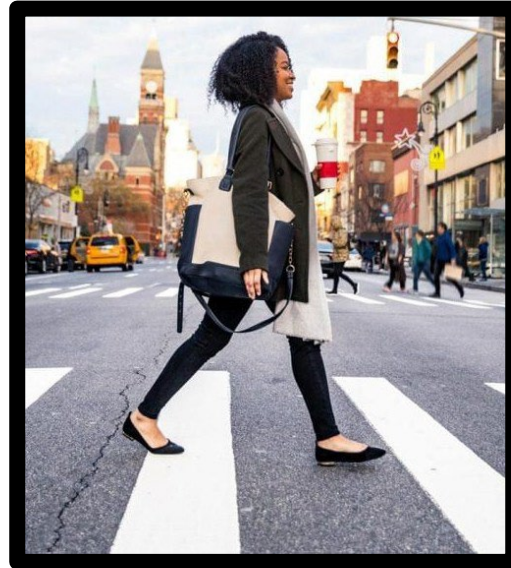
GETTING TO THE THEATER

The Public Theater is located at **425 Lafayette St** in The East Village in Manhattan.



The theater is on **Lafayette Street** between **Astor Place** and **East 4th Street**.

To get to the Public Theater you may walk or take a car.



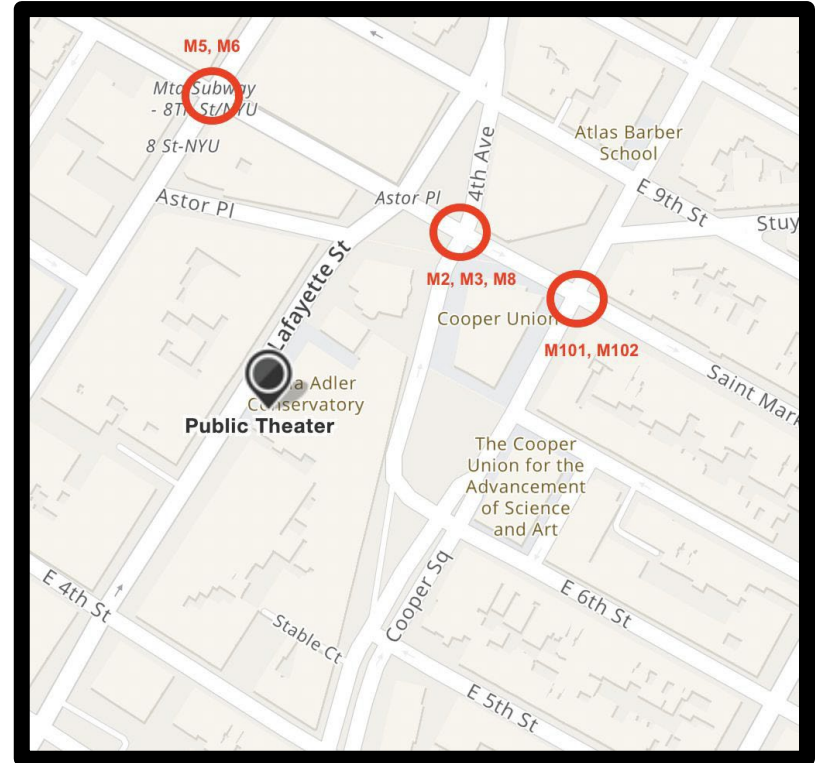
If you are taking a car service or use Access a Ride, you may be dropped off directly in front of the theater.

To get to the Public Theater, you may ride a bus. The following bus stops are nearby:

M2, M3, or M8 to 8th Street and 4th Avenue (2 min walk)

M5 or M6 to 8th Street and Broadway (3 min walk)

M101 or M102 to 8th Street and Cooper Square (3 min walk)



To get to the Public Theater, you may take the subway.

The closest subway stations are the **6 train at Astor Place** (2 min walk) and the **R W train at 8th Street** (3 min walk).

These subway stations are not wheelchair accessible.

