



Stage Management Handbook

Revised Fall 2025

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INTRODUCTION

One of the most important roles in any production is that of Stage Manager. The Stage Manager serves as the clearinghouse of information for a production. The stage manager is also responsible for organizing rehearsals and running performances. The requirements for a Stage Manager are confidence, strong organizational skills, strong management skills, strong people skills, understanding and compassion, a sense of humor, and the motivation to initiate tasks and follow them through to completion.

The Stage Manager, working as a team with the Director, the Producer, the Production Manager, the designers, the production staff, and actors, creates an efficient environment in which creativity can grow. The foundation of this team effort requires commitment, courtesy, cooperation and communication. These four "C's" are fundamental criteria for an effective working environment.

The guidelines established in this handbook comprise the basic framework of Stage Management policy for the Department of Theatre and Dance. They are not intended to answer every question that may arise during a production but rather to give the Stage Manager a foundation from which to build and learn.

This book is also intended to serve as a supplement for the textbook in the THA 290 Introduction to Stage Management class. It is not a substitute. While it is important to be knowledgeable on the policies and procedures for working on a show in the School of Theatre and Dance, a successful stage manager will learn how to function in a professional setting, whether Equity or non-union.

Serving as a Stage Manager (SM) or Assistant Stage Manager (ASM) on any theatrical production, but most especially a Department of Theatre and Dance will be a huge commitment both in terms of time and energy. A Stage Manager who accepts the responsibility and approaches it with a positive attitude will perform a pivotal role in the success of the production.

This handbook is divided into three sections. The first section discusses both the physical and organizational setup of the Department of Theatre and Dance, and the basic job description for a Stage Manager. The second section is devoted to identifying the duties and procedures of the Stage Manager and the role that the Stage Manager will play in each specific phase of the Production. The third section offers materials and forms that will be useful throughout the production process. The Stage Manager should feel free to use or modify these forms for her/his show. Each production will vary in its needs. Some of the tools and forms will always be needed. Others will only be required for a musical or a touring production. Consider all but only use what is necessary. As with any endeavor, if the Stage Manager looks at the project in its entirety, it may seem overwhelming. By approaching the project in small units, and maintaining a sense of humor and perspective, the Stage Manager should complete the task successfully.

Here's to a Good Show! Break a leg!

SECTION 1: THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse endeavors to provide students with the tools necessary to function as complete artists and self-realized individuals, combining theatrical training with a strong liberal arts curriculum. A combination of classroom training and realized production work allows for a well-rounded college experience with an emphasis on the collaborative and creative process.

COMMITMENT TO ACCESS AND BELONGING

The UWL Department of Theatre and Dance is guided by the belief that art has the power to inspire curiosity, deepen empathy, and build bridges of understanding. To bring this vision to life, we are committed to cultivating a vibrant, inclusive community--one that embraces diversity, champions equity, and supports every individual in growing both as an artist and as a human being.

STATEMENT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

We are a community dedicated to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment where varied perspectives, mutual respect, and intellectual growth are not only valued but essential to student success. Discrimination and harassment stand in direct opposition to the values we uphold at our university. UWL Department of Theatre and Dance is committed to a campus free from discrimination or harassment based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, age, disability, or veteran status.

If you've experienced or witnessed discrimination or harassment--or simply need someone to talk to--we're here for you. Whatever your concern, you have access to a wide range of supportive resources, and we encourage you to reach out.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE PLEDGE:

COMMUNITY AND GENEROSITY

We commit to fostering conversations, exchanges, and experiences that empower, spark and challenge us to think and act responsibly and empathetically among our artistic community at UWL, the greater La Crosse area, and beyond.

ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

We commit to deconstructing the existing barriers of exclusion to motivate and uplift; we will foster relationships cross cultural boundaries to facilitate an inclusive and accessible artistic community at UWL, the greater La Crosse area, and beyond.

CREATIVITY AND RIGOR

We commit to looking beyond received wisdom to intentionally engage with high-quality and dynamic

works, to ask hard questions about the world, our source materials, and who we are as people through creative exploration and self-expression.

RESPECT

We commit to acknowledging and embracing the unique identities of each and every member of our community; we promise to treat each other as equals, regardless of our differences, and to choose humanity in the face of conflict.

INTEGRITY

We commit to creating a diverse community where any individual can speak freely and honestly; we aim to recognize and use our privilege to advocate for underrepresented voices at UWL, the greater La Crosse area, and beyond.

GOALS

The course work and production requirements followed to earn a bachelor's degree in Theatre and Dance at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse seek to:

1. Provide training for Theatre careers by preparing students for further specialization at the graduate level or employment within the professional field, and
2. Provide students with the transferable skills necessary to succeed in other career opportunities.

THEATRE PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

The study of theatre and dance combines the knowledge and skills required of a performer, creator, teacher, theorist, and historian. Undergraduate studies should prepare students for a variety of collaborative artistic roles.

In order to achieve these goals, the program is designed to prepare students to:

- Demonstrate competence in multiple theatrical disciplines onstage, offstage, and in the classroom.
- Create public performances in multiple styles and genres of theatre.
- Showcase improved technical writing skills in assignments and journals.
- Create a professional working atmosphere by employing strong collaborative skills in practicum work.
- Apply research and critical analysis to scripts, scholarship, productions, and additional forms of theatrical writing.
- Identify and incorporate a range of global and artistic perspectives in the creation and evaluation of theatre.

DANCE PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Apply essential concepts of alignment, balance, flexibility, strength, and endurance through physical practice in dance technique courses.
- Implement self-care and injury prevention concepts through practice in courses, rehearsals, and performances.

- Demonstrate technical progress and performance skills through projects and performances.
- Create compositions and choreographic projects to develop and strengthen each student's choreographic voice.
- Incorporate terminology and historical concepts of multiple dance genres in written work and class discussions.
- Develop collaborative skills through course work and rehearsals.

A WALKING TOUR OF THE THEATRE FACILITIES

LOWE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Center for the Arts (CFA) is the main theatre and communications building that runs along Vine St. It is the home to our main stage theatre, Toland Theatre, located on the first floor. The Center for the Arts is also where most of the theatre faculty offices and the publicity office are located.

OFFICES

The faculty offices are primarily located on the first floor of the CFA, although a few faculty members are located on the third floor. 154 CFA is the office of Krista Shulka, Department Administrator & Box Office Manager. The room is also used by the department's publicity assistant, but the computer located in that office should not be used for other purposes without prior permission or in case of an emergency. In 2013 the printer/copier in Krista's office became the main equipment for the department. Stage Managers should use this machine but should be respectful of Krista's needs & other faculty printing during the day. (In other words, make your scripts at night!)

STAGE MANAGERS' OFFICE

The stage managers' office is located in 358 CFA. The room is equipped with two computers and a network printer, along with work space, office supplies, and storage space. Any student who is a member of any SM team can work in the office on show-related projects. Access to the room requires your student ID.

REHEARSAL ROOM

Theatre and Dance has a rehearsal studio on the third floor—347 CFA. You might use this room for auditions or rehearsal. This room is also typically used for Intimacy staging rehearsals. The room has its own tables and chairs, mirrors, a storage cabinet, a keyboard, and a sound system. Access to the room requires your student ID. The room MUST be signed out in advance. Laurie, Krista, or your faculty director can help you with this.

TOLAND THEATRE

The Toland Theatre is the main proscenium theatre located in the CFA. The green room is located on the ground floor of the building. The scene shop is directly off Stage Right of the Toland stage. In the basement below are the costume shop, the dressing rooms and the make-up room as well as some storage rooms. The Tech Booth is located on the 2nd floor through the Music Wing. The SM key ring will get you into Toland, the booth, and the tool room. You will need your student ID for the light shop.

SCENE SHOP

The main entrance to the Scene Shop is through the Toland Theatre. The scene shop may also be accessed through the loading dock on 15th St at the corner of Vine (requiring your student ID) or through the Stage Right entrance by the green room. This is where most of the building and painting for the shows happen, including those in the Frederick Theatre.

COSTUME SHOP

The Costume Shop and Storage areas are located in the basement of the CFA. Dressing and Make-up Rooms for Toland Theatre productions are located in the basement hallway.

ROOM 70

Room 70 has been taken offline as a classroom and is now the department's primary meeting space and script library. In special circumstances the room can be used for show purposes (ie: a children's dressing room for *A Christmas Carol*), but not without the permission of the Production Manager or Department Chair. It should not be unlocked on a regular basis during rehearsals. Room 70 is the meeting place for nearly all production meetings.

LOCKERS

There is limited locker space. Lockers are located between the green room and Room 70. Students are able to use those lockers as they wish.

MORRIS HALL

FREDERICK THEATRE

Frederick Theatre is our smaller, thrust space. This theatre is across the street from the CFA at 100 Morris Hall. This theatre contains a small proscenium stage that is primarily used for storage, and a larger thrust stage. Dressing rooms are located in the back hallway. The booth for this space is located on the 2nd floor.

When working in the Fred, the costume crew will still do laundry and any sewing machine repairs in the Center for the Arts spaces.

PROPS STORAGE

Props and furniture are stored in one of three locations. Some furniture pieces are located in the basement of CFA across from the dressing rooms, in the room labeled "Starage." Oversized items are temporarily stored with platforms and other scenic units in the shipping containers outside of the Scene Shop. (This will update once the parking ramp is completed.) Hand props live in a large room on the basement level of Morris Hall, at the opposite end from the Frederick Theatre. It is rare that the stage management team will pull props, and you should never do so on your own. If you are missing an item that is necessary for rehearsal, you could either ask for permission to pull something or come up with a fake version to facilitate rehearsal.

WHO'S WHO IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

It is advisable to get to know all of the faculty and staff in the Department of Theatre and Dance. Frequently, Stage Managers must request assistance from the staff and faculty, even if they are not specifically working on your show. It is good business to already have made some contact with each person.

DEPARTMENT CONTACT LIST

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Greg Parmeter	Performance, Movement, Voice & Diction, Stage Combat	gparmeter@uwlax.edu 785-6694
Krista Shulka	Academic Dept. Associate Box Office Manager	kshulka@uwlax.edu 785-6701

JOB DESCRIPTION OF THE STAGE MANAGER

The University of Wisconsin - La Crosse Department of Theatre and Dance

THE STAGE MANAGER:

- Is the central communicator of all production information. It is vital that the Stage Manager communicate the changing needs of the production in a timely and efficient manner. This should be done both in a written format, through rehearsal and performance reports, and verbally.
- Is responsible for generating all relevant paperwork associated with the mounting of the production; keep such records as are necessary to advise the Director on matters of attendance, time and professionalism of the acting company and crew. This paperwork includes, but is not limited to: Contact Sheets, Rehearsal Reports, all scheduling notices, Minutes of Production Meetings and Performance Reports. This also includes technical paperwork such as Prop Lists and Sound Cue Lists as well as the Preset Lists and Shift Plots that will be needed by the crew to run the show. The computer located in the publicity office can be used by the stage manager for working on paperwork. Archival copies of the paperwork from past shows, as well as blank forms, can be found in folders. Additionally, sample and template forms can be found in the SM Forms Library on the web.
- May participate in the copying of scripts, audition sides or other support material. Please check with the Production Manager making copies.
- Shall assemble and maintain the Prompt Book, which is defined as the accurate playing text and stage business, together with such cue sheets, plots, daily records, etc., as are necessary for the actual technical and artistic operation of the production. Your goal with your Prompt Book should be to have a book so concise and clearly organized that anyone could take over for you if an emergency arose and you were unable to get to a rehearsal.
- Shall work with the Director and the heads of all other production areas during rehearsals and after opening, schedule rehearsals and outside calls in accordance with Department procedures.
- Shall assume active responsibility for the form and discipline of rehearsals and performances, and to be the executive instrument in the technical running of each performance, supervising the stage crew and calling the cues.
- Will maintain the artistic intentions of the Director after opening, to the best of their ability.

