

DRESSING AND MAKEUP ROOM POLICIES: BE / DO UNTO OTHERS

Theatre is a communal art, so if you're involved in a production, you are expected to respect the space/privacy of others in a professional manner backstage. The backstage area is for cast and crew only—friends, spouses, children are allowed the briefest of visits in the hallway, but should not be hanging out in the backstage areas. Family and friends should wait in the lobbies of the theatre/dance spaces following productions, and you should meet them there, and never encourage them to come backstage.

Be courteous and polite to all others sharing these common rooms. Respect the privacy and the private possessions of your colleagues. Understand that different artists prepare in different ways. If your favorite warmup technique involves playing heavy metal, you should probably use headphones, as your neighbor's technique may involve quiet concentration.

Personal hygiene becomes a matter of major concern in dressing and makeup rooms. The dressing rooms in the Stephens Center all feature showers—often a good idea even before a performance. Some body odor is inevitable during the performance process—but make sure your body and clothes are as clean as possible in advance of the show.

The costume shop generally invests hundreds (if not thousands) of paid and volunteer hours on a mainstage production. Leaving your costume in a sweaty heap on the floor of your dressing room is not only unwise (you'll have to wear it again), but also an affront to the professionalism and care of the entire costume staff. Likewise, wherever you make up, be sure to put your materials away—no one likes sharing a counter full of used tissues, sponges, etc.

If you are an actor in a production, make sure you check all costume and hand props before the show. You are responsible for returning these items to their proper tables or cabinets, unless you have made other arrangements with the properties crew. If you are a crew member, be highly respectful of the actors' preparation and concentration.