



# Public Play

Is it OK to watch? Many new people and/or first timers at public play venues ask this question. We see it as a sign of respect and a desire to strictly follow the venue's rules. We also have noticed that even when they are told the answer is a clear "Yes" they, and even some people who have been to public play venues before, still feel it may be intrusive to watch certain types of scenes.

There are some scenes where the people involved are clearly playing for the watchers and want them to know that. In these scenes the Top(s) and bottom all are usually of the same mindset and it is easy to see that they want people to watch the play. Some will even make comments directed at the observers to add to their pleasure. Based on my observations, and discussions with other experienced Tops and bottoms, most everyone seems to feel comfortable watching these scenes.

It is the scenes where the Top is focused totally on the bottom, appears to be shutting out everything around them, and is generating a very intense and/or intimate scene that people seem to feel they are intruding if they watch too intently. These are the scenes where the people who are watching will look at the scene for a few moments, then look away, wait a few moments, then look back at the scene briefly, and maybe even move to another part of the dungeon. If you are in this group what you are feeling is normal! As a matter of fact most of us felt this same way when we first came out. I actually still remember the scene that made me feel that way initially. I have thought about this quite a bit, discussed it with other people, and have come to believe it is a result of our culture as we grew up teaching us not to stare at or listen to intimate interactions between other people.

So you respectfully ask if it is OK to watch but still feel you may be somehow intruding on some scenes? Try to remember that it is “Public Play” and there are no closed doors or privacy screens. This means that the players know they are being watched and actually want you to watch! If you watch these scenes respectfully (quietly and at a respectful distance), and try to focus your attention on the play, you will find that you can actually share in the scene energy and contribute to it! Generating an energy field that we can feel, and sense other people feeling and sharing as it swirls around our scene. That is the ultimate for most of us who enjoy “Public Play” so much and what makes it be so special for us!

*Sir James*