



ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

STUDENT MATINEE SERIES

**THEATRE GUIDELINES,
FAQ'S & TIPS**

ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

Student Matinees *Theatre Guidelines, FAQ's & Tips*

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ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS YOUTH ENGAGEMENT MISSION

Our Youth Engagement programs aim to deepen the theatre experience for young audiences and emerging artists through our plays, varied practical learning opportunities, and professional mentorship. These programs foster community, engage the inquisitive mind, and bring young audiences and artists together in an exchange around the work.

We believe that early exposure to theatre is essential to learning and development, and positively impacts the creativity and overall performance of the young people in our community. It is this belief that fuels our dedication to making ATP and the contemporary live theatre we create accessible to ALL- no matter their economic status, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religious belief, gender, disability, or orientation. The plays on our stage include a wide range of stories and perspectives, reflecting our community in all its diversity and are in sync with what it means to be alive right now.

Driven by an attitude of curiosity in all that we do, we encourage a sense of discovery in the young people who engage with us. We delight in seeing young minds and hearts opened through the life-changing experience of theatre.

YOUth belong here at ATP!

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ALL OF THE
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS AT
ATP VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

[HTTPS://ALBERTATHEATREPROJECTS.COM/STUDENTS-EDUCATORS/](https://albertatheatreprojects.com/students-educators/)

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ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

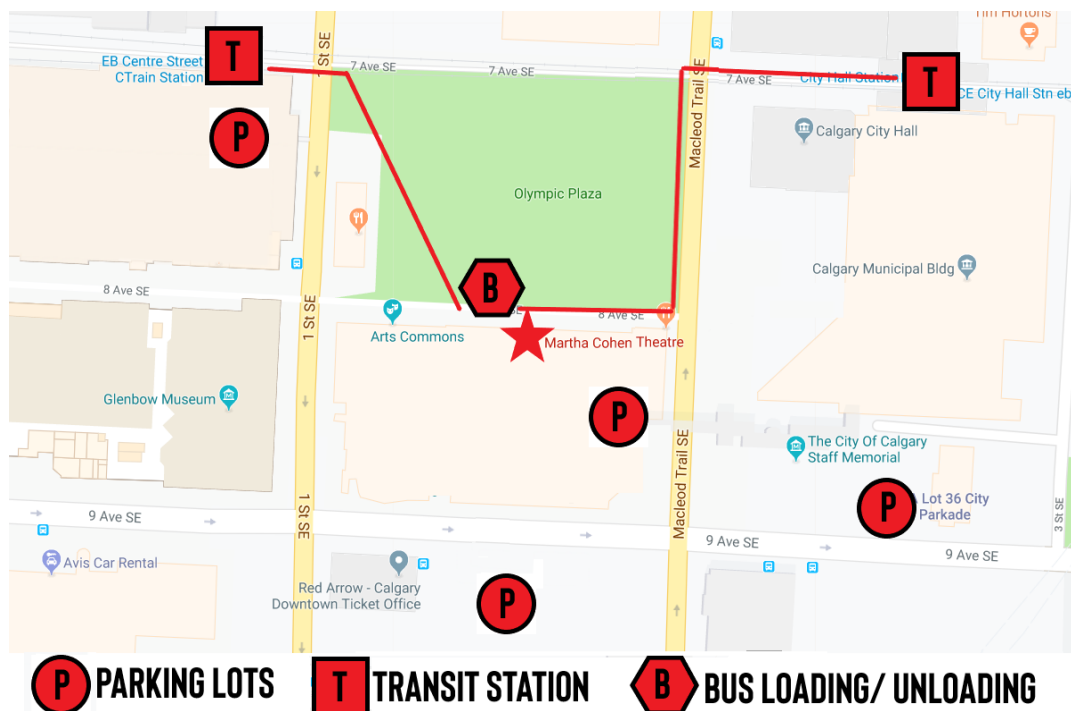
CONTACT:
VICKI TRASK

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & ARTIST LIAISON

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FINDING THE THEATRE

Entrance to the **Martha Cohen Theatre Lobby** is on the south side of 8th Avenue between 1 St SE and Macleod Trail North.



PARKING

There are many parking options close to the Martha Cohen Theatre & Alberta Theatre Projects offices.

Parking areas can become quite congested, so we advise guests to plan to arrive at least 30 minutes before their show time.

BUSING

Busses are encouraged to park on 8th Ave between 1st Street and Macleod Trail on the day of the performance. This street will be used for unloading and loading busses.

CALGARY TRANSIT

Nearest C-Train Stops: 1 block walk to the theatre

- Centre Street Station (Eastbound)
- City Hall Station (Westbound)

For more information on Calgary Transit including routes, detours and stop closures, please visit [Calgary Transit](https://www.calgarytransit.com).

WHAT TO EXPECT

2 weeks before the show:

- Final payments for the performance will become due. You will receive an email reminding you of any outstanding balance.
- Please inform ATP of any students with accessibility needs so we can make sure to have accessible seating arranged.

The day of the performance:

- The lobby will open at 10:30am. You are welcome to arrive early to eat your lunch in the lobby prior to the show.
- You will meet Vicki at your bus when you arrive. She will provide you with seating assignments.
- The ATP team will direct you to your meeting point in the lobby.
- Once it is time to enter the theatre, ATP staff will come inform you and then lead your school into the theatre to your assigned seating.
- Seating is arranged to ensure that schools are grouped together to the best of our ability. For larger groups it may be necessary for schools to be split into separate levels of the theatre.
- The show will start promptly at 11:30am. If you are planning to eat lunch in the lobby before the show please plan for ample time to finish your lunches before we begin seating at 11:15am
- Following the performance students will remain seated, and we will invite the performers back onto the stage for a 15min Q&A.
- After the talkback you will be dismissed to your busses. If your schedule changes at any time and you need to leave earlier or later than anticipated, please inform Vicki.