Broadway Lafayette (7 min walk) and 14th Street Union Square (9 min walk) subway stations are also nearby. **These stations are wheelchair accessible.**



ARRIVING AT THE THEATER

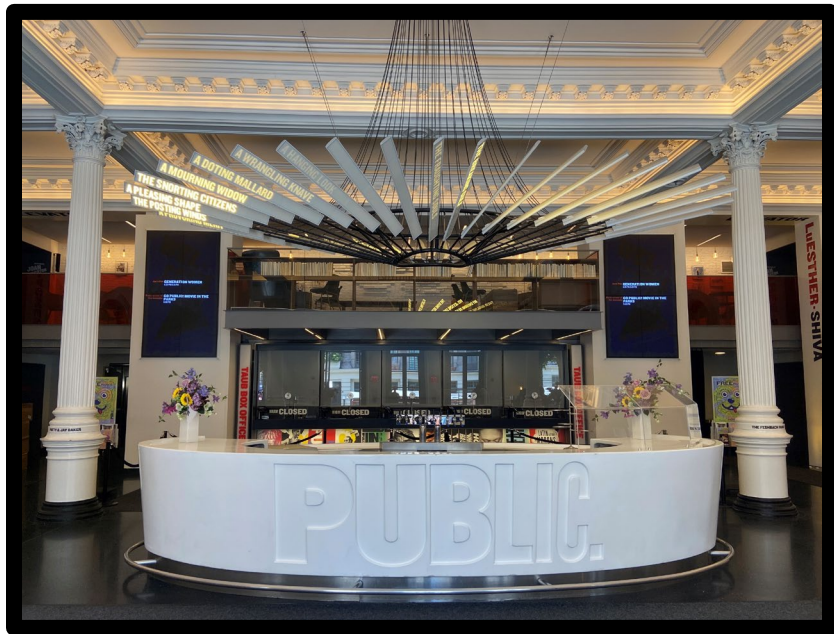
When you arrive, you can enter the building using the stairs or the ramp. There are two ramps on either side of the stairs.



As you enter the building, you will see security guards as well as front of house staff. You can ask any of our staff questions during your visit.

