



Venue information guide



Photo by Jerry Grajewski

This book gives information about what to expect when seeing a play at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre Mainstage.

Sometimes the theatre is called “Royal MTC” or “MTC.”

The Royal MTC Mainstage, also called the John Hirsch Mainstage, is located at 174 Market Avenue.

This is the front of Royal MTC, viewed from Market Ave.



Photos by Jerry Grajewski

Front
Entrance



Around the corner is Rorie Street. When you come to a show, you can use this entrance if you already have your ticket. It is locked during the day.



Getting Here

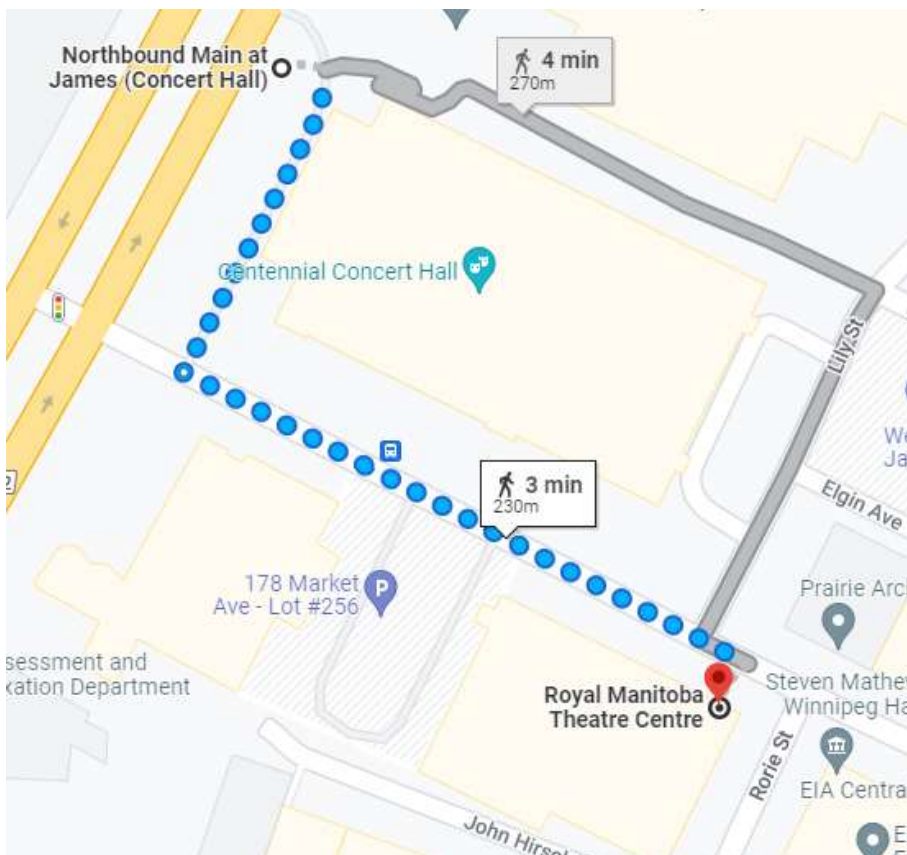
You can get to Royal MTC by taking a bicycle, bus, taxi/rideshare, or personal vehicle.

Nearby bike racks are located along Market Avenue, across the street from Royal MTC.

