

An excerpt from....

“INSTRUCTIONS TO THE AUDIENCE”
A Monologue by Bruce Kane
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WARNING No one shall make any changes to this play for the purpose of production. Publication of these plays does not imply its availability for production.

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BEFORE THE MAIN PRODUCTION OF THE EVENING BEGINS: THE STAGE MANAGER - rather tightly wound and very annoyed at having to make this announcement for the umpteenth time slowly, and almost painfully, walks to center stage, carrying a clip board that he/she refers to from time to time. He/she stares out at the audience with disdain for a moment or two then begins...

STAGE MANAGER: Okay... Folks... Here it is. The announcement. Before we begin tonight's performance, management requests, that as a courtesy to your fellow theatre goers, you turn off all cell phones. *(looks out over the audience for a few moments, waiting...)* Now!!!... There is nothing that annoys the actors more than having their big moment interrupted by some idiot's cell phone going off to the tune of "Oops, I Did It Again". *(dripping with sarcasm)* And, God knows, we don't want to annoy the actors.

Now, if you're one of those people who has a problem with authority that prevents you from following these instructions and your cell phone does go off... don't answer it. Okay? The guy sitting next to you doesn't need to hear you tell the baby sitter that you can't talk because you're watching a play. *(anger rising again)* We know you're watching a play. We're all watching a play. Okay... Candy wrappers. If you have to suck on something during the performance, please unwrap it now so those around you don't have to listen to you mumble obscenities while wrestling with an uncooperative foil wrapper in the dark. Oh yeah, if you insist on consuming such candy

during the performance please do so quietly. While loud sucking noises have their place, the theatre isn't one of them, unless it's coming from the stage where it's part of the production and not, of course, (*pointedly*) the result of bad acting.

(The monologue continues...)

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