

# AUDIENCES ARE PARTICIPANTS



Shakespeare in the Schools 2017 production of *Twelfth Night* brings the play into the audience

## **T**HEATRE IS UNIQUE IN THAT EVERYONE IS EXPERIENCING THE MOMENTS IN THE PLAY AT THE SAME TIME!

Because of that, a live theatre production needs an audience AND actors responding and living the play together. The story is being told by ALL of us in the same space.

Actors know when the audience is interested and audiences spur them on to more honesty and action. The actors can hear, see and sense the audience.

For the MSIS production of *Julius Caesar*, audience participation is critical. The audience acts as citizens of Rome. The citizens of Rome play an important part in determining the course of action for the play. Listen carefully, be alert and respond to what is happening when called upon!

As always, please turn off all cell phones, beepers, school bells if possible and open any candy before a show. These things disturb the people around you as well as the actors.

[Theatrical performance] is essentially a sociable, communal affair. This is important. To resist this is, I think, to ruin one of the very important parts of the theatrical experience. Let the play and let the fact that temporarily you are not your private self, but a member of a closely fused group, make it easy for the performance to 'take you out of yourself.' This, I suggest, is the object of going to a play... to be taken out of yourself, out of your ordinary life, away from the ordinary world of everyday.

- Tyrone Guthrie, 1962