GETTING STARTED

STAGE MANAGEMENT CREDIT FOR PRODUCTIONS

Stage Managers typically receive THA 360 credit for their work on a production. Assistant Stage Managers may be enrolled in THA 360, unless they are doing a second practicum assignment that semester and are earning their credits for that project. A number of SM assignments will be made at the end of spring semester for the following year, with supplemental assignments made after the first Major/Minor meeting of the semester.

The Stage Manager for each production will schedule a weekly meeting time with the Production Manager during the rehearsal period of their show. This will provide an opportunity for the stage manager to ask questions, receive feedback, and plan for upcoming activities and deadlines. While the specific scheduling of this weekly meeting will be done at the mutual convenience of both the stage manager and supervisor, it may not be skipped.

A Stage Manager major in their final year at UWL may enroll for THA 490 Senior Capstone credit. A Stage Management capstone project should be thought of as a culminating experience—an opportunity to take on a production larger than previously completed or in a new mode, so that the student can demonstrate how they are able to apply the skills previously learned to this final project. In addition to execution of the traditional duties of the stage manager, the Capstone project includes other written analysis of the production, both before rehearsals begin and after performances conclude. (In some circumstances a stage management minor may also be able to enroll in THA 490-- but you can have a culminating experience no matter what!)

Prior to the beginning of a production, the full SM team will meet with the SM Supervisor to sign contracts. These documents outline expectations and deadlines and allow the SM and Supervisor to discuss the production, the distribution of responsibilities, and any unusual potential challenges specific to your show with the full SM team.

A sample of the SM and ASM Guidelines can be found in the appendix.

MAINTAINING PROFESSIONAL DISTANCE

In a professional theatre setting, it is fairly easy to keep personal life separate from work. However, in an academic theatre it is much more difficult to draw the line between the company and friends.

It is important to remember that no matter how liked and trusted as friends you may be, discussing private aspects of the production with anyone other than the director and SM staff is a serious breach of stage manager/director trust. Actors are naturally curious and will want to know information about the production immediately after auditions and throughout the production. It is better to not say anything than say half-truths or speculate. The theatre is notoriously filled with rumors. By establishing a professional relationship with the actors and crew, you can help everyone understand that when the lights go out at the end of rehearsal or performance, the stage manager is not going to take their work home with them. Likewise, when rehearsal or performance begins, the stage manager must put aside any personal feelings (positive or negative) and get to work.

Remember, acting in a consistently professional manner will only build confidence among the company members and production team no matter how uncomfortable it may be in the short term.

Student Perspective: If you live with other theatre students or friends, it is a good idea to have a conversation about the separation between you, their friend and you, their stage manager. Setting boundaries before a production can help create this separation from the get go.

COORDINATING THE SM TEAM

As soon as all of the SM team members of a production have been assigned, it is important for them to meet as a group. This will let you all get to know each other, and allow the Stage Manager to begin to figure out how duties will be divided.

This first meeting may occur before or after the required meeting with the SM Supervisor to sign contracts. All SM teams are required to schedule a time to meet to get an overview of your show and to take care of all paperwork related to your grade.

The Stage Manager will divide the SM team duties among the SM and ASMs, giving each member of the team one or more primary responsibilities. It is important that all team members meet those responsibilities and contact their production area regularly and share the information they learn with the rest of the team. The SM will prepare a document outlining ASM Responsibilities, so everyone is clear on their areas of focus before rehearsals begin. Although all members of the team will ultimately need full knowledge about the production elements, the “divide and conquer” approach simplifies the information collection and allows the team to share responsibility for paperwork creation & updating. A full sample of the ASM Responsibilities document can be found in the Forms Library online, but an overview of the approach is shown below.

ASM #1	ASM #2	SM
Costumes	Scenery & Props	Projections, Lights, Sound
Update CSB	Update Prop List	Schedules
Costume Plot/Shift Plot	Preset List/Shift Plot	Projections Cue Sheet
Prompting/Line Notes	Prompting/Line Notes	Prompting/Line Notes
SR	SL	Booth

TO DO LISTS

It is recommended that each member of the SM team should obtain a notebook that will only be used for taking notes concerning the show on which they are working. Ideally you will have a way to keep this notebook with your prompt book, so that the two do not become separated. You may format such a notebook in whatever method best works for you, but it should include a method for keeping track of items such as:

- Start and end times of meetings
- The names of those in attendance and discussions at gathering
- Notes from meetings to be typed and distributed
- Any questions or concerns that the acting company brings to your attention
- Any notes that the Director gives you
- Any needs or requests can be jotted down and communicated to the production area responsible for that item

At the end of each meeting or rehearsal the Stage Management Team should compare lists to make sure that all notes are addressed. It is vital that the information be communicated quickly and efficiently to the appropriate personnel. Try

to find answers to the actor's questions as quickly as possible. Be sure to tell the actor the answer to their question at the next rehearsal.

At the end of each day, check back over your previous lists to make sure there are loose ends from other days still waiting for answers. Follow up and follow through are among the hardest continuing tasks to learn as a Stage Manager.

Student Perspective: It can be really helpful to have a weekly check in with your ASM team to go over all of your notes and make sure everyone is on the same page! It is easiest to have these before or after rehearsals.

SCHEDULES

The Stage Management Team is responsible for keeping the Production running on schedule. Under an Equity contract the Stage Manager is responsible for outlining the overall schedule as well as a daily call. At UWL the Stage Managers may not be responsible for creating schedules but they are always charged with disseminating and implementing the details to the cast and production team.

The most important schedule document is the Production Calendar, created by the Production Manager at the end of each year for the next season. It outlines important show dates as well as meetings, deadlines, department activities, and outside events. When in doubt, check this document first!

The Production Calendar will identify a show's first rehearsal and tech period, but the individual Directors decide how to use the time in between. Often the SM will receive an overall outline from the Director, from which they will create and distribute detailed schedules on a weekly basis. Such schedules are typically posted on the callboards and sent out via email.

Although prompt delivery of schedule information to the cast is essential, it is recommended that stage managers distribute only a general schedule at the beginning of the rehearsal period, supplemented weekly by a detailed breakdown. Even if you receive a fully detailed schedule before day one, you do not need to send it out. This allows the director to change their mind, or to work at a different pace than anticipated, without having to contend with actors who have made themselves unavailable based on information created weeks before.

The Production Calendar also outlines specific show-related deadlines, such as the date by which preliminary prop lists are due, when the run through for lights will happen, and the add deadline for props or sound cues. The SM should stay on top of these deadlines, reminding the Director of them and personally meeting due dates requiring paperwork from the SM Team.

THE CALLBOARD

The Stage Manager keeps the cast and production team informed about the productions by sending nightly emails, making personal visits to the shops, and posting a variety of information on the theatre callboards. UWL has two callboards: a traditional corkboard located at the end of the hallway on the first floor, and an online callboard.

THEATRE HALLWAY CALLBOARD



Each Production will be assigned a Callboard space at the end of the theatre hallway. This location will become a clearinghouse for information between the Stage Management Team, the Cast, Crew, and Designers. The board must be kept neat and organized at all times.

Typically the Stage Manager will take over their call board space at the beginning of the semester or nearing the beginning of their rehearsal process. But even if you have not set up your callboard, you will still need to post callback and cast list information on this board.

Student Perspective: Decorating/pinning up the callboard can be a fun first bonding activity for the SM team!

This is IN ADDITION to the online callboard

The Callboard should contain the following information:

- Logo/Name of the production
- Cast List
- Overall Rehearsal Calendar.
- Costume Fittings
- Rehearsal Reports
- A place for general information & announcements
- Daily or Weekly Schedules- kept up to date!

It is okay (and in fact encouraged) to insert some personality into your callboard. Just be sure that the decoration doesn't get in the way of the board's functionality.

YOU SHOULD NOT POST:

Contact Sheets or other documents with personal information

Notes or reminders for a specific cast member that could be misinterpreted when read out of context by a larger audience

Information not related to the production

ONLINE CALLBOARD

Each stage manager is also responsible for keeping the relevant pages up to date on the website set up as the theatre online callboard <https://theatresm.wixsite.com/uwltheatrecllboard>

For the audition and casting period, all productions will use a common page on the general online callboard. This helps new students because they will only need to look in a single spot for information. Once a production is cast, then the stage manager will transition to posting on a show-specific site of their creation, which will be linked to the show's icon on the index page.

These sites typically include a show home page, and pages for cast, production team, weekly schedule, and calendar.

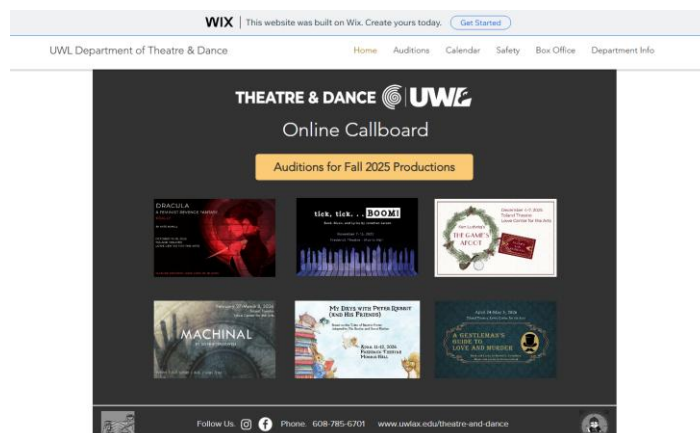
Some shows have additional pages or tabs like rehearsal video, or line changes to keep commonly used files in easy reach of the production team or cast.

Be sure to read the Wix Callboard Guidelines document posted in the forms library.

Most stage managers match their in-person and digital callboards themes. Wix makes it easy to add design elements to your website, just make sure everything is legible and you prioritize information over style.

Fall 2025 Note- There are new national standards for digital accessibility. It is unclear how these may impact our template.

Student Example: <https://goetsch7061.wixsite.com/doctor-faustus>



SECTION 2: THE PRODUCTION PHASES

THE PRE-PRODUCTION PERIOD

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

The design process will begin with a Concept Meeting, during which the Director outlines their vision for the production, emphasizes necessary technical elements, and raises questions for the production team. The designers may have images or ideas of their own to share as well.