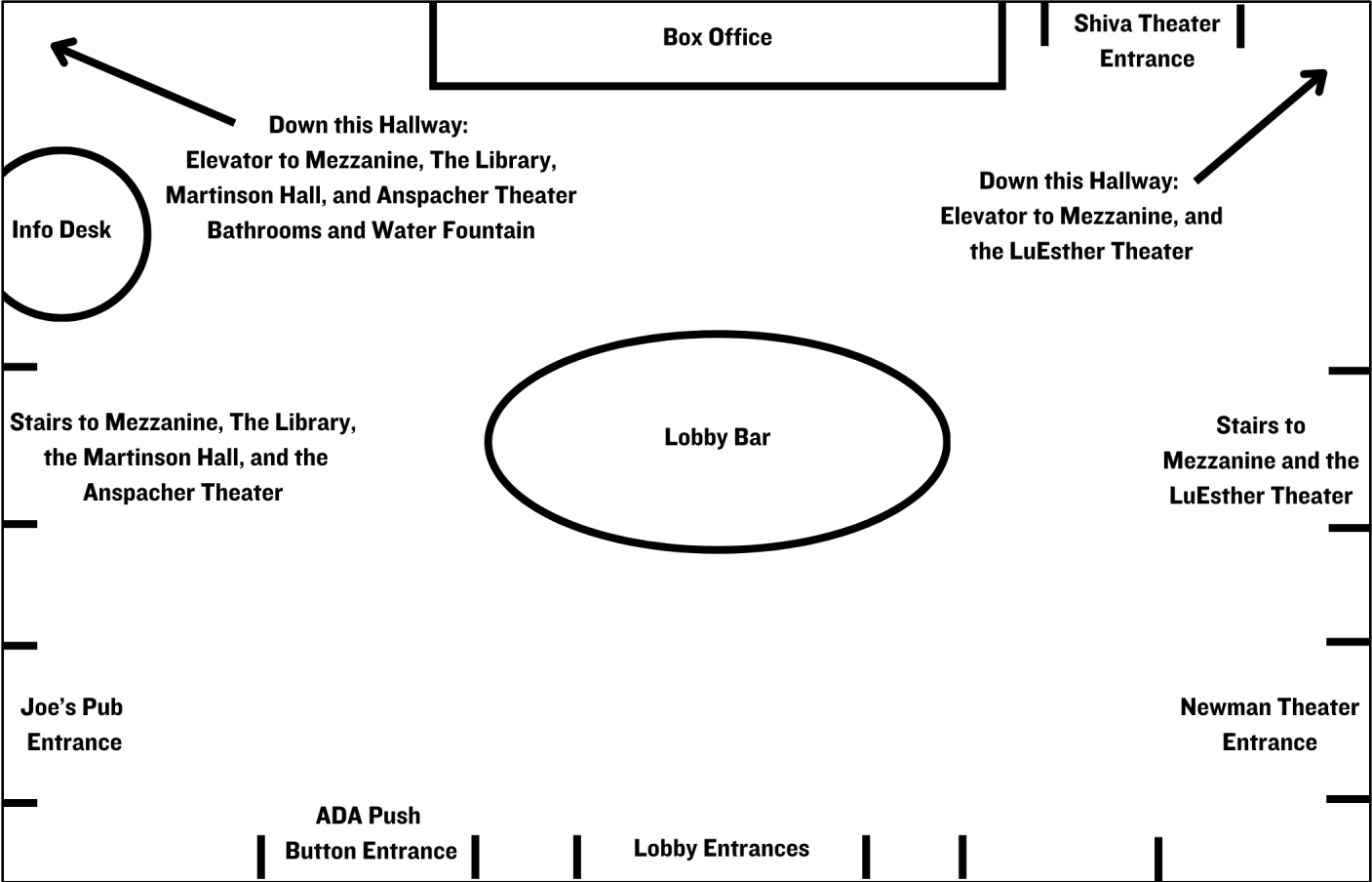


The lobby is a big open space. The sound in the lobby echoes.



If you'd like a pair of noise canceling headphones or earplugs, you may get them from an usher. There are also headphones, earplugs, and fidgets available at the Box Office.

You can refer to this map to understand where important spaces are in relation to the lobby.



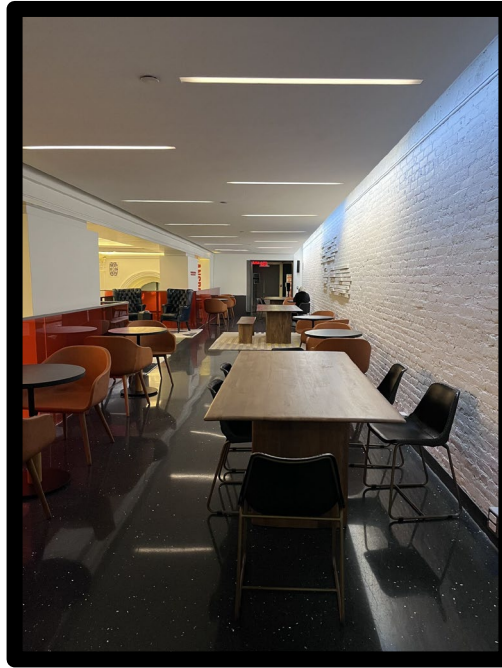
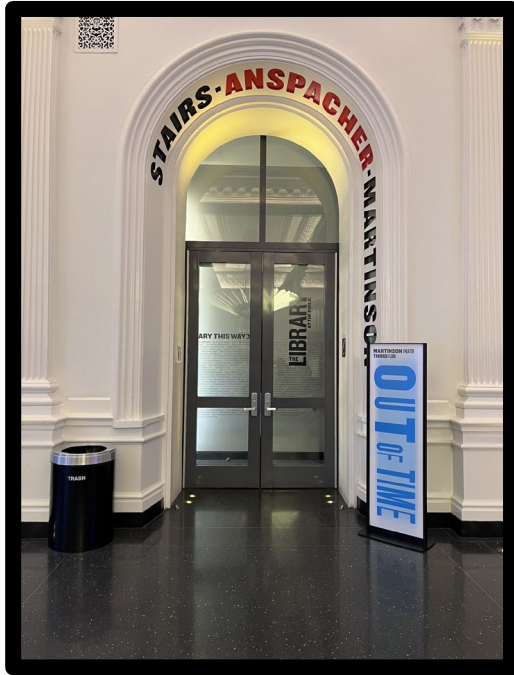
The Public Theater has **five different theaters**, a restaurant called **The Library**, a venue called **Joe's Pub**, and a **lobby bar**.

There may be other shows starting around the same time as yours, make sure to head to the correct theater space for your performance.



BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

If you arrive early, you can go to the mezzanine. There are plenty of seating options where you can hang out.



The mezzanine is accessible by stairs and elevator.