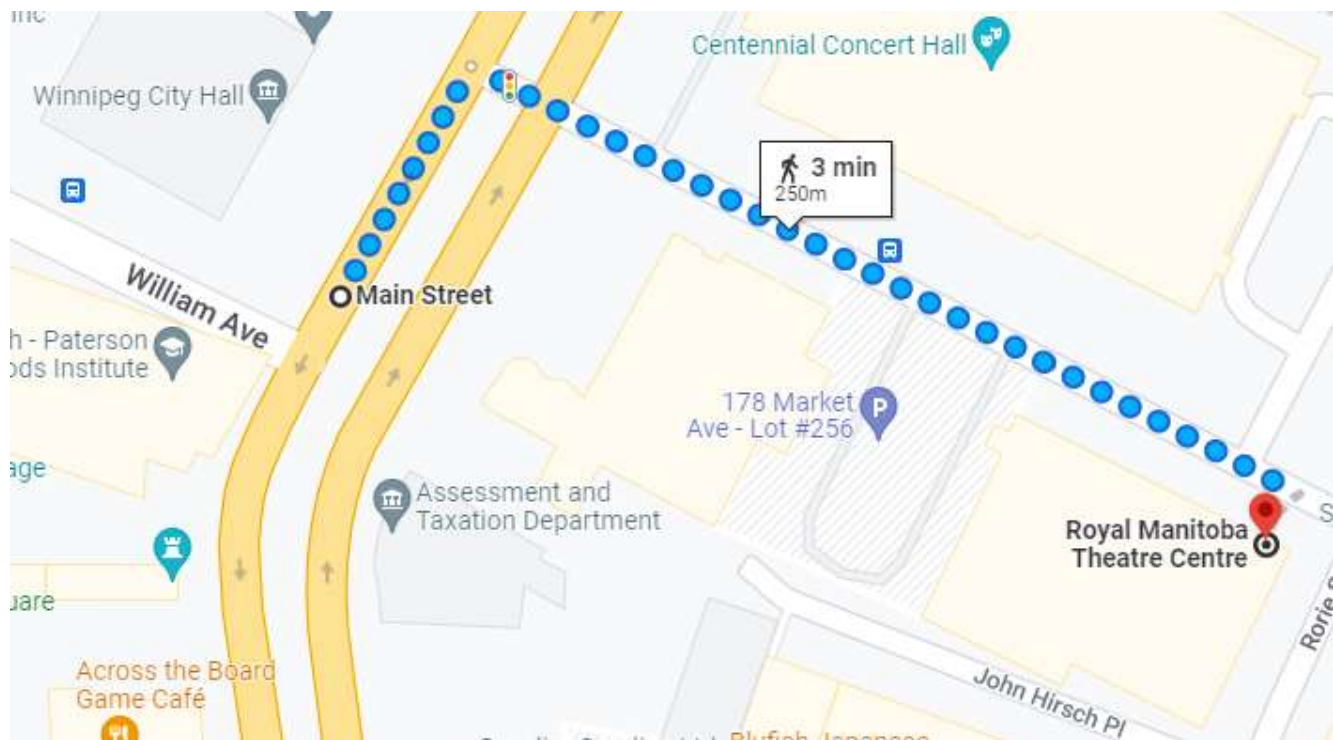


Several bus routes stop near MTC.

If you are coming from the south, get off the bus at stop number **10629 – Main at James: Concert Hall**. Bus routes FX2 and FX3 stop in front of the Concert Hall on Main Street. From here, cross Market Ave and walk a short distance to MTC.



If coming from the north, get off the bus at stop number **10635 – Southbound Main at William: City Hall**. Bus routes FX2, FX3, F8, D16, and 43 stop here. Cross Main Street at the crosswalk to get to MTC.



You can also take the 43, F8, or D16 from the south and get off at Northbound King at William (City Hall), stop 10657.

Use [Navigo](#) to plan your transit trip to MTC with the destination address **174 Market Avenue**.

You can be dropped off or picked up by taxi or other car along Market Avenue.



You also drive in your personal vehicle. Parking can be difficult to find, so allow extra time for this.

This map shows some of the places to park. The black filled rectangles are parking garages. The white rectangles are surface parking lots. These cost money to park in. The blue lines are spots for accessible street parking. The pink lines are also street parking. These spots cost money on weekdays and Saturdays, but are free in the evenings and on Sundays. More details are available at <https://royalmtc.ca/Your-Visit/Parking-Map.aspx> There is also an interactive tool at <https://en.parkopedia.ca/parking/winnipeg/> that can help you find parking.



Before The Play Starts

When you arrive, enter through Rorie Street or the front doors. You can arrive up to 1 hour before the play begins. There are no stairs to get through these doors. If you need to buy or pick up your tickets, come through the front doors.