The Stage Manager should not suggest artistic ideas for the production but rather document the conversation and facilitate the conversation as appropriate. In order to best be prepared for the concept meeting, the SM should:

- Read the play multiple times. The SM should first read the play for enjoyment and then begin a detective search for important details and technical elements identified by the text or the stage directions.
- Create a preliminary production analysis. This is a chart on which the results of your detective work are catalogued. The point of this chart is not to hand it out to your director and designers, but rather to serve as a resource for you. Should the director neglect to mention a significant aspect of the play (should it really rain in *Eurydice*? Will there be actual kids in *A Christmas Carol*? Would you like Peter to fly in *Peter Pan*?), the SM can ask a question about this element so that it can be addressed by the director and designers.
- Ultimately this production analysis will allow you to create some of your pre-production paperwork, so thoroughness early on will save you time later.

The Stage Manager's Production Analysis should include, but is not limited to, the following information:

- Costumes: Quick changes, unusual costume needs.
- Props: make your preliminary list. Get the Director's as well.
- Lighting: note blackouts, time of day in each scene, practicals, etc.
- Sound: is it a musical? Mics? Monitors? Live band or recorded? Note any sound effects.
- Combat scenes: will you need a fight choreographer?
- Special effects: blood, explosions, fire, rain, fog, etc.
- Special stage directions and actions. Determine whether the play has any unusual technical considerations that might require support personnel. Fights and dances, for example, both present special technical considerations and may require additional personnel. Talk over what you find with the Production Manager and/or the Director.

It is important to remember that while the Stage Manager is an integral and vital part of the Production Staff, they are not necessarily a contributing member of the design team, nor should you be advising designers on artistic matters. This does not mean you should never share your own thoughts. But you should tread carefully in this area, observing the design processes of each artist. It is often best to respond to a question from a member of the artistic team rather than to offer an unsolicited opinion. Some designers can be very uncomfortable with outside advice at this stage as they try to blend their own ideas with the director's vision. It is not your job to mold or shape the aesthetic of the show. It is your job to usher the artistic elements to deadlines.

AUDITIONS

One of the final phases of the Pre-Production period consists of the Audition process. At the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse auditions are held for each show. The Stage Management Team's responsibilities are to set up and facilitate the entire audition process. This may include posting signup sheets, copying sides, taking photographs of new students, and creating audition forms for all directors participating in the auditions.

Although the situation has been tweaked a few times in recent years, the general plan is to hold auditions for all fall productions during the end of the spring semester in the year prior, and auditions for all spring productions at the end of fall semester. The most recent format is to hold a combined first audition and separate callbacks. If the semester contains a musical, then the first audition may be replaced by a request for students to upload vocal audition videos combined with an in-person dance call. Be sure to check the production calendar for the days assigned to your show, and also be sure you check where those auditions will take place!

Your job at auditions is to keep everything running smoothly. Actors will come up to you with questions about the show, the department and the rehearsals; you should be ready to answer the questions as best you can while remaining professional and impartial. This may be the first time the actors will be introduced to you and the Department of Theatre and Dance, and we want their experience to be a positive one.

Every director has a different style and preference for the way auditions are arranged. Audition styles include: 1) actors are required to sign-up before auditioning, and to come to the Theatre at that time; 2) Cattle calls, where all the actors show up at the same time and are brought into the theatre first come, first serve; 3) Actor all arrive at same time, sign up for a time, leave and return at the assigned time. **(We typically use option 3)**

Actors usually will arrive up to 45 minutes early to prepare. Traditionally, auditions for UWL Department of Theatre and Dance productions begin at 6:00 p.m. If there is another show in rehearsal on your audition day, you may also have an "early session" beginning closer to 5:00 pm to minimize the impact on that rehearsal.

THE AUDITION FORM is updated each semester to include show-specific information, or update the current department policies (if changes are made). Jotform is used to create audition forms. You can log into jot form using the "TheatreSM" login.

You can set up the audition form to provide places for actors to upload various things including their headshots and the vocal auditions.

For more information on creating the audition form, check out this video tutorial! <https://youtu.be/95Ka24vLcK0>

The audition form should be complete and posted on the online callboard at least 7 days before auditions.

PRIOR TO AUDITIONS:

- Solicit assistance from other Stage Managers-one to manage traffic flow, two or three to manage check-in table in shifts, one to handle paper flow.
- Confirm with the Director the audition dates listed on the Production Calendar.
- Acquire the stage manager's keys from the Production Manager.
- Discuss with the Director the set up for the auditions. Determine the needed paperwork and generate it in the SM Office-directional signs, play title signs, notices, courtesy reminder signs, etc. Update the audition form to include any special information that is being sought (check with the Directors).
- Get information from your director about sides and find out when they will be needed.

- Krista Shulka typically posts one or two copies of the scripts on the corkboard outside her office. Additional copies will be put on reserve at Murphy Library. This allows actors to look at a full script in advance. The SM should not print or share additional copies of the script, even if you have access to one. If it seems like an unusual or special circumstance, check in with the Production Manager- it might be!
- If there are multiple shows auditioning on a single night, find out what spaces have been reserved for auditions. If Annett Hall is one of your spaces, this will require a faculty member to check out a key from the Music Department, and may require special effort to set up and restore the room at the end of the night.
- Prepare general information on the play: that includes a brief synopsis of the play/character descriptions and a preliminary calendar. The Director may already have some of this information available. Have the Director double check the synopsis & character descriptions before you post anything.
- If an accompanist is needed, confirm that one will be there at the designated time and that a tuned piano, with a light, is available.

DAY OF THE AUDITIONS:

- Set up the audition space. Make sure that the space is clean, well lit and at a comfortable temperature.
- Try to minimize visual distraction in the space. Remove unnecessary class items, fly in available masking, or simply straighten out stacks and piles. Talk with the Production Manager about what you may need to do.
- Make sure the director has a place to sit and write! This normally means use of the SM desk for Toland Theatre auditions, a table for Frederick Theatre or Rehearsal Room auditions, and a music stand or other creative solution for Annett Hall auditions.
- If the audition format includes prepared monologues, there should be at least one chair for the actor to use in their audition piece.
- Organize the CFA lobby as your check-in area.
- Make a few extra copies of the sides. Even if they were all picked up, not everyone will bring them. Plus, someone may be asked to read for an additional role not previously announced
- Be sure there are copies of the sides on the Director/SM table as well
- Have one full copy of the script with you, just in case the Director decides they need an additional side that was not copied earlier. Sometimes, when two actors are in heavy competition for a role, the Director may wish to see them do additional material.
- Have a printed copy or two of your overall schedule ready for actors to reference.

IF THESE ARE MUSICAL AUDITIONS:

- Make sure the space has a piano that has been tuned/plugged in and has a light.
- Confirm whether Kat Moran will be playing or if there is a separate pianist.
- Make sure the Production Manager knows who it is, so she can take care of paying him or her.
- If you are using the keyboard and have never set it up before, please ask the Production Manager to show you.

IF THESE ARE DANCE AUDITIONS:

- Be sure the order of the night allows actors to successfully transition from singing to dancing, if they will do both
- Be sure there is a working boom box and extension cord if the dance auditions will be conducted with a CD player

OUTSIDE OF THE AUDITION SPACE:

- Set up a check-in station for actors
- If you will be taking photos, have a digital camera, and a computer if necessary

- Not all actors will fill out the audition form in advance, so having a QR code to the form at the check-in station can be very helpful.
- Make sure there is a good supply of sharp pencils
- Identify where actors can go to practice or warm up, so that you can find them quickly when their turn arises
- Keep the flow of actors moving by announcing who is “up” and who is “on deck.”
- Make sure to check to see if the Director needs a break. If people are auditioning in 5 minute time slots, designate one slot per hour for a break for the director.
- Double check that actors have filled in the audition forms fully—it is particularly important to ensure they sign the Role Acceptance policy and provide as much information about conflicts & music ensembles as possible.

CALLBACKS

- All productions auditioning at the same time should coordinate when callback lists go live.
- Typically the callback list is accompanied by PDF copies of the sides to be used at the callbacks so actors can prepare in advance
- Find out your Director’s preference for seeing actors together. Consider using a callback matrix to keep that information organized for yourself and for the actors.
- Always have a copy of the full script with you, just in case the Director asks for a new side you have not prepared.

AFTER THE AUDITIONS:

- The Stage Manager should consult with the Director regarding the next step. The SM team should break down the spaces and return the facilities to their original state.
- If you are in Annett Hall and need to move a piano, harpsichord or other musical instrument, please be sure you know how to do so and that you have MORE than the number of people you think it will take before you begin!
- Find out when the Directors will meet to make casting decisions, and coordinate with the stage managers of the other shows (and the directors) about when cast lists will go live online. All shows must be posted at the same time.
- Once the Cast List is announced, that list should be distributed immediately. Please see the distribution list guidelines in section 3 for the personnel who should receive it.
- After auditions are complete, the JotForm folders should be organized into folders for each show as well as a folder for actors not cast. Add Anna Wooden and Michelle Collyar to the people with access to the main folder for the semester.
- If you have actors cast in more than one show, it is helpful to put a shortcut to the actor’s folder in the second show, so they are accounted for. Ask if you need help with this!

PREPARING TO START REHEARSALS

The following section will deal with the actual rehearsal process. During this next phase of the production, the duties of each individual Stage Manager will begin to take shape. Your team will begin to establish a set rehearsal pattern. A rehearsal pattern is simply a routine, in which each member knows what tasks s/he should accomplish prior to the start of rehearsal. The benefit of a good rehearsal pattern is the comfort of knowing that everything is done and you’re ready for rehearsal, instead of the entire team being harried and unfocused as rehearsal starts. A calm team will positively impact everyone around them.

It is important to note that the entire Stage Management team is just that, a TEAM. Chip in and help the other SM's if you've finished your normal duties. Offer to do things for the other SM's when possible. An attitude of cooperation among team members will help establish the same thing with your cast.

There are a number of tasks that you and your assistants must accomplish before the first rehearsal happens. The Stage Management team should begin work on them well before the first rehearsal. They are:

- Pre-production paperwork
- assembling actor packets
- setting up the callboard
- taping out the set
- assembling the Stage Manager's kit
- assembling your prompt book

ABOUT THE PHOTOCOPIER

The Theatre and Dance' copier and main central printer are located in Krista Shulka's office. A key to the office is on the SM keyring.

The stage management computers and printer are located in CFA 358, the SM office. These computers can access this central printer/copier, but you should only print here in an emergency. If you are making multiple copies of the same document, please print one copy in the SM office, and then photo copy it at Krista's printer.

Because this is a centralized piece of equipment, note the following: (1) be courteous to other users—try not to undertake massive projects when others may need to use the machine; (2) also be courteous to those around you—don't turn the copying into a party that can disrupt others from getting their work done.

In general, script copying is a project best undertaken in the late afternoon/evening or on a weekend when fewer people are around. It can be difficult to find the best screen layout for your script, and having to stop and restart will frustrate you. But because the copier in Krista's office is also the printer for the entire first floor, eliminating everyone's ability to print for an hour or more will frustrate them even more.

