Archduke
Educator Resources

Why are you excited to bring your students to the theatre?
We know that each educator has her or his specific reasons for bringing students to the theatre. In Center Theatre Group's Student Matinee program, not only are theatre teachers welcomed to bring their students, but educators from any and all disciplines are encouraged to participate. We are eager to introduce the world of theatre to as many young people in the Greater Los Angeles area as possible!

Why are you excited for your students to see Archduke?

Here’s why we are excited about students coming to see a show at our theatres…
At Center Theatre Group, it thrills us to bring students to our productions. Whether they are seasoned theatre-goers, or first-time attendees, we want our student audience members to have culturally rich and personally fulfilling experiences when they come to see a play on one of our stages. We want them to feel smart, ready and welcomed when they arrive at the theatre.

Getting the most out of your visit…

In order for students to get the most out of Archduke please explore with your class the educational materials provided by Center Theatre Group. For this production, students will receive a Discovery Guide which welcomes them to the world of the play with thought-provoking questions that connect the material back to their own lives. Information about Center Theatre Group and theatre in general is also provided. Each educator will receive detailed instructions of the activities covered at the Archduke Educator Conference. We encourage you to dive into the play using these activities.

Use the student materials to go over the Where, Who, What and Why of going to the theatre. Take time to discuss the upcoming performance. Have your students seen live theatre before? If they have, what were their experiences like?
Emphasize the impact that each audience member has on the show. Let them know it is
great and necessary to react and enjoy. However, in addition, remind your students
that, since the actors can see and hear them, they should respond to the story unfolding
onstage and not try to get a laugh or distract a classmate. Talk about the responsibility
each audience member has to help shape that performance and how that makes every
piece of theatre a one-of-a kind event!

Also, please go over the section for students on the “Performance Day Logistics”
handout. That way they know not to bring a big bag or cell phone with them, and that
there is no food in the theatre. If they are aware of the rules, they won’t be surprised
when they arrive at the theatre.

Teaching Artist Visit
We suggest having a Center Theatre Group teaching artist come to your school site for
a pre-show visit. Having a classroom visitor is a novel experience for students. Diving
into the world of the play with one of our teaching artists furthers the intrigue and
enthusiasm your students have for the upcoming event. Our teaching artists can also
conduct a post-show session to explore your students’ experiences of Archduke as well
as to dig deeper into the themes of the play.

Students as audience members
The above approach makes students feel confident about visiting the theatre. Before
arriving, they have been introduced to the characters, learned about the creative team
and explored the setting of the story. It’s as if they have an “in” because they are so
familiar with the world of the play. This type of engagement enhances the quality of their
attention to the performance, therefore it becomes a more enriching experience for
them.

When they are so connected to the world of the story, they feel free to react heartily with
laughter, gasps, tears and applause in all of the right places. Students who visit our
theatres are some of the most expressive audiences you will ever watch a play with!
We can’t wait to have you and your students visit the Mark Taper Forum for Center
Theatre Groups’ Archduke.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
If you would like to dive more deeply into the world of Archduke with your students, we
have provided some links and articles below.


Burns, John F., “In Sarajevo, Divisions That Drove an Assassin Have Only Begun to


Levine, Daniel S., “Franz Ferdinand’s Assassination: 5 Facts You Need to Know,” published 1:47pm EST, December 19, 2016, Heavy.com


MARK TAPER FORUM SEATING CHART
This is a seating chart of The Mark Taper Forum where Archduke will take place. Use this as a tool to familiarize your students with the layout of the Taper. The seating capacity for the Student Matinee performance is 725 seats.