The Box Office is where to buy tickets if you have not done that already, or where to pick up tickets you bought, if that was the option you chose.

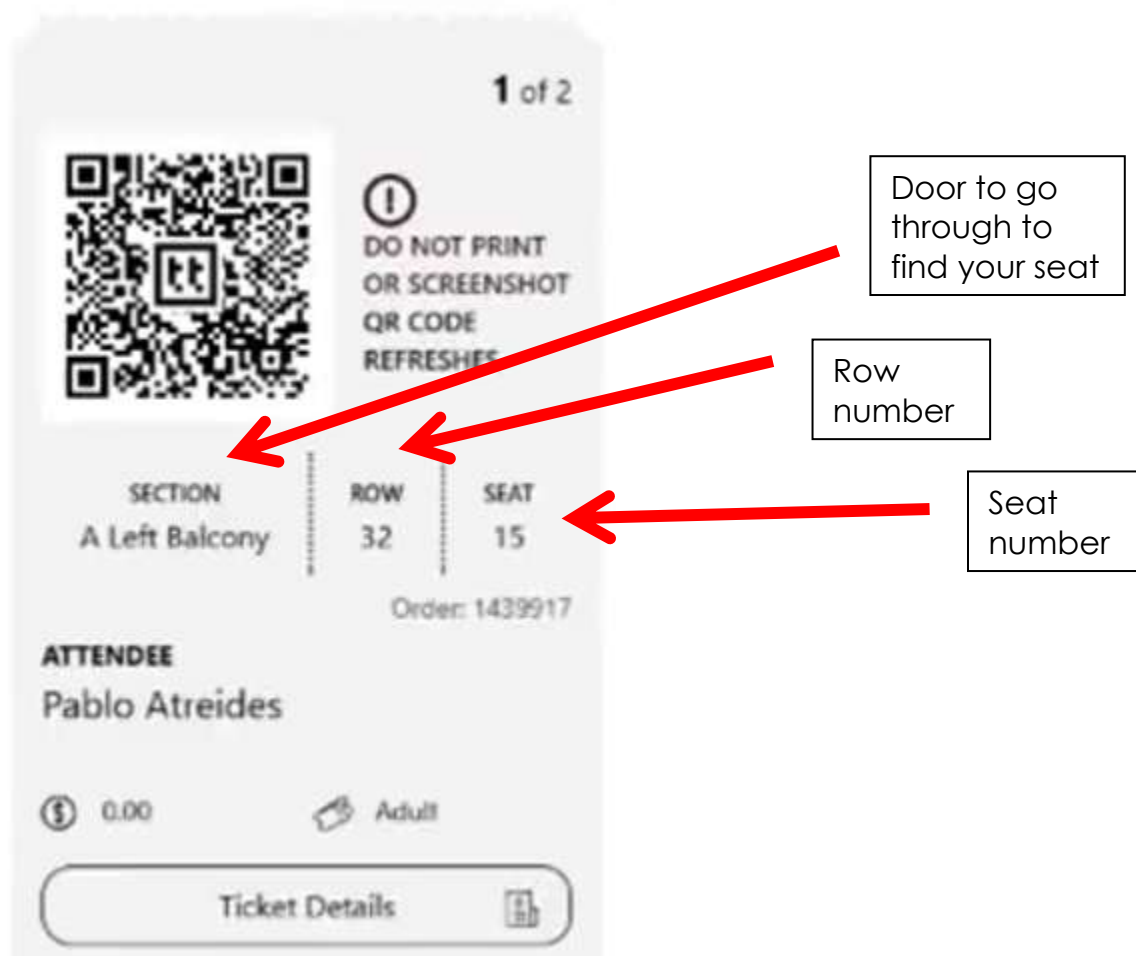
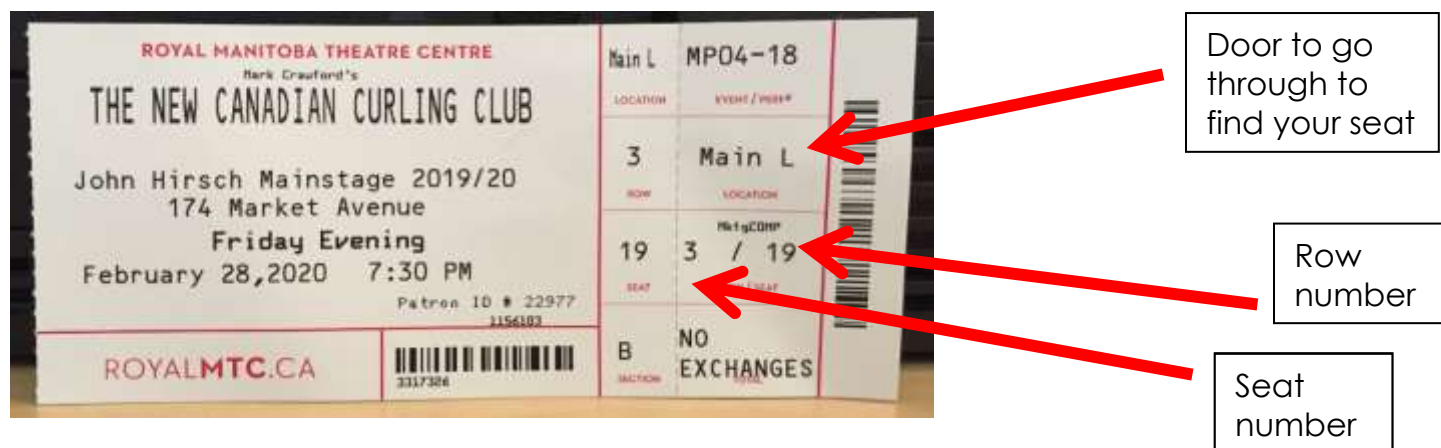