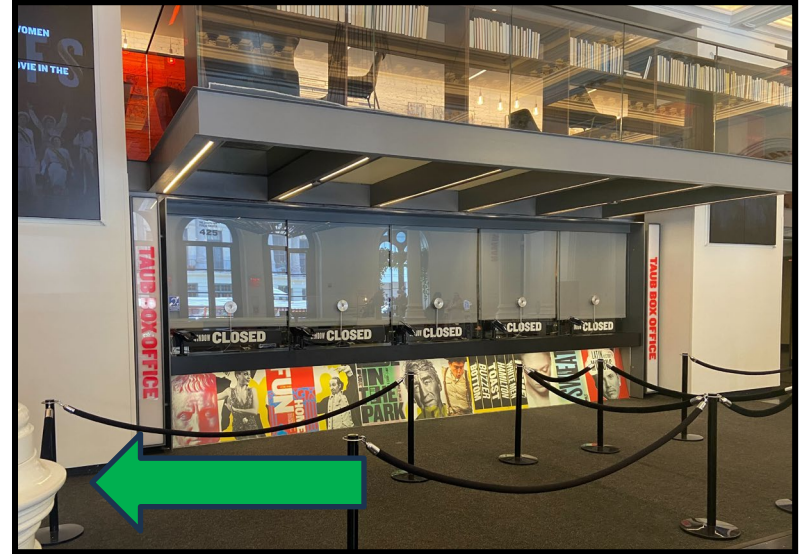
The mezzanine is a good place to have a snack or drink before the show.

You may not eat in the theater during the performance, other than Joe's Pub. You may drink water during the performance.

The Library and the lobby bar may be open. In case you would like to eat food or get a drink, you will want to come early.

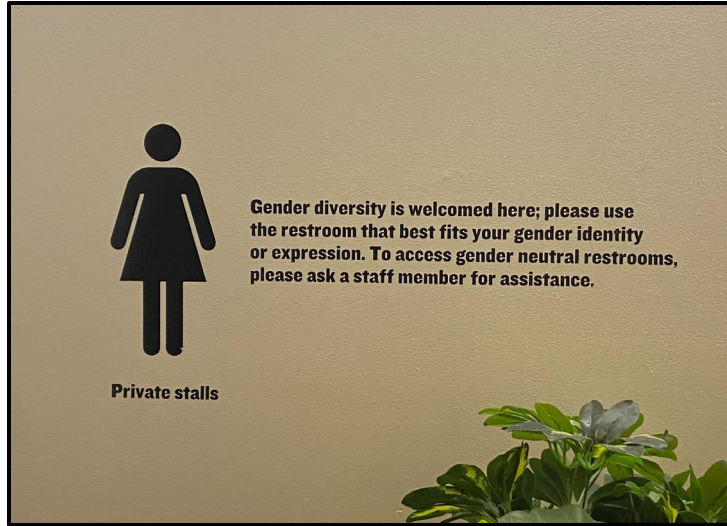


You may want to visit the restroom before the show. The restrooms are past the info desk, through the hallway, to the left of the elevator.



There are signs that will direct towards the restroom. You can also ask a staff member if you need help finding the restroom or anything else.

The restrooms on the lower lobby are wheelchair accessible.



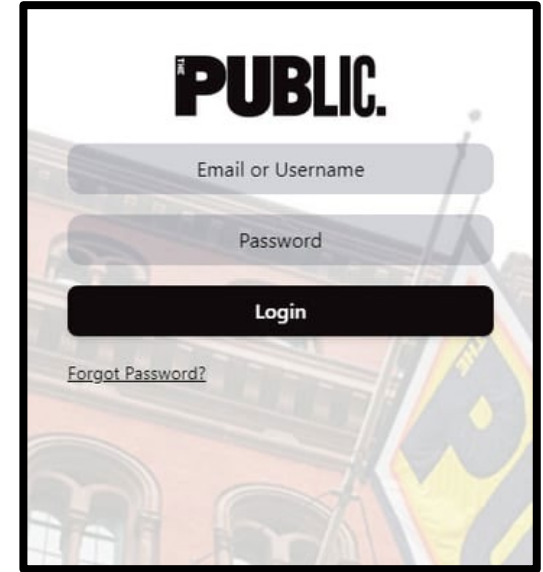
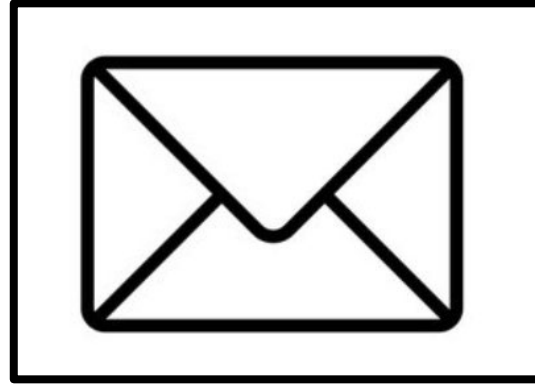
There are also all gender restrooms available. There are also companion care restrooms available. **You may ask a staff member if you'd like to access them.**

There are water fountains in the lobby near the bathrooms.



