

[www.practicetracks.co.uk](http://www.practicetracks.co.uk)

## Invocation and Invitation to the Audience

Reference number PT1054

[1st ACTOR]

Gods of the theatre, smile on us

[2nd ACTOR]

You who sit up there stern in judgment  
Smile on us

[1st ACTOR]

You who look down on actors...

[1st/2nd ACTOR]

And who doesn't?

Bless this yearly festival and smile on us

[1st ACTOR]

We offer you song and dance

[2nd ACTOR]

We offer you rites and revels

[1st/2nd ACTOR]

We offer you grace and beauty  
Smile on us for this while

[1st ACTOR]

Gods of the theatre, smile on us

[2nd ACTOR]

You who sit up there stern in judgment  
Smile on us

[1st ACTOR]

We offer you song and dance

[2nd ACTOR]  
We offer you rites and revels

[1ST ACTOR]  
We offer you gods and heroes

[2nd ACTOR]  
We offer you jokes and insults

[1st ACTOR]  
We offer you paeans and pageants  
Bacchanals and social comment  
Bless our play and smile

[2nd ACTOR]  
We offer you  
Bacchanals and social comment  
Bless our play and smile

[1st ACTOR]  
Yes, but first...  
Some dos and don'ts  
Mostly don'ts:  
Please don't cough  
It tends to throw the actors off  
Have some respect for Aristophanes  
And please, don't cough

Don't say, "What?"  
To every line you think you haven't got  
And if you're in a snit  
Because you've missed the plot  
(Of which I must admit  
There's not an awful lot)  
Still, don't  
Say--

[2nd ACTOR]  
What?

[1st ACTOR]  
If you see flaws, please  
Don't drop your jaws, please  
No loud guffaws, please

When actors enter late

[2nd ACTOR]

When there's a pause, please  
Lots of applause, please  
And we'd appreciate  
You turning off your cell phones while we wait...

[Music stops. A cell phone rings.]

[1st ACTOR]

Unbelievable

[2nd ACTOR]

Unbelievable

[1st ACTOR]

I think it's you

[2nd ACTOR]

[Answering.]

Hello? This really isn't a good time. I said, this really isn't-- can you  
hear me now? Can you hear me now?

[Music resumes.]

[1st ACTOR]

Don't go "Oh!"

Each time you see an actor that you know  
And if you have to use the lounge below  
Don't wait until we're halfway through the show  
Especially if you're sitting in the middle of a row

[2nd ACTOR:]

No smokes, no chow

[1st ACTOR]

Unwrap the candy wrappers now

When we are waxing humorous

Please don't wane

The jokes are obscure, but numerous

We'll explain

[2nd ACTOR:]  
When we are waxing serious  
Try not to laugh

[1st ACTOR]  
It starts when we get imperious  
And if you're in doubt, don't query us  
We'll signal you when we're serious

[1st/2nd ACTOR]  
It's in the second half

[2nd ACTOR]  
Do not intrude, please  
When someone's nude, please  
She's there for mood, please  
And mustn't be embraced

[1st ACTOR]  
If we are crude, please  
Don't come unglued, please  
Let's not be too strait-laced  
The author's reputation wasn't based  
On taste

So please, don't fart  
There's very little air and this is art  
And if you feel offended  
Don't lose heart

[2nd ACTOR]  
That's what the man intended  
He was smart

[1st/2nd ACTOR]  
When everything's up-ended  
We can all depart  
And now...  
But first--

We start