The Box Office is on the left when you enter the front doors. You may have to stand in line to get a ticket. You can pay for the ticket with cash, debit, or credit.

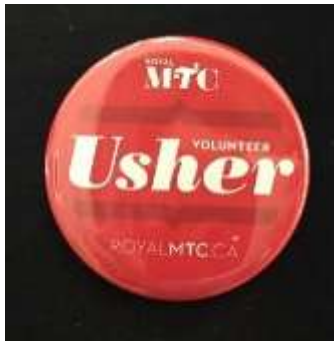
If your ticket was mailed or sent to your digital wallet, you do not need to stop at the box office!

If you chose to get your ticket in your digital wallet, here is information about how to access it: <https://royalmtc.ca/Your-Visit/Digital-Tickets.aspx>

A ticket to the play looks like this, with information about where to sit.



There are many people at the theatre that can answer questions or help, called volunteers. Volunteers will be wearing all black or a white shirt and black pants, and badges and name tags that look like these:



Show your ticket to the volunteer at the door, and they will scan it with a machine, which makes a noise like a laser.



Depending on when you arrive, there may be a lot of people in the building, or just a few. If you need help in the crowd, you can ask a volunteer.

The large space for waiting is called the **lobby**. Here you can sit on benches or chairs, walk around, or stand. You can use the washroom, or buy a snack or a drink.

There might be music playing, or people talking. Sometimes sound can echo through the space because of the concrete walls. The lights are not very bright.

This is what the lobby looks like when there are no people in it. Usually, it is decorated differently for each show.



One of the walls in the lobby has a waterfall flowing down it. You might hear the water make a splashing or flowing sound, or the pump make a humming sound. You are welcome to sit on the bench in front of the waterfall.



Across from the waterfall, there is a bar where you can buy a drink, with alcohol or without, and candy, ice cream, or small snacks.



Around the corner at this bar, to the left of the main doors, you can buy coffee, hot chocolate, tea, or candy.



You can take a drink into the theatre during the performance, but can only eat food in the lobby.

If you want to, you can leave your coat at one of the coat racks. To get to these, turn right when you come in the entrance. Coat racks are next to the coffee bar.