Water fountains will have disposable cups available for you, and you may use your own refillable bottle.

Accessing Your Tickets

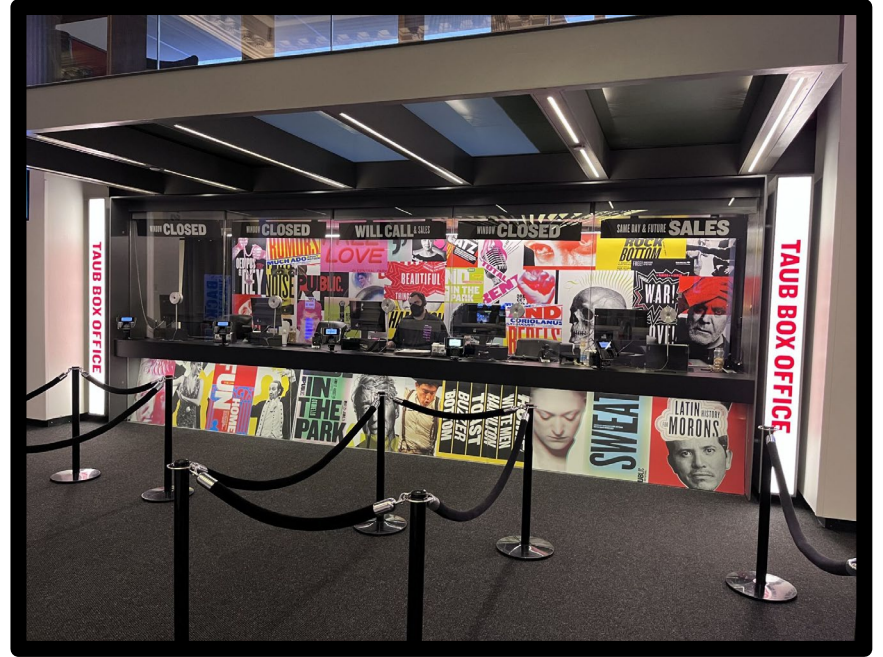


When you bought your ticket, you chose one of these Delivery Methods:

1. Hold at Box Office
2. Mail to Home
3. Access through the [Public Theater Digital Wallet](#)

When you are ready to go into the theater, you can get your tickets.

If your ticket was **mailed to you**, bring it out for the usher. If you requested it be **held at box office**, navigate to the box office windows. If you chose for it to be **added to your digital wallet**, you can open your digital ticket on your device.



If you are confused by how to access your ticket, **please ask a staff member and they will assist you.**

You can enter the theater approximately starting 30 minutes before the performance starts. An usher will scan the barcode on your ticket as you enter.

The usher will direct you inside the theater to your assigned seat. This is the seat that you chose when you purchased your ticket.

If the performance is General Admission, you can choose any open seat.



Once you are seated, you may have to wait in your seat for a little while before the show begins. **The theater is above the subway so sometimes you may hear and feel the subway rumble.**

Program / PlayBill

While you wait, you can read the program, sometimes referred to as a Playbill.

We offer alternative formats for the Playbill, including Large Print, Braille, and online for screen readers.

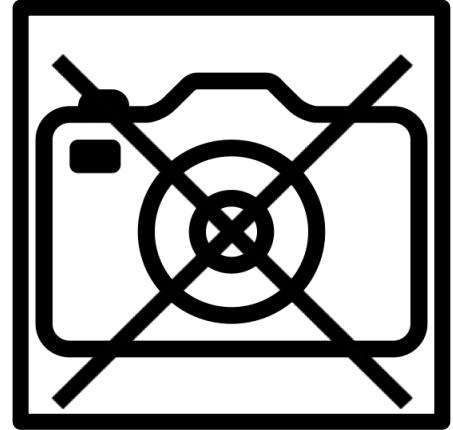
To request a document in an alternative format, please contact Audience Services before your performance date by email at accessibility@publictheater.org.

The program shares more information about the creative team.