Large copying projects—such as actor packets—should be sent out to DigiCopy whenever possible. This means planning ahead 3-4 days. You will need to assemble your information, format it into a PDF, have the Production Manager approve it, and then email it to Krista Shulka. Ask questions to know more about this!

PRE-PRODUCTION PAPERWORK

Prior to the first rehearsal, the SM team should make sure that all necessary paperwork has been completed. Some of this paperwork will be generated by the SM team, and some of it collected from the Director, Designers, etc. The SM team should agree on timing and methods/responsibility for updating the paperwork they generate, and how it will be redistributed. The SM should also discuss with areas making their own paperwork how this will be coordinated, who will update and distribute the list, etc. If you do this before rehearsals begin, you won't find yourself with communication problems during the process.

A beginning list of paperwork to be done or collected:

1. Rehearsal Schedule
2. Character/Scene Breakdown
3. Distribution List

4. Blocking key
5. Preliminary props list
6. Preliminary sound cue list
7. Template for preset list and shift plot
8. Template for line changes

THE CHARACTER/SCENE BREAKDOWN

The character/scene breakdown is a detail document. It is intended to present a comprehensive look at when the actors will appear onstage. Your key challenge as a stage manager is to make the breakdown easy to navigate, since you will intentionally include a great deal of information. The breakdown is best organized as a chart. The use of defined rows and columns will enable you to be consistent in how you enter the specifics. If you are stage managing a play or musical in which each actor plays only a single role for the entire production, you could limit your name listing to a single column of only the character names. If, however, some or all of your actors play multiple roles, you will need to list both actor names and character names. Organizing the breakdown by page means that the stage manager can detail not only who is in a scene, but when they enter and exit, if they appear onstage but do not speak, sing from the wings, and other specific details. The character/scene breakdown can be thought of as a map of the script and as such needs a key. This ensures that everyone reading the document can understand it. A simple X will suffice for making entries for principal characters playing a single role—we only need to know if they are present. Multi-role ensemble members need a bit more detail. The simplest way to achieve this is to replace the X with a role-specific letter abbreviation (one which should coordinate with your blocking key).

THE PROP LIST

If your production has a student props designer, then they will probably be responsible for creating the preliminary props list. If Mandy Kolbe is your props designer, ask if they would like your assistance with the first draft (since they are also doing a bunch of stuff on all the other shows at the same time). If the props list will be the SM's responsibility, then keep reading!

By the date identified on the production calendar, the stage manager will create a preliminary prop list for the show. This list will include all props and furniture pieces identified in the script, along with any additions or changes you learn about from the director or during design meetings. The SM should show a draft of the list to the director prior to sharing it. This allows the director to eliminate script-specified props they doesn't intend to use, and also to add items specific to their concept which might not be articulated in the dialogue or stage directions. Although the list will inevitably be updated during rehearsals, it is best to start with as accurate a list as possible.

Once the first draft is complete, the SM should upload it to Google Docs and share the list with the appropriate personnel. This allows all necessary members of the production team to view and edit the same copy of the list, and is much simpler than emailing multiple copies back and forth. If you are unfamiliar with the process of uploading and sharing, see the Production Manager for assistance. In general, the list should go to: Director, all members of SM team, scenic designer & assistants, prop master, costume designer (if overlap items), technical director (if there are things to build).

It is useful to put a link to your prop list on the production team page of your online callboard.

THE SOUND CUE LIST

Current procedures typically dictate that the sound designer on your show will create the cue list—whether the sound faculty or a student designer. Your production analysis will position you to ask questions about cues not initially listed, and you should be certain to take notes in rehearsal regarding any questions or comments about sound from your director and include them in your rehearsal reports.

The sound cue list will be shared with the director, the sound designer, David Harlan (if not the designer), the stage manager, the lighting designer, Mandy Kolbe (if not the lighting designer), and Laurie Kincman. It will exist as a Google doc typically posted into the shared folder for the production. It is also useful to provide a link to it on the production team page of your online callboard.

On rare occasions the SM might be asked to create the first draft of the sound cue list. If this is necessary, either David or Laurie will communicate this to you.

DISTRIBUTION

Once the SM has created paperwork, it is important that it gets distributed to the correct personnel—and that it is kept up to date throughout the rehearsal process. The list below identifies the primary recipients of a number of documents.

Cast List

Director
Musical Director
Choreographer
Costume Designer
All SM Team
Laurie Kincman
Krista Shulka
Callboard
Website

Character/Scene Breakdown

Director
Musical Director
Choreographer
Costume Designer
Sound Designer (for musical)
All SM Team
Laurie Kincman
Website

Prop List

Scenic Designer
Props Master
Technical Director
Costume Designer
All SM Team
Mandy Kolbe (if not designer)
Website (link to Google Doc)

Sound Cue List

Director
Sound Designer
Lighting Designer
David Harlan
Laurie Kincman
Website (link to Google Doc)

Meeting Minutes

Full Production Team
Michelle Collyar
Laurie Kincman
Nate Mohlman
Dylan Curvin
Department Chair
Design Supervisors
All SM Team
Website

Rehearsal Reports

Full Production Team
Michelle Collyar
Laurie Kincman
Nate Mohlman
Dylan Curvin
Design Supervisors
All SM Team
Callboard
Website

Performance Reports

Full Production Team
Michelle Collyar
Laurie Kincman
Nate Mohlman
Dylan Curvin
Department Chair
Design Supervisors
All SM Team

Line Changes

Director
Vocal/Dialect Coach
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Cast
All SM Team
Laurie Kincman
Website

Rehearsal Schedule

Full Production Team
Michelle Collyar
Laurie Kincman
Nate Mohlman
Department Chair
Design Supervisors
All SM Team
Callboard
Website

Crew Evaluations

Laurie Kincman
Supervisors as noted on form

NOTE: Obviously each person only needs to get one copy! Generic titles are included rather than names in most instances so you can customize this to your show. Other people may ask for some or all paperwork depending on their responsibilities.

ASSEMBLING ACTOR PACKETS

The first rehearsal is your best chance to present much of the information that you need to share with the acting company and to receive from the acting company much of the information you will need. Most of the forms listed below can be found in Section Four of this manual. Your Actor Packets should contain at least the following forms and information:

- A current rehearsal schedule: Emphasize important due dates.
- Performance Schedule. Be sure to emphasize Matinee performances.
- Character/Scene Breakdown.
- Contact sheet, including all phone numbers and email addresses. Be sure to have everyone check it before you distribute it; save paper and time.
- Biography Form and samples
- Any support material that the Director wishes to be included. Examples might include materials supplied by the Dramaturg.
- The scripts, if the actors have not already received them. (Scripts are often distributed right after cast lists are posted by having the cast pick them up at the Publicity Office. Remember to provide a sign out list so there will be a record. This record is vital for musicals as the scores and scripts often will have to be returned.)

Aside from the scripts, you will have two options for preparing your actor packet. (1) Some shows may warrant a full or partial hard-copy packet. This should be sent to DigiCopy, and it can take 3-4 days to get it back. Talk with the Production Manager if you don't know how to do this, or aren't sure you have enough time.

(2) You may opt to create a digital actor packet that you post on your callboard and also email out to your cast. You can attach it to a welcome email that you send the day your rehearsals begin, or perhaps up to 48 hours in advance. **IMPORTANT TIP--** at least some actors will read the packet right away, so do not send it out at a time when you will be unable to answer email for several hours (like before going to several classes or shop hours).

Student Perspective: In your welcome email to the cast, it is a good idea to have them all text you to confirm their phone numbers. (I usually ask for their favorite candy in case the director or I decide to buy them opening gifts.) This makes it easy to have your contact sheet proofed before rehearsals begin!

If you are not sure how to choose, talk with the Production Manager about digital versus hard-copy packets.

****Please note** The Stage Management team is NOT responsible for making copies of scripts or portions of the scripts for the actors book that is handed in to their acting teacher. **PLEASE NOTE THAT IT IS AGAINST FEDERAL LAW TO REPRODUCE COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL, INCLUDING PLAY SCRIPTS AND SCORES!** (Unless you have the written permission of the publisher or author.)**

Stage Management saves and archives medical forms. In most instances you will NOT include this in your actor packet—simply distribute it to those who do not have one on file. The Production Manager will let you know if your situation is different for any reason.

ASSEMBLING THE STAGE MANAGER'S KIT

The Stage Manager's kit is typically a tackle box filled with various tools and other handy items. Basic SM kits can be found in the props cabinets of both theatres, but you may wish to create your own kit to supplement these items. If

you plan to pursue stage management beyond a single assignment, such an investment will remain useful for many years.

Most Stage Managers start out with a very basic kit, with only a few items in them and add to them over the years, as finances and experience require. Most of the items you'd need for a basic kit can be purchased at a drug store or found in your own home. Since you have access to a fully stocked tool room while you're working at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, only the most basic tools are needed in the rehearsal hall with you.

Office supplies are also generally provided and can be found in the SM office.

UWL does not dispense medication.

If you need something that you cannot find, ask the SM Supervisor. Although you may wish to develop your own kit for future use, there is no expectation that you spend money on kit supplies in order to be successful while a student.

The following is a list of suggested items for you to compile, especially if you anticipate doing more stage management in the future.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| ● pencils | ● scissors |
| ● pens | ● stapler |
| ● click erasers | ● stopwatches |
| ● hole punch | ● dental floss |
| ● hole protectors | ● emery boards |
| ● highlighters | ● tampons |
| ● markers | ● bandaids |
| ● white out pens | ● sterile gloves |
| ● paper clips | ● tweezers |
| ● binder clips | ● matches |
| ● post it notes | ● safety pins |
| ● scotch tape | ● spike tape |
| ● masking tape | ● flashlight |

Other items that you may want to acquire:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| ● leatherman or other all purpose tool | ● sewing needle and thread |
| ● scale ruler | ● batteries |
| ● icepacks | ● tape measure |
| ● cough drops | ● eye drops |
| ● clip light(s) | ● ace bandages |
| ● antibacterial hand cleanser | ● antiseptic ointment |
| ● small screwdriver (good for glasses and tap shoes) | ● your own comfortable headset |

The list of things you MIGHT use is endless. But if you find there is one or two items you always seem to want, but don't have, consider purchasing them to make your life easier.

ASSEMBLING THE PROMPT BOOK

The prompt book is the most important tool in the entire production. In it is every detail of the show, every cue, every report generated. Construct your prompt book with the idea that the show will someday be remounted, so every bit

of information is important. Its specific details are governed by the specific show. However, every prompt book must follow these guidelines and have the following items, especially if it is being submitted for a grade. All members of the Stage Management team will need her/his own prompt book. However, all members of the team will not have the same contents. The forms referenced here can be found in Section 3. You will want to acquire a 2" to 3" D-ring binder and dividers to assemble your prompt book.