There are three bathrooms on the main floor. They are on the right side of the lobby, the same side as the coat racks. One is for women. One is for men. One is gender inclusive and can be used by anybody.



Here are what the doorways of these bathrooms look like:



These symbols tell you which bathroom is which:



Women's



Men's

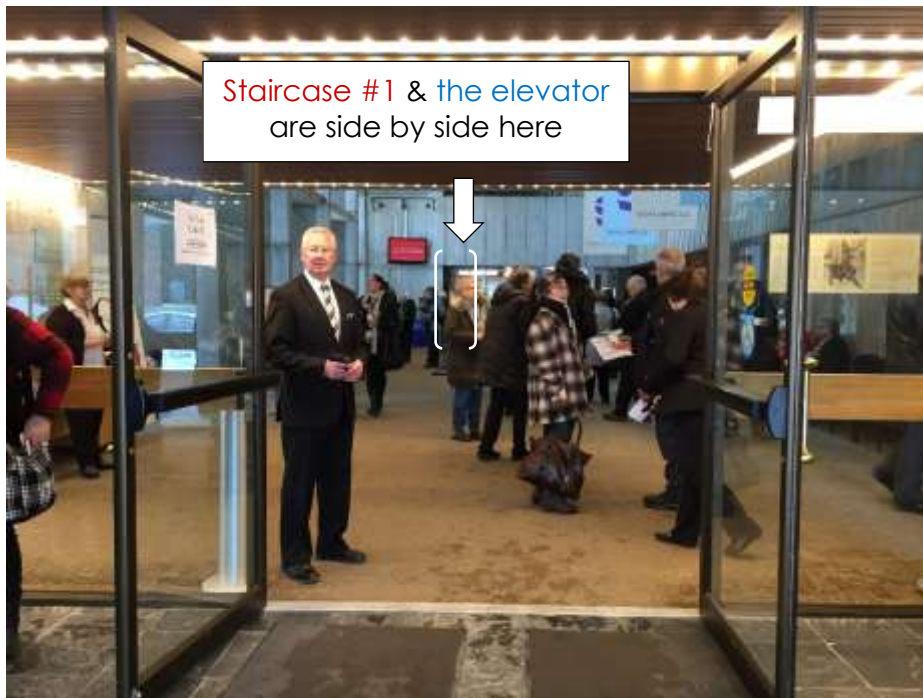


All the bathrooms on the main floor are accessible. They each have one larger stall and automatic sinks. A volunteer can also give you directions to the bathroom.

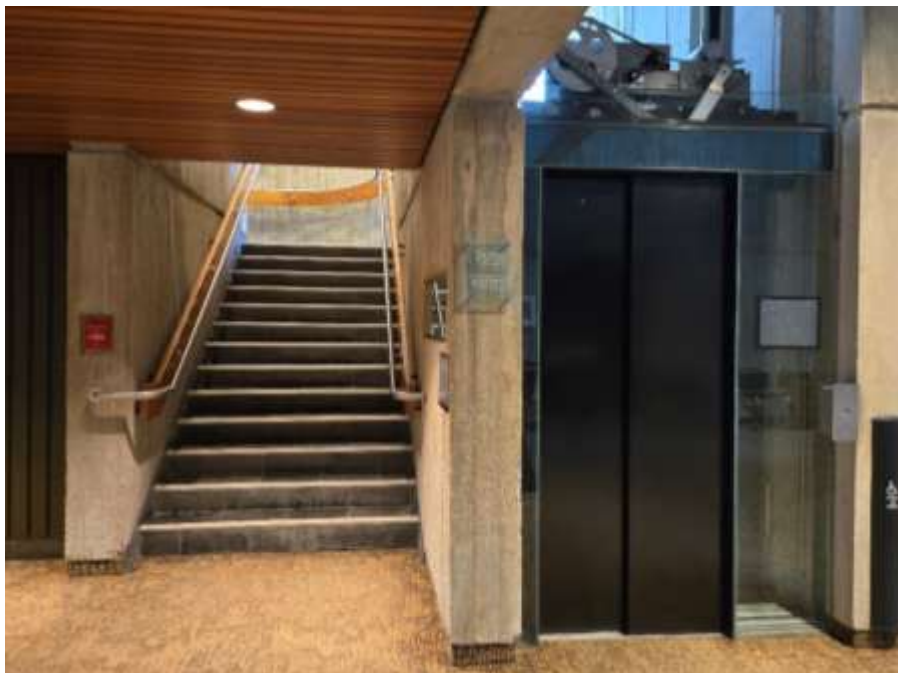
The theatre building has two floors. If your seats are in the balcony, go up to the second floor. If your seats are on the main floor, you do not need to go up to the second floor.