The day after the performance:

- We will send a survey to request feedback about your experience at ATP. The results of this short survey are essential to ensuring the continued growth and success of our Student Programing. The results also help is in securing funding for the programs, helping to keep student tickets affordable.

FREE STUDENT PROGRAMS

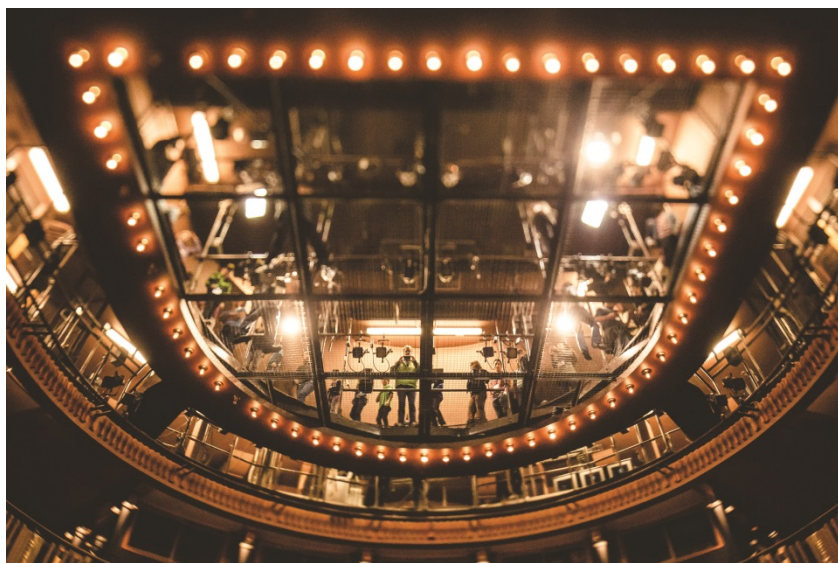
To enhance the experience of your students you may also wish to add on one of our free student programs:

Conversations with artists:

This program is currently on hold for safety reasons

Capture your students' imaginations through an in-classroom conversation with an ATP Season Artist about the artistry and skills that go into making live theatre.*

**Visits are based on the availability of artists involved in our productions and are subject to change due to illness or show requirements.*



Backstage Tours:

Discover backstage secrets with an educational and interactive, behind-the-scenes tour of the Martha Cohen Theatre. Learn how math, science, language, technology and art are brought together to create new works of theatre in our scenic carpentry shop, costume shop, fly gallery, lighting grid and on stage.*

**Tours are open to all ages and abilities.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) What time does the performance start? How long is the show?

All performances begin at **11:30am**. All performances include a 15min Q&A with artists on stage, directly after the curtain call.

Individual performance times vary. Please review the individual performance running times on our website to plan your bus pick-ups accordingly. For world premier performances it can be difficult for us to predict the exact running time months ahead of the production. We will keep you updated of any changes to running times in advance of your performance.

2) What time should we arrive?

You can arrive as early as **10:30am**. Your school will be given access to a section of the lobby to eat lunch, and store your belongings during the show. Please arrive to the theatre no later than **11:00am**. We will begin seating schools for the performance at 11:15am.

3) When and where are the students going to eat their lunch?

We open the Martha Cohen Theatre Lobby at 10:30am for students to eat their lunches. Please allow at least 30 minutes prior to the matinee start time so students are able to comfortably eat, and take their seats on time. **NO FOOD OR DRINK IS ALLOWED INSIDE THE THEATRE.**

If you choose to come early you can also take advantage of the Olympic Plaza Park outside of the theatre prior to the show during the warmer months.

4) Where should I tell the bus company to drop us off?

Busses can drop off at the Martha Cohen Theatre entrance, 215, 8th Ave SE (Stephen Avenue). Stephen Avenue will be accessible from 10:00am. Please direct bus drivers to take MacLeod Trail South and turn left onto Stephen Avenue. Please note, due to the high volume of busses using the street we request that all vehicles stop only for drop off and pick up.

5) Where will students leave their coats and backpacks during the performance?

When you arrive your school will be assigned a section of the lobby to gather. Students are able to leave their **coats/backpacks in the lobby** in your gathering spot. Alternately they are welcome to bring them into the theatre. However, coats should be on the back of the seats and backpacks can be under the seats. At no time should the student take food out of their backpack and eat during the performance.

6) Are the students able to leave the theatre?

We encourage students to stay in the theatre for the entirety of the performance. However, if it is necessary for a student to leave, please ask our ushers for assistance in order to exit safely. Students will have to wait in the lobby, though a monitor is available to continue watching.

If you have a student who's individual needs require them to have the flexibility to leave the theatre please inform Vicki Trask. She will ensure that the appropriate seating is set aside for your school.

THEATRE ETIQUETTE

Before attending the theatre, please take some time to go over proper theatre etiquette with your students. For some students this may be their first theatre experience so being informed of what's expected is important to ensure the best experience for all of the audience members, as well as the artists on stage.

RESPECT the actors and your fellow audience members

- When the lights go dim, it is time to be quiet and engage with the action on the stage
- Be sure to turn off cell phones
- Refrain from texting, talking, or eating during the performance
- Photography and video recordings are strictly prohibited.

RESPOND to what you see

- The actors feed off your presence and respond with their work on stage. Feel free and comfortable to respond to the performance through laughter, tears, smiles, giggles or captivated silence.
- Please do not respond by talking to your neighbour. Wait until after the performance to discuss your thoughts.

Note: Some of our productions contain mature themes and language. Please consult any audience advisories and prepare your students for what to expect to see or hear at the performance. This helps to mitigate the students from being shocked or distracted by any more mature content.