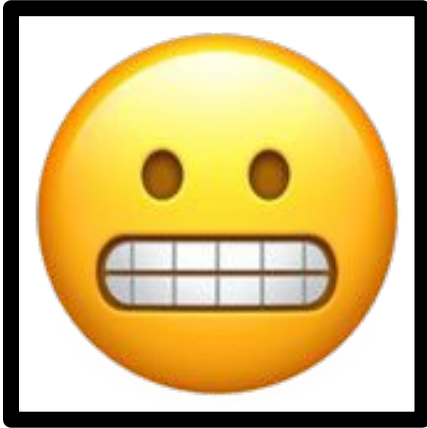
DURING THE PERFORMANCE

The show will begin. During the show, you may not take pictures or videos of the performance.



The lights will usually turn off completely. There may be flashing lights or loud sounds. If you have any questions or want to know more, **we encourage you to contact us at info@publictheater.org or 212.967.7555**. Our audience services team can give specific details about production affects (strobing lights, gunshots, smoke haze, etc.).

The experience of seeing a live performance may be new to you. Or, this may be one of the first times you are returning to the theater in a while.



It is OK to feel nervous, excited, or overwhelmed. If you need to make some noise, take breaths, stim, or move about a little bit, that is OK.

It is not safe to move around a lot in the aisles. If you need to move around more during the show, you can leave the theater through the doors marked **EXIT**.

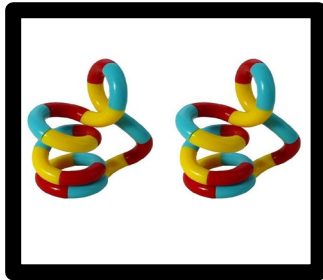
If you need support during the show, you can find an usher or staff member.

They will be wearing a Public Theater shirt and a badge that says “Here to Help”.

The ushers and staff are friendly, open, and welcoming.



Ushers will have a variety of fidgets available. Fidgets may help you feel calm or focus. The ushers will also have noise canceling headphones and earplugs for you to borrow for the performance.



AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

When the show is over, everyone will applaud and cheer. It may get a bit loud. People may decide to stand and clap, called a standing ovation. You are welcome to join in.

Then, you will exit the theater.

This may take a few minutes and be a little crowded because the whole audience may try to leave the theater at once. The ushers help make this process smooth.



If you took a fidget or earplugs, you may keep this with you.



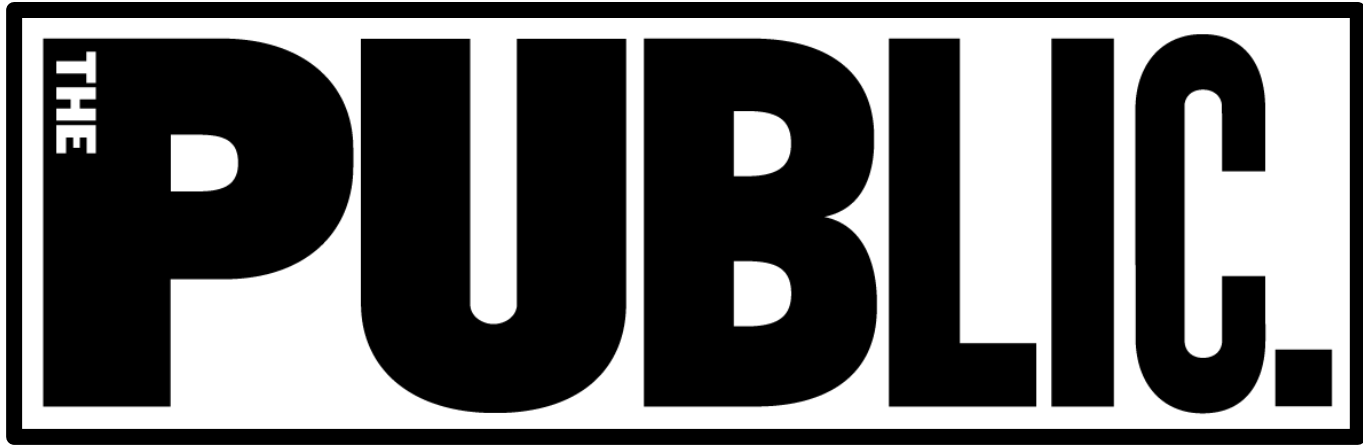
If you borrowed noise canceling headphones, please return them to an usher before you leave.

You may spend some time in the lobby or mezzanine before you leave.



If you are waiting for Access a Ride you may wait in the building until they arrive.

We hope that you have a good experience and will join us for another performance in the future!



Learn more and explore what's coming up: <https://publictheater.org/>