There are **two sets of stairs** and **one elevator** to go to the second floor.

Staircase 1 and the elevator are together, across the lobby from the main entrance.



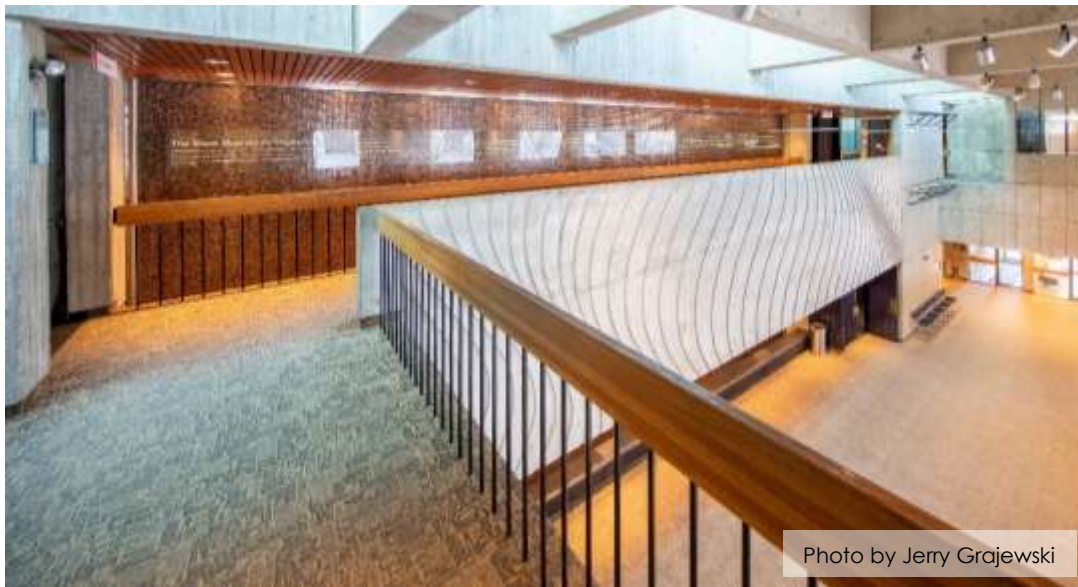
This is what staircase #1 and the elevator look like:



Staircase #2 is beside the main entrance.
This is what it looks like from different angles:



This is what the second floor looks like coming from the elevator or staircase #1:



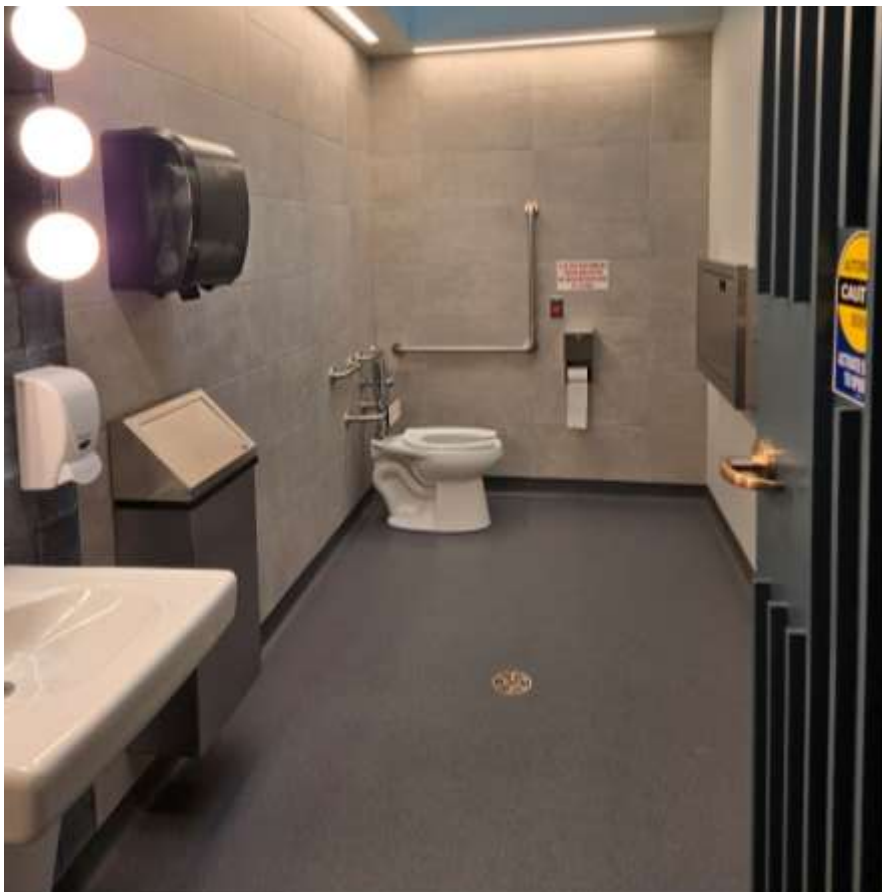
This is what the second floor looks like coming from staircase #2:



There are three bathrooms on the second floor. They are near the front stairway. One is for men and one for women. These bathrooms do not have accessible stalls. The sinks have automatic faucets.



The other bathroom is an accessible, gender-neutral washroom that anyone can use. It has lots of room for a mobility device, with a power-operated door and sink with automatic faucet.

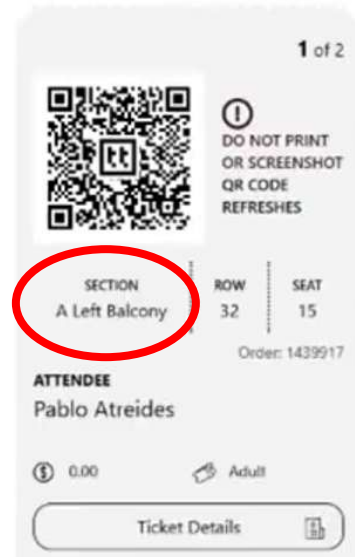


A volunteer can give you directions to the bathrooms if you need them.

Thirty (30) minutes before the play begins, the doors to the auditorium open so you can leave the lobby and go into the theatre. If you would prefer to stay in the lobby a little longer, you can.

When you hear three bells and a man's voice saying "curtain time in 5 minutes" over the lobby speakers, there are 5 minutes until the show. We recommend you go to your seat at this time.

Your ticket shows which door to enter through.



Match this to the signs that hang beside each entrance. A volunteer at the entrance doors, called an **usher**, can also help you.

There are two entrance doors on the second floor, Balcony Left and Balcony Right:



There are also two entrance doors to the theatre on the main floor, Main Left and Main Right:



In The Theatre

When you enter the theatre, the usher will give you booklet called a program, or "Ovation." It has information about the play, the actors, and the people who worked on it.

The play takes place at the front of the large room, on the stage. There are rows of chairs where people sit, called the audience.