Guidelines for Prompt Book

- Cast list
- Character/Scene Breakdown: The Character/Scene Breakdown is a chart that shows which actors are in each scene. If there are numerous French scenes within each scene or if there are sections that the Director plans to work, do the Character/Scene Breakdown according to the French scenes or the scene divisions the Director has made. (French scenes are smaller sections that utilize a few actors. They are usually designated by the entrance or exit of a character.) You will then be able to call to rehearsal everyone that the Director needs but limit the time that individual actors are waiting to be worked.
- Contact Sheets: These should include everybody who works on the play: actors, designers, technicians, musicians, specialty artists, etc., with their title, home/office, pager telephone numbers, and e-mail address. Include emergency numbers on the contact sheet.
- Distribution Lists
- Rehearsal schedule
- Tech schedule
- Performance schedule
- Production calendar, a monthly view of the entire production, as well as other shows in production. You can obtain a copy from the main office.
- The script, with acts and scenes clearly and neatly labeled. Blocking and blocking key should be included if it is your responsibility. A line notation key should be included if it is your responsibility.
- The score, for musical productions. You may wish to keep the score in a separate binder until it is clear how it will be most usefully incorporated into your blocking and/or calling script.
- Backstage plots, i.e. scene shift charts, rail cues, prop lists, prop tracking. Basically, any paperwork generated dealing with the specific running of the show, with a column indicating who did the action listed.
- Individual sections for each production area. This includes, but is not limited to the following areas
 - Scenery
 - Costumes
 - Lights
 - Sound
 - Special effects/Video/etc
 - Stage Combat/fight choreography
 - Dramaturgy
 - Publicity
- Groundplan(s).
- Copies of reports, minutes, other show communication.
- Emergency information as necessary
- Complete and detailed running sheets for SM team member. This document details everything the SM does, at what time, from the moment s/he arrives for every performance until the time s/he leaves. It should be organized by day and time with boxes to check off for each task. If you use a PDA checklist, print one for your prompt book by first preview. Think of it as the "If I were hit by a bus, here is what my replacement would need to know" sheet.
- House Manager Information Sheet (SM only)

Many of these documents aren't available during rehearsals, much less prior to the first rehearsal. Keep working on your prompt book throughout the course of the rehearsal and performance period, putting copies of your paperwork in nightly.

IMPORTANT NOTE (This time from Laurie): It may seem unnecessary to have printed copies of things like the prop list or other production documents that are in your show's Google folder. But could you set up for the night or answer questions in rehearsal if the internet was down and you could not access those versions? Prepare yourself and your team for success and have a printed copy. This will also make life easier for a sub who probably does not have access to your Google folder.

You will need to make a copy of the script, with one page of dialogue on each page, and a blocking form on the reverse side. You may wish to enlarge the script to 110 - 120% when you photocopy it. You will want large margins so that you can neatly and clearly notate cues. The facing page will be used for blocking or prop placement notes. Some Stage Managers "save" an extra, clean copy of the script to use when they start putting cues in the book. This is a matter of preference. Either way, make sure that the script is as clean and easily readable as possible. Newer photocopiers are capable of erasing edges for a cleaner prompt script. Some Stage Managers type their entire script into their computer, making sure to keep the same pagination as the original. Some also edit their scanned scripts in Adobe Acrobat to reformat the margins and pages. Again, this is a matter of preference.

Assume you will need more room than you think to enter cue information in the margin, so set yourself (and that unplanned sub) up now for success. And if your script is an 8.5 x 11 PDF to begin with, this almost always means shrinking the page to have those margins. Remember the accessibility of your script page is both for you and for the unexpected sub who knows the show less well and may be unfamiliar with your handwriting.

If you are working on a MUSICAL, please talk with the Production Manager about copying the libretto and score before you ever attempt to do so. It is especially important to plan ahead before making the SM master or additional actor copies, and even more essential to find a way to create what is needed without aggravating Krista Shulka or the residents of the first floor offices.

You will want to shrink down the ground plan to place on your backing sheet. Make sure the ground plans you block on are as unencumbered of extraneous information as possible. This might mean having to spend time using a white out pen to clean up the mini ground plans. You can also ask the Production Manager to assist you in creating a "clean copy" of the electronic version in VectorWorks. If you have multiple sets, be sure to use the correct set for each scene.

The Production Manager, along with many professional stage managers, favors a "script on the left page, blocking on the right" format. She is right-handed, and in this format, can take blocking easily, without having to move her arm around the D-rings of the binder, while still easily being able to follow along in the script with his left index finger. Use this as a guide for creating your own script. If you are left-handed, create the opposite effect! This will also change where your extra margin for cues should be.

Neatness, organization, and cleanliness are crucial when it comes to your prompt book. If you are unable to find the information you need, you may as well not have it at all. Label things. Keep things organized and up-to-date.

The same plan applies to sound, light or rail cues. Start off with the basics noted both in the script and on a list with spaces between them. As the Director places more cues during rehearsal, pencil them into your script, and also add them to your lists. Keeping this document up to date is a matter then of transferring the information from your hand written list to a document on your computer, much easier than combing through the script page by page and hoping you don't miss a cue.

SAMPLE PROMPT BOOK PAGES

Please note that these pages demonstrate a stage manager's layout, placement of empty space on the script page, and use of the blocking sheet. It is NOT, however, an indication of scale. Each of the pages below should be a single piece of paper in the stage manager's prompt book.

RIGHT-HANDED Script:

ACT III.1 TWELFTH NIGHT 45

FABIAN Here comes my noble gull-catcher. 178
 TOBY ²Wilt thou set thy foot o' my neck?
 ANDREW Or o' mine either? 180
 TOBY Shall I play my freedom at tray-trip and become 181
 thy bonds-lave?
 ANDREW I' faith, or I either?
 TOBY Why, thou hast put him in such a dream that,
 when the image of it leaves him, he must run mad.
 MARIA ³Nay, but say true, does it work upon him?
 TOBY Like aqua vitae with a midwife. 187
 MARIA If you will, then, see the fruits of the sport, mark
 his first approach before my lady. He will come to her
 in yellow stockings, and 'tis a color she abhors, and 190
 cross-gartered, a fashion she detests; and he will smile
 upon her, which will now be so unsuitable to her dis-
 position, being addicted to a melancholy as she is, that
 it cannot but turn him into a notable contempt. If you
 will see it, follow me. 196
 TOBY To the gates of Tartar, thou most excellent devil
 of wit. 197
 ANDREW I'll make one too. 198 *Exeunt.*
 200, 21 *

III.1 Enter Viola and Clown [with a tabor].

VIOLA Save thee, friend, and thy music. Dost thou live 1
 by thy tabor?
 CLOWN No, sir, I live by the church. 2
 VIOLA Art thou a churchman?
 CLOWN No such matter, sir. I do live by the church; for
 I do live at my house, and my house doth stand by the
 church.

178 gull-catcher fool-catcher 181 play gamble; tray-trip a game of dice
 187 aqua vitae any distilled liquor 196 Tartar Tartarus, the section of hell
 reserved for the most evil
 III.1 Before the house of Olivia 1 Save thee God save thee 1-2 live by
 make a living with 2 tabor drum

1
 2 T crawl → M
 3
 4
 5 T ² hug M knees
 6
 7
 8 T ² x R.F.
 9 M x T
 10 T KISS M
 11 AA ² x B.T.
 12
 13
 14 M x T to DR
 15
 16 M ex DR
 17 FA, AA x T
 18 FA, AA, T ex DR
 19
 20 FE on Vd thru G, S, play
 21 V on DL, I onstage of 9
 22
 23 V x to SL of FE, B coin in his hat
 24
 25
 26
 27

SHIFT
 CLOWNAGE OUT
 RURN P 181 off SR
 LURN off SL

COIN

IN CUE 35 → 36
 Page 45
 Date 12/1

LEFT-HANDED SCRIPT:

1
 2 CM x → CU
 3 CM open CU (F)
 4
 5 NB En SL
 6 NB unsheath dagger
 7 NB x → LU
 8
 9 CM x FA hide in CU
 10 close D7
 11 CM x FA jump out of CU
 12 SEE FIGHT CHOREO # [Z] I
 13
 14
 15
 16
 17
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24 Benolio lift axe
 25
 26
 27

NOTES

IN CUE
 Page
 Date

36
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Martino
 Where shall we place our selves, Benolio?

Benolio (Opening the doors to an exterior entrance to a cellar.)
 Here will we stay to bide the first assault.
 O were that dammed Hell-hound but in place,
 Thou shouldst see me quit my foule disgrace. (FREDERICK re-enters.)

Frederick
 Close, close! The Conjuror is at hand
 And all alone comes walking in his gowne. 5-6

Benolio: (indicating for FREDERICK to round the corner of the alleyway.)
 Be ready, then, and strike the Scholler down: 2-3
 Mine be that honour then: Now, sword, strike home:
 For horns he gave, He have his head shent. 4

(BENVOLIO and MARTINO hide in the cellar and close the doors. DOCTOR FAUSTUS enters and
 passes through the alleyway. Wielding his blade, FREDERICK steps before him. FAUSTUS steps
 back, startled. Just then, BENVOLIO and MARTINO leap from the cellar, surrounding him.
 FREDERICK holds FAUSTUS from behind.) 5-6 ONSTAGE 50 60

He'll take his soule! His body thus must fall! (BENVOLIO stabs FAUSTUS, who lurches forward.
 FREDERICK lets him fall to the ground.)

Dr. Faustus
 Oh!

Frederick
 Grown you, Master (Doctor?) 5-6

Benolio: (gesturing for his friends to hold FAUSTUS down.)
 Hee him thither!

(MARTINO and FREDERICK move FAUSTUS over the open cellar door.)

Martino
 Strike with a willing hand. 5-6

(lights BENVOLIO lifts his axe high lights and sounds and BENVOLIO beholds FAUSTUS
 spotters from his neck as his head and body falls. The head thuds down the cellar steps.) 5-6 BLOOD CANO

His head is off!

TURN

SUGGESTED TABBED SECTIONS FOR YOUR PROMPT BOOK

CONTACT
SCHEDULES
SCENE BREAKDOWN
SCRIPT
RUN SHEET
PRESET LIST
SHIFT PLOT
COSTUME CHANGE PLOT
SCENERY
PROPS
COSTUMES
LIGHTS
SOUND
VIDEO/PROJECTIONS
PUBLICITY
DIRECTOR INFO
DRAMATURGY
CAST INFO
ASM INFO
CREW INFO
MEETING MINUTES
REHEARSAL REPORTS
PERFORMANCE REPORTS
FITTINGS
DIALECT SESSIONS
BLANK FORMS

THE REHEARSAL PERIOD

The rehearsal period will run according to the systems and structures that have been put in place from the beginning. The Stage Manager will continue to be the watchdog in terms of information that will affect the Production. As the Production nears the end of the rehearsal phase the myriad of details start to coalesce into a cohesive whole. If the Stage Management Team has stayed on top of things, they should be able to make the transition to the next phase easily.

- The Rehearsal Reports should announce whenever you are running a complete act or the whole show so that the designers have an opportunity to attend. Ideally you will be able to give your production team a few days notice.
- Continue face-to-face meetings and written reports to communicate information to the proper areas.
- The Assistant Stage Managers will continue to perform their assigned duties while pitching in to help when things need to get done.
- The SM or one of the assistants should visit the scene shop daily, and the other shops a few times a week.
- If you had costume fittings scheduled for that day, then you **MUST** make a daily visit to the costume shop so you can be sure everyone showed up and handle the rescheduling of any missed appointments.

