

Excerpt from...
“INSTRUCTIONS TO THE AUDIENCE”
A Monologue by Bruce Kane

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WARNING No one shall make any changes to this play for the purpose of production. Publication of these plays does not imply its availability for production.

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BEFORE THE MAIN PRODUCTION OF THE EVENING BEGINS: THE STAGE MANAGER - rather tightly wound and very annoyed at having to make this announcement for the umpteenth time slowly, and almost painfully, walks to center stage, carrying a clip board that he/she refers to from time to time. He/she stares out at the audience with disdain for a moment or two then begins...

STAGE MANAGER: Okay... Folks... Here it is. The announcement. Before we begin tonight's performance, management requests that you turn off all cell phones. *(looks out over the audience for a few moments, waiting...)* There is nothing that annoys the actors more than having their big moment interrupted by a phone going off to the tune of "Oops, I Did It Again". Unless it's candy wrappers. If you have to suck on something during the performance, please unwrap it now. *(dripping with sarcasm)* God knows, we don't want to annoy the actors.

As for refreshments. Drinking and eating are limited to the lobby. If you absolutely need a caffeine boost, there's a complete selection of coffees available between acts. And, when the attendant returns your change in pennies, don't think of yourself as being ripped off. Consider it your contribution to maintaining a vibrant arts community.

Which brings us, finally, to the use of restrooms. That's what intermissions are for. If you feel the urge, just cross your legs and tough it out.

(monologue continues...)

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THE END