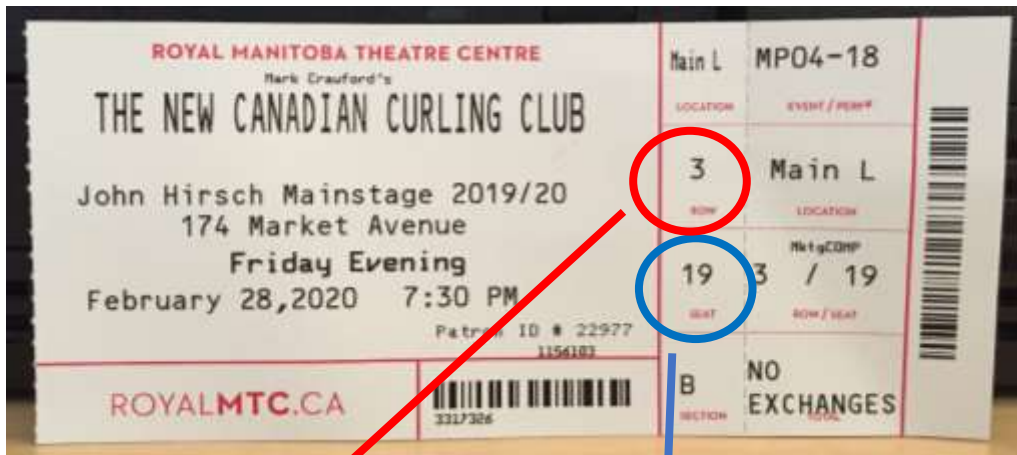
This is what the audience will look like on the main floor:



This is what the audience will look like on the balcony:



Your seat number is typed on your ticket. An usher can help you find it if you need. You will have to go down some stairs to get to most of the seats.



The row number is on the end of the row. The seat number is on each seat.

Other people will be arriving to get to their seats as well. Please keep your feet down and any bags or coats out of the aisle as others enter.

You will know that the play is going to start when the lights over the audience dim, and there is an announcement over the speakers to turn off cell phones.



General notes about plays

During the show, the lights in the audience will be off except for dim light in the aisles. The stage will be lit with lights that can change colour and get brighter or darker. The lights might turn off completely for a short time during the show. This is called a blackout. These only last a few seconds.

Please don't talk during the show; save your comments for the intermission break or after it's done! Please try not to leave during the show. If you must, you can, but when you come back you might have to sit in a different seat until there is a break so that you don't disturb the people around you.

During the play, a group of actors perform a story. It is their job to make everything that happens seem very real, but they are pretending. This means that there might sometimes be yelling between the actors. In some shows they might curse or swear. Actors might also pretend to drink alcohol or use drugs like marijuana in some shows. These are fake.

In some shows actors might fight with their bodies or weapons. This violence is also all staged by a fight director whose job it is to make sure that things look real but that nobody is really getting hurt. Actors who kiss or perform intimate moments also have the help of an intimacy director who makes sure that everything is staged carefully to keep everyone safe.

If there is certain language or content that you don't want to be surprised by, you can go to the website <https://royalmtc.ca/Your-Visit/Content-Guide.aspx> before you get your ticket and read the content warnings for the show you are hoping to see.

You might hear music from an orchestra, or noises from speakers in the theatre. There are warnings on the website about noises like gunshots if you want to be prepared. If the noises are too loud, you can cover my ears or bring headphones from home to wear.

Most plays, but not all of them, have an intermission about halfway through. This is a 20-minute break in the middle of the show. You can find out if the performance will have an intermission before you come by looking at the MTC website, calling the box office, or asking once you get to the theatre.

At the end of the play, the actors will bow and people will show they appreciate the performance by clapping their hands. People who really love the play might stand up.

When they are finished clapping, the lights will come back on and everyone will leave the theatre. The aisles might be crowded as everyone exits.

If you want to learn more about the actors or the story, you can look at the Ovation program. If you want more details about the world of the play, you can look at the Enrichment Guide online here: <https://royalmtc.ca/Education-Outreach/Resources/Study-Guides.aspx>

If you have questions about accessibility for a show, I can contact Ksenia Broda-Milian, Royal MTC's Education and Enrichment Manager, by email at kbrodamilian@royalmtc.ca or by phoning 204 956 1340 extension 221.