It is important to maintain a positive attitude. The alternative is to complain. If this negativity is allowed to permeate your rehearsals, then the entire production will be dragged down. Strive to enjoy the process as much as possible and set a positive example. It is, after all, only a show and it will not last forever - even though sometimes you might wish that it could.

SETTING UP THE THEATRE FOR REHEARSALS- TOLAND

In addition to paperwork, preparing for rehearsals means making sure the theatre is ready for work. This includes having adequate tables and chairs, rehearsal props & furniture, a representation of the necessary elements of the ground plan on the stage floor, and other amenities to make the space successful.

TECH TABLES

Toland Theatre has a series of tech tables, two of which are specifically intended for the SM team: a “large” table for the stage manager and a “medium” table for the ASMs. The large table may feel unnecessary during the first days of rehearsal, but once you begin working with the rehearsal sound system and have the headset/video monitor box from the booth, you’ll discover that the toys took up half the table and you needed the room after all! The tables should be placed **NO LOWER IN THE HOUSE** than over Row D, or the cords you will need to run to the table will not reach.

For tech rehearsals, the SM will move farther back in the house to be next to the lighting designer. Stage management will coordinate the time for the move. Ideally it will happen for one of the final days of rehearsal during tech (once you’re no longer prompting, the distance won’t feel problematic). Occasionally the SM will need to stay close for the entire rehearsal period or the Sound Shop will be unable to schedule the table move. In this instance, the SM team will take care of the move during their load in. Talk with Laurie about this!



UMBILICAL (BIG BUNDLES OF CORDS)

The SM headset & video rack requires a large cable bundle to make it work. When in the booth, the cables plug into a wall plate in the left corner of the SM section of the booth. When in the house, the cables plug into a wall plate on the back wall below the light booth. All of the cables are labeled.

The one exception- it is of little use to us to have a video shot of the stage under stage light, since we can see it for ourselves. So at both wall plates, the video cable labeled “day” should actually plug into the numbered video “out.” That way a specialty camera like the conductor camera can be used. You still plug the cable labeled “day” into the “day” spot on the back of the rack.

Frederick theatre has no specific umbilical. The cable for the infrared camera can be run out the booth window to the SM table, as can an XLR cable for your headset. Typically you will not need either until tech rehearsals.

CUE LIGHTS

There is a separate set of cables required for plugging in and using the cue lights. This will not change.

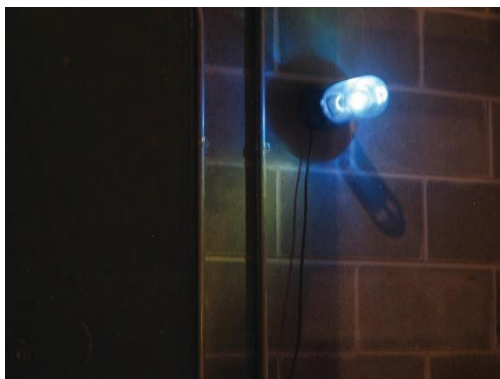
Toland Theatre has permanently mounted cue lights (or plugs for them) in several backstage locations:

- A. Downstage SR
- B. Upstage SR
- C. Downstage SL
- D. Upstage SL
- E. Orchestra Pit plug (located in SR sound baffle)
- F. Orchestra Pit pug (located in SL sound baffle)
- G. Above the lower HR door
- H. Above the lower HL Door
- I. Fly rail #1 (red)
- J. Fly rail #2 (green)
- K. Coat Check

As seen in the box pictured to the right, the cue light system is capable of plugging in six of these lights at once. Each light runs through the ceiling to the booth, and ends in a labeled stage-pin plug located under the SM table in the booth. In order to use the cue lights, the SM will plug cables for the necessary locations into the six numbered cables that will run to the cue light box.

There is a small ancillary cue light box (Edison plug only) that can hold up two four additional lights. The House Manager cue light run to coat check should always be plugged into this box. It is also the ideal place for sound & orchestra pit lights on a musical—especially if you have a busy deck.

Once the SM has plugged the locations into the correct number for their show, the lengthy zip cord can be run to the cue light box. It is long enough to reach into the house, so it can be used prior to tech rehearsals.



The SM area owns several portable cue lights, which can be plugged into any of the existing spots. This allows the SM to customize the location of the light for an individual show—running it further onstage if a wall blocks the UR light, for example, or out into the alcove if actors will enter through the house doors. One light is rigged with an Edison plug—designed to run from the ancillary box to the mixing console on a musical.

Although the system is relatively easy to set up and customize, it is advised that the SM think ahead about what they will need and arrange for a time when you can get help. Sometimes help will be available from the light shop, and other times the SM team will do this on their own (with help from Laurie as needed).

SETTING UP THE THEATRE FOR REHEARSALS- FRED

TECH TABLES

There are no specific tech tables for the Frederick Theatre, though as of 2025 we have enough of the folding white plastic tables that no one needs to use the icky, heavy, long ones. FOUR now permanently belong to that space. The SM team can also make use of the small wooden “Fred” tables. FOUR should live in the theatre, but occasionally they are brought to Toland and don’t always make it back.

PLEASE NOTE: Until you approach tech, these tables, will need to be set up and taken down each night because the space serves as a classroom during the day.

In the Fred, it is best to sit up amongst the chairs rather than on the edge of the stage. We have several narrow platforms built to the height of the “steps” in the seating so that you can slide the table forward onto the platforms and actually sit behind the table! These platforms will be found either backstage or in the storage area to the left of the Fred in the hallway.

SOUND SYSTEM

Both Toland and Frederick Theatres have rehearsal sound systems exclusively for the use of stage management. Although the Fred system is a bit smaller, both include two powered speakers and a small mixing board. This allows the SM team to play cues so that they can actually be heard onstage without turning on the full theatre sound system (and without deafening yourself by using a boom box.)

When working in Toland, the mixing board must be locked up each night in the SM sound cabinet located backstage on SL. The speakers and cables can be left in place. When working in Frederick, the entire system must be struck each night—for the same classroom-related reason that you cannot leave tables in place. The SM team can keep the sound system in the booth, or move it to the bottom of the prop cabinet if there is room on your show. But DO NOT just leave the system backstage.



SETUP INSTRUCTIONS

(For more details—or pictures—see the Yamaha Instruction Guide online in the Forms Library)

1. Once you have run power to your tech table, you will be able to plug the system into the table and not need additional extension cords. Simply take the following steps to set everything up.

2. Place the speaker stands in the row below the SM table—if you place them about a chair away from the corner of the table(s) you won't block your own sightlines.
3. Use a coin to remove the cables from the back of one speaker (re-locking the cover once you are done), and the mixer from the back of the other.
4. Place speakers on stands and run ¼" cable to the input slots on the mixer (top left—near power button)
5. (Toland only) Temporarily relocate God Mic from SM booth and plug into the XLR input #1.
6. Use the 1/8" cable provided with the iPod and plug into the L/R inputs on channels 7/8 (match the colors).

The 1/8" cable can plug directly into a laptop

7. Turn on the power. Have sound!

The full setup and operating instructions for the sound systems can be found in the Appendix.

TAPING OUT THE SET

Because most rehearsals take place in the theatre, the SM Team will not regularly need to tape out the full set. However, important dimensions may be necessary if you begin rehearsals before construction, or to help fill in the blanks as the set is being built.

Often the TD will provide assistance by having the shop staff mark out rough dimensions and platform outlines, as it will help them with assembly. Be sure to check in with the TD prior to rehearsals to see if he is planning to do so, or if you should plan for this to be a task for the SM Team. If the SM team is undertaking this, allow a few hours to complete the task.

Marking out the set is an extremely important job. Measurements and placements must be exact. If you do not know how to tape out a set, do not attempt it without instruction from the Production Manager.

- Get an original copy of the ground plan. This is important because even the best photocopier will alter the exact measurements, and you want to be as precise as possible.
- Identify the most important elements to be marked.
- Use a scale rule to measure out the dimensions of your set and the locations of key points in advance. This will make the process go faster.
- Plan to have your ASMs help with this task. It will make the job go faster, and help them become familiar with the space.
- Obtain the following supplies:
 - Several colors of Spike tape from the SM Supervisor
 - Tape measures

Begin by establishing the Center Line, Plaster Line, and the furthest points upstage and downstage. From these fixed points measure exactly where the corner points for the set pieces are located. After the corner points are marked the floor will have points of connection for the sides and levels of the set.

- Connect the points using the following code:
- Decide on different colors for different levels
- Use warning colors (red, yellow, and orange) for any dangerous set pieces such as drops that might be flown in or elevator shafts that might swallow an actor.
- The height of steps and platforms should be marked clearly.

If multiple or moving set pieces are involved discuss and explore with your Director and Production Manager the possibility of using dropcloths or cardboard cutouts.

Your TD may be able to help with taping. Ask in advance to find a mutually agreeable time.

PROPS & FURNITURE

Both theatres have prop cabinets in which the scenic designer or prop master will place rehearsal & actual items for your show as they are acquired. The cast will not always begin working with props on the first day of blocking because they have scripts in hand, but the actors and director should always be aware of what has been provided. The SM team will set up prop tables in the wings on either side of the stage on which to lay out props. When you reach tech, you will cover and label these tables to help the crew. This is not necessary at this point in the process.

Be sure that you are familiar with your needs before the beginning of the night. If you need to work with a prop that has not yet been acquired, talk with the prop master about an alternative, or work with your SM team to find a reasonable stand-in. Sometimes what is most important is to figure out how an item gets on and off the stage, not that it is totally functional. Your “fake props” can facilitate this tracking.

The same is true for furniture. The scenic designer or prop master will pull furniture for the show, leaving it backstage in the Fred or on stage left in Toland. On occasion you may need a piece of furniture that has not yet been acquired for you. Use your creativity to find appropriate substitutions—the generic backstage chair for a specific period chair, three chairs to create a sofa, an item from the green room, or even a music stand. Make sure that the actors and director know what your items represent.

It is okay to temporarily relocate rehearsal cubes from the Third Floor Rehearsal Studio for rehearsal use (with permission). Just be sure to return them during strike!

OTHER THEATRE ITEMS

In order to make the space functional, you might need a few other items—music stands, a chair and/or table onstage for the director, or the small set of stairs to access the pit area from the audience. (In honor of the “Mary Leonard Two-Step”, these stairs are covered in signatures after Mary Leonard retired)

THIRD FLOOR REHEARSAL STUDIO

The third floor rehearsal studio provides us with increased flexibility for rehearsals. This may be the location for your first day or two of rehearsal—when the shop has priority on the space. It can be a secondary space so that multiple activities can happen at once. It may also be one of your audition sites. The space can also be reserved by theatre students for scene work, senior projects, etc. The room is kept locked. Stage managers have swipe access; other students can request swipe access from Krista.

The rehearsal room schedule is maintained in Google Calendars, accessible by any theatre faculty or staff member. If your show intends to use this room, be sure that you have The Production Manager or your Director check the calendar in advance and reserve the time you need. The room has a storage cabinet, and it is fine to leave supplies in the room overnight. Because there are classes who use the room during the week, it is best not to leave props or other items out at the end of the evening.

