

The New Depot Players Actors' Etiquette

Drawn from Actors' Equity

There is a code of conduct by which all actors must abide. Most of these you know—they're just common sense. So, when you are cast, follow these simple rules:

Drug and Alcohol Policy

The New Depot Players is a drug free zone. Please refrain from celebratory drinks until after the Curtain Call. Sharp actors give great performances.

Punctuality

There are no excuses for lateness to a rehearsal or performance. There are moments when a real crisis may disrupt you from your appointed arrival time, so plan for those moments by arriving well before the designated time. If lateness is truly unavoidable, **you must call your stage manager** (funny, they're never late) and let him or her know your expected arrival time.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals provide an opportunity to explore your character and work on good technique. Always bring your script and a pencil. Get your lines and blocking down asap.

Cell Phones

Turn them off or to vibrate when entering a rehearsal or performance space.

Clean up after yourself

Drinks and snacks are fine, but should be taken with you or thrown in the trash before you leave. No one should have to clean up after you!

Notes

Getting Them: Always be gracious, even if you disagree. Say, "Thank you," after the director gives you the note, or "May we speak about this later?" if you don't understand or disagree. Find outside time for you and the director to solve issues that affect you or your character only.

Giving Them: **NEVER**, (did you read that?) never give another actor notes and never allow yourself to receive notes from another actor. Backstage directing is a real no, no! A response could be, "Thanks for your help, but I think it's best we do this kind of thing through the stage manager or director." There is no room for flexibility here.

Costume Fittings

Costume fittings are tricky. Let the designer know your concerns but avoid doing his or her job. Also, always hang up your costumes after each rehearsal/performance

Gossip

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You know it's wrong. Don't engage

Quiet!

Keep the noise down when you are backstage. Voices and laughter carry.

Tech Rehearsals

Tech Rehearsals are the only times the designers get to fine tune their work with you there. So, pay attention. Don't disrupt their rehearsal and stay close to the stage because they're always going to go back a few scenes when they resume.

Backstage Drama

Just because we play dramatic characters onstage does not mean we must portray them off stage. Don't be a stereotypical diva or demanding actor. If love should bloom while in a show, great! Keep it outside! If you have a personal struggle, sorry, but keep it outside. You were cast for your performance abilities so perform.

Half-Hour

This is a misnomer. The stage manager may set any reasonable arrival time for any actor in any show. At NDP, it is usually a minimum of one hour before curtain.

Props

There are two major rules here—never touch a prop that is not yours and always check your props before each show.

Ad Libs and Changes to the Script

As the performance wears on, you may feel that you understand the character better than the playwright. You don't, so quit making up lines.

Opening Night

Congratulations! Have fun at the party but remember, you have a show tomorrow night.

Marking a Performance

The lone audience member today paid the same ticket price as the full house that loved your performance last night. You have a responsibility to all involved to perform the show as rehearsed and to do your best.

Maintaining a Performance

You may have done it 100 times, but for your character, it is the first time. Stay fresh.

Respect

At NDP, we value respecting all members of the cast, crew, and staff. Life is much better that way.