The rehearsal room has a tile floor, on which you can tape out your set with spike tape. If you plan to use the room more than once during your rehearsal period, ask The Production Manager for permission to leave your tape down. But be sure that it is pulled up no later than strike!

The room has an electronic keyboard and sound system capable of running a computer or other devices via a 1/8" cable. The inputs are located along the hallway wall, across from the mirrors. The room also contains tables, chairs, and blocks.

PRODUCTION MEETINGS

Production meetings are held on Wednesdays and Fridays at 12:05 pm in Room 70. Shows will alternate days generally in the order of opening, and all meetings are listed on the Production Calendar. Prior to the beginning of rehearsals your show will only hold occasional meetings in conjunction with design deadlines. Once you begin rehearsals the show's team will meet weekly.

The Stage Manager should confirm that the scheduled day works for everyone who needs to attend, particularly students who may have classes or faculty members from other departments. If critical team members have unavoidable conflicts, you may need to explore an alternate time or try to swap days with the other show currently having meetings. Please talk with the Production Manager about your best approach.

A production meeting is a time for designers, directors and stage managers to share ideas and provide progress reports. As stage manager, you are responsible for running these meetings and keeping everyone in attendance on task. Always begin with the director and then work around the table.

After the meeting, type up the minutes and email it to the team. Take copious notes during these meetings on what is being said and by whom, but remember you are not a stenographer. Focus on capturing details described by the director or a designer, decisions made, upcoming schedule details, and important reminders. You do not need every word of the conversation that led to a decision. And although many of the meeting participants will do so, DO NOT plan to eat your lunch during the meeting. The SM needs to be able to take notes and manage the room.

When designers are away, or if students are not back from winter break yet, zoom meetings are used to allow production team members to join remotely. You can access zoom through the Theatre SM account and plug your laptop into the tv in room 70. You will need an HDMI port or adaptor to project your laptop.

THE REHEARSAL ATMOSPHERE

The SM Team should take it upon themselves to set a good example for the other company members of how to behave during rehearsal. This includes such simple items as never wearing flip flops, making sure cell phones are turned off, to being on time. It is not the job of the stage managers to discipline the cast, and demonstrating "what to do" rather than chastising others for "what not to do" will help to build a good working relationship.

Stage Managers must never use rehearsal or performance time to engage in reading, homework or personal relationships. The only activities to be performed during called times are those related to the production. During rehearsals the stage managers represent the majority of the actors' "audience." By paying attention to things other than the rehearsal at hand, you may inadvertently signal to the actors that you are not interested in their work and/or the show. This can lead to problematic relationships down the road.

This can be tricky with regard to working on show-related paperwork during rehearsals. Often this information is created or updated in the computer, and it will be difficult for the cast and director to know what you are working on. Be sensitive to this and choose the right moments to work. A music rehearsal may provide time to catch up, whereas scene work on a two-person section of a play would not. ASMs are encouraged to look at the rehearsal schedule

not only for times when they might be able to work on paperwork, but for times when they might be able to step out of the theatre for 30 minutes to work in the office. This is not always possible, but may be an option on your show.

Student Perspective: I like applying the 2/3rd rule when using technology in rehearsal. If two stage managers need to have their laptops out, the 3rd should not be on technology.

THE FIRST REHEARSAL

In many ways, the first rehearsal is the stage manager's Opening Night. It is your cast's first impression of your stage management style. This first meeting is your best opportunity to set a professional tone for the entire process. There are many details that must be covered in the first rehearsal and an Agenda is the ideal tool for staying on track. For the Stage Management Team this Agenda starts, as will every rehearsal, at least half an hour before the official call time for the Cast and Director. Make sure to run a copy of the Agenda by the Director a few days before the actual rehearsal. An example of a first meeting Agenda may read something like this:

- Welcome and Introductions (Stage Manager)

Have entire company and production team introduce themselves. All members of the Stage Management Team should introduce themselves.

- Opening statement (Director)
- Design Presentations (Designers, who should determine an order in advance)
- Announce any business that needs to be addressed of during this rehearsal. (Stage Manager)

For example, inform the company that they need to review the Actor packets, turn in forms you need back, and remind them of the sign-in sheet. Be certain that the actors understand that the Director must give written approval of any individual conflicts with the rehearsal schedule even if it was discussed during auditions. Announce that daily rehearsal schedules will be e-mailed but that a copy will be posted on the call board (include location of callboard).

- Read through of the play

THE REHEARSAL PATTERN

Before the first rehearsal, the Stage Management team should decide who will be responsible for the following duties. As rehearsals progress, other nightly tasks will begin to emerge. It is important that the work be evenly divided between the team, that no one SM gets the brunt of the duties. The Stage Manager should divide the workload and responsibilities of each member of the SM team in advance and communicate ASM assignments before the first rehearsal.

NIGHTLY DUTIES—SETTING UP

- Arrive at least 30 minutes before the rehearsal is scheduled to begin. Your goal should be to be done with setup at least 10 minutes before rehearsal—so that you can address questions people may ask when they arrive rather than having to ask them to wait while you finish setting furniture.
- Make sure the room is clean and swept. The shop staff tries very hard to leave a pristine theatre, but you may need to sweep a second time. And if it's "routing masonite day," then you could need to mop. Collect any trash that may be sitting around.
- Set up the room according to the schedule for that rehearsal. (At the first rehearsal this set up will mean having enough chairs for the Cast and designers.) Remember to set places for the Director and the Stage Management Team.
- Have all Stage Management supplies ready for use: daily note sheets, a stopwatch, the ground plans, developing plots, etc.
- Set out the sign-in sheet.
- Set out all needed materials. (For the first rehearsal this will mean setting out the Actor Packets and any support materials that the designers may need.)
- Make sure that you have a good supply of pencils for those who forget.
- The Stage Manager, with the Director, will determine how the breaks are to be scheduled in advance of beginning the rehearsal.

HOW TO TURN ON THE LIGHTS

IN TOLAND:

If you enter the theatre from the lobby, do so through the House Left door. At the top of the stairs you will find a panel on your right. Press the buttons labeled "house" and "worklights." You will need to go to the stage to turn on the grid lights

If you enter the theatre through either stage door, you will find panels on the proscenium wall. They are motion sensitive, so if the panel is blank, wave your hand in front of it to wake it up. Press the buttons for the house, the work lights and the grid lights.

If you are unable to use the panel in the back of the house, the system may be in lockout mode. You can only unlock the panel from the stage or the booth. **The code is 1725.** If the system still does not turn on, it probably means that someone erroneously hit the "all off" button earlier in the day. In this case you will need to manually turn on the house lights and work lights beam by beam from one of the panels backstage. But once they are back on, the main buttons will work again.

If none of that works, it is possible that the entire system has been inadvertently turned off. In this case, you will need to turn on each row of house lights and work lights individually. This is done from the backstage panels (only), by pressing the small "house light select" and "work light select" buttons on the touchscreen. **You will need a separate code—8008—to access the worklight controls.**

IN FREDERICK:

To turn on the backstage lights (behind the curtain), enter the theatre through the backstage wooden door. The light switches are on the wall immediately behind you to your right.

To turn on the theatre lights, press the buttons on either panel—located by the door on house right that goes into the hall or that goes into the lobby. The button labeled "lecture" will turn on all the fluorescent lights to full. The button labeled "lab" will turn on the incandescent fixtures.

THE STAGE MANAGER'S DUTIES DURING REHEARSALS

The Stage Manager is responsible for organizing and facilitating each rehearsal. One of the SM's most powerful tools for doing this will be delegating specific responsibilities to the Assistant Stage Managers. The SM must, however, accept a fair share of the workload.

TAKING BLOCKING

The Stage Manager records the movement of the actors, as dictated by the director. This blocking notation will be the official record of the structure of the production, and the source the actors will turn to if they are absent or confused.

The Blocking Key

Use the Blocking Key provided to understand some simple shorthand symbols for quickly noting movement. Include this key in the Assistant Stage Manager's Prompt Book. However, more important than having the right symbol is having the blocking correct. If that means simply writing down what you see while you become accustomed to the symbols, then do that. As your proficiency increases, you can start using symbols more frequently.

The three main methods of recording blocking are written notation, pictorial notation, and a combination of the first two. For large cast shows and shows with complicated choreography, the best method is the combination of pictorial and written notation. The SM should set up the script with one page of dialogue on each page, using the facing page for blocking columns and a mini-groundplan of that scene. If you are right-handed, the script should go on the left-hand page, and the ground plan on the right. Actor movements should be drawn onto the floor plan as well as being noted in the blocking columns with corresponding numbers in the script itself.

Before the first day of blocking, the stage manager should spend time with the groundplan to figure out what they will call the various furniture pieces (or to denote the names given to them by the director or designer) and how they will denote the areas of the stage. A non-traditional set design may require some creativity, as DL and UR may not work for you. Feel free to consult with the Production Manager. But do not leave these decisions for the moment you begin to take blocking, as this will make it much more difficult for you.

Learning to take accurate and descriptive blocking is a long process and it can be very difficult, especially if you have a number of sets, a large cast or both. Be patient with yourself as you learn this skill. In the initial blocking phase, you'll have a number of opportunities to get the blocking down correctly. Every subsequent time the cast rehearses that scene, the SM needs to check that the actors are doing what the Director asked them to do. If not the SM should bring the discrepancies to the Director attention to deal with as they wish. Do not yell out in rehearsal when someone does the wrong blocking, unless the Director has asked that you do so. Conversely, if the blocking changes (which it frequently does), it is the SM's duty to get the changes down correctly. It cannot be emphasized enough that blocking is ever changing and it requires diligence from the SM team to keep up with the current versions.

Most Stage Managers use a standard set of short hand notations or notations for frequently used words, such as cross (X), upstage (US) and downstage (DS). Many use more specialized symbols. The following page contains the author's blocking key. You should devise your own based on the needs of the show. **THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT BLOCKING IS THAT IT MAKE SENSE WHEN YOU NEED IT TO!** Symbols won't help anyone if you've forgotten what they meant.

BLOCKING KEY

Upstage Right	UR	Upstage Center	UC	Upstage Left	UL
Stage Right	SR	Center Stage	C	Stage Left	SL
Downstage Right	DR	Downstage Center	DC	Downstage Left	DL

ENTER En	EXIT Ex	CROSS X	STOP —→	PICK UP ↑	PUT DOWN ↓
GIVE G→	TAKE ←T	LOOK L→	SIT S↓	RISE ↑R	KNEEL ↓K
JUMP J↑	GO UPSTAIRS ↗	GO DOWNSTAIRS ↘	PUT ON P/O	TAKE OFF T/O	CORNER ✕
UPSTAGE OF (above) ↖	DOWNSTAGE OF (below) ↘	TO (toward) →	ON TOP OF —•	UNDERNEATH —•	BETWEEN •
TABLE π	CHAIR h	SOFA ⌊	STOOL R	WINDOW 田	DOOR ⌈
LAMP ⦿	BED ⌊	DRESSER ⌊	BOOKSHELF ⌊	TREE Y	CRADLE ⌊
ROCKER h	SUITCASE ⌊	BOOK ⌊	TENT A	TV ⌊	RADIO ⌊
KITCHEN TABLE Kπ	COFFEE TABLE Cπ	TABLE LAMP ⦿	BEDROOM CHAIR Bh	DESK ⌊	CLOCK ⌊

ANNOUNCING NOTES

The Stage Manager should begin each rehearsal by addressing any general Company notes. These notes may include such information as changes in schedule or costume fittings.

CALLING CUES

One of the Stage Manager's most important duties is to identify and execute the calling of cues. This process starts during the rehearsal period. The SM will identify those cues contained in the script and call them during rehearsal. Cues such as "lights up" and "lights shift" or "blackout" provide a sense of structure to scenes. Additionally, calling sound cues such as "ring ring" helps the actors concentrate on staying in the moment. The SM should begin preparing the script for the prompt book and performances by marking these cues in the script. **Always use a pencil since cue locations may change.** Light cues are abbreviated LQ or LX and Sound cues are SQ. Later these cues will receive numbers or letters in sequence.

CALLING BREAKS

At UWL you will find a variety of opinions on the timing of breaks. Some directors are fond of the Equity rules, which require a 5-minute break every hour or a 10-minute break every 90 minutes. (Under an AEA contract these breaks are inclusive in the time; at UWL the break often comes after the time has passed.) Some directors prefer a break at the rehearsal mid-point. Some may create rehearsal schedules such that actors only work for shortened periods of time and do not need a break except during a runthrough of the show.

Talk with your Director before rehearsals begin and find out their preferred method. Even if the actors are only working short calls, it is reasonable that the Director may wish a break for him or herself. During rehearsals, keep an eye on the time so that you can discreetly warn the Director as a break is approaching. Do not interrupt a rehearsal to insist on a break.

At break time, announce this to the cast. The proper phrasing is, "Company, please take 5." Train your cast to respond "Thank you, 5." As the end of a break approaches send your ASM's to let people know the break is nearly over. On a longer (10 or 15 minute) break, you may wish to give a 2-minute warning, so that actors who have been working on something during the break have time to put it away, quickly use the restroom, etc. At the end of the break, the proper phrasing is "Company, we are back, please." During a run or at tech, it is important to separate the end-of-break call from a places call. Many times you or the director will have a quick announcement before work resumes, and if you blend the "back" and "places" calls, actors will be on the move and miss whatever is said!

During an evening with no breaks, look for a way to let the members of the SM Team step out of the theatre as need be. An ASM might easily take a break once you have set up for a scene on which you will work for a while. Try to ensure that everyone is in the room if it is approaching time to shift to another part of the play or to run a scene that will require prompting or prop handoffs.

DISSEMINATING ALL RELEVANT PRODUCTION INFORMATION

The Stage Manager has the final responsibility of making sure that all Production information is funneled to the correct personnel and answers to questions from actors are delivered as soon as possible. This is accomplished through the use of the 'to do' lists, Rehearsal/Performance Reports, memos and face-to-face meetings. The SM should also include notes taken by the Assistant Stage Manager.

TIMING

The Stage Manager should time the first read through (Scenes and Acts) and generally time any run-throughs of large pieces of the show. Also timing of sections through which sound cues are to play, or times when actors are to be doing costume changes. Providing this timing information to the pertinent designer will greatly help them prepare for tech rehearsals and solve issues before they become problems.

Maintain the discipline and professionalism of the working environment

Being organized, firm, approachable and fair does this.

THE ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER'S DUTIES DURING REHEARSAL

The Assistant Stage Managers shall each be assigned different duties throughout the rehearsal process. However, their shared duties include:

- Arriving at least 30 minutes before the rehearsal is scheduled to begin
- Sweeping the space and ensuring it is safe for the evening's work
- Setting up furniture and props for each evening's rehearsal.
- Retrieving rehearsal costumes before each rehearsal.
- Tracking the use of scenic pieces, props and costumes and creating rehearsal and early production versions of the shift plot and preset lists that will ultimately be given to the crew.
- Cueing actors: If actors are allowed to work outside the theatre during a scene in which they are not involved, one of the Assistant Stage Managers should be prepared to give them a warning before their scene comes up.
- Prompting, once the actors are off-book
- Taking line notes, once the actors are off-book
- Striking the rehearsal setup at the end of the night, so the shop can continue their work the next day
- Spiking the location of set pieces
- Helping to schedule costume fittings, dialect sessions, etc.

Throughout the entire rehearsal process, the Costume Designer will request fittings with the actors. The Costume Designer will communicate requests to the SM, who will schedule the times with the actors when they arrive for the evening rehearsal.

Once scheduled, the appointments should be included in the rehearsal report and posted on the callboard. If you have a large number of new actors in your production, you may wish to consider reminder slips for the cast.

- Anything else that the SM asks of you. Remember that you are a team, and that anything you can do to assist the rest of your team makes the work easier and the days shorter.

From here the duties begin to vary. The Stage Manager will divide up the ASMs' responsibilities. One may be assigned to specifically track and take notes on props; another may monitor costumes. Sometimes these duties may switch or overlap. Once the actors begin to work off-book, the ASM's will generally be responsible for prompting and taking line notes as well. A good rule of thumb is that you want any other member of the Stage Management Team to be able to pick up your Prompt Book and cover for you.

PROMPTING

While the actors are getting off book it is necessary to have a clearly articulated system both for prompting and for documenting line problems that the SM Team will follow. In general, the SM responsible for prompting will NOT be the same person writing down line notes, as it is virtually impossible to follow the script closely while making notes on a separate piece of paper.

The director will determine the off-book deadlines. Ideally these will be included on the calendar distributed at the first rehearsal.

When you reach the off-book point, make sure the actors are clear on how this will work.

- Announce that you will only give a line when the actor calls “Line.”
- Tell the actors that you will continue to read the line until the actor picks up the line. Pause very briefly after each phrase in case the actor can pick up the line at that point.
- Speak up when cueing and use a neutral tone. You MUST be audible!
- If you are prompting on a musical, speak the forgotten lyrics. You are not expected to sing!

You will also need the director to determine the point at which actors may no longer call for line and must figure out what to do onstage if they forget something. It is recommended that this not be the final run before tech begins, so that the “improvisation” time is not part of tech. There are usually several runs during the last week of rehearsals, if the Director does not have a preferred cut off time, suggest the second to last run of the show.

LINE NOTES

- Print out copies of the line notes sheets for rehearsal and show your ASMs how to use them. There are two different sets of line notes sheets—one set that utilizes a single page for each actor, and another set that gets cut up into individual notes that can be sorted and distributed at the end of the night. Talk with the SM supervisor about what is best for your show.

Samples of both line note forms can be found online in the Forms Library.

UWL has two digital options as well: an Excel form, and a version of that form adapted into Google Sheets (useful when you have more than one person taking line notes).

Getting “off book”, the process of memorizing the script is very difficult for actors. It is very helpful to note not only what they said incorrectly, but also what it was they DID say. Frequently, actors think they’ve said something correctly, but when prompted with what they actually did say, they can see and hear the difference. It is of vital importance that your cast knows that you are trying to help them through the difficult transition to having the script memorized. In that vein, don’t make fun of nor laugh at the cast when they flub a line. This does not help to create a mutually supportive environment.

Student Perspective: If you need extra help with line notes, special guest stars can be found through messaging the Greenroom group chat! Make sure you specify the days and time you need help. Freshman stage management majors and actors are the easiest to convince to spend 3 hours staring at a script! :-)

NIGHTLY DUTIES—STRIKE AND LOCK-UP

It is important for the SM Team to go through the end-of-night duties thoroughly each day-- especially doors. Sometimes a door is unlocked during the day and inadvertently left unlocked. The SM team is part of the final check every night.

The entire team works together to complete these tasks.

- Put all props back into the props cabinet and lock it.
- Make sure all costume pieces are back in the costume shop and/or dressing rooms.
Lock up the rehearsal sound system in the location appropriate for your space.
- Strike furniture pieces to stage left and consolidate to be out of the shop's way
- Strike or move any prop table on SR so that it is out of the shop's way (and less tempting as a work space).
- If you have moved a white board, tech cart or other teaching tool out of your way, make sure it is back in the room and accessible for classes the next day
- Turn off all stage lights, work lights, and shop lights. (Leave on the light over the paint sink and the light by Megan's office)
- Put out and turn on Ghost light
- Lock Up!
 - Toland Theatre: (2) stage doors, (4) side house doors, (2) main house doors in the lobby, green room, room 70, dressing rooms, laundry room, makeup room, tool room, light shop.
 - IMPORTANT FOR TOLAND- the double doors on the scene shop loading dock are on a university key that theatre personnel are not allowed to have as of Summer 2017. If these doors are unlocked, you should call the campus operator at 785-8000 so that campus police can come lock them,
 - Frederick Theatre: backstage door, side door from hallway to theatre, (2) main house doors in the lobby, (2) doors into the dressing room—during tech/performances
- Type up and Distribute the Rehearsal Report

REHEARSAL REPORTS

Rehearsal reports are the Stage Managers' main means of communication. They should include any artistic, technical or facilities notes that come up during rehearsals. Any questions posed in the rehearsal report should be followed up the next day with a personal discussion. Throughout each rehearsal, the SM team should collect notes from the director, musical director, and their own observations. The ASMs should pass these notes each night to the SM, who will place them into the report, after any necessary consultation with the Director or SM Supervisor.

Actors will often make their own requests regarding schedule, props, costumes, etc. These notes and suggestions should always be given to the stage manager, who should ALWAYS run them by the Director if they were not part of the conversation originally. The Director will then be able to say yes or no to a request, and additionally can back you up if a request is turned down and you are faced with an unhappy performer the next day. This is important because individual cast members (and even production team members) may not be able to see the big picture, and should not be responsible in many cases for imagining the implications of their requests. What might seem to be a small adjustment to a costume to you may in fact be many hours of work for the costume shop. Similarly, there might not be room in the budget for one more prop, no matter how small or simple.

Rehearsal Reports and Performance Reports must be emailed to the production team by 8am the day following the rehearsal. It is recommended that the SM do this immediately following rehearsal, while the notes are fresh and before you become involved in homework or other activities.

When emailing out your reports, remember that many faculty members receive several reports each day. Therefore it is essential that the subject line of your email clearly indicates what is attached. The subject line should be “Show name or abbreviation, activity abbreviation, date.” For example: CABARET RR 6/11, or ORIENT EXPRESS MM 2/04

Additionally, be sure that you are consistently sending the reports to the same people every day, and to everyone who needs to get it. This will include all members of your production team, faculty supervisors, and the department chair. Rather than individually typing each email address each time, take advantage of your email program’s ability to create an email distribution list or address group (names vary by software) so you can, for example type “Peach Production Team” in the TO box, and have it send to the same 14 people every time!

A copy of the report should also be posted on your callboard and online callboard. Post these before you go home. If you are sending your report from home, make sure you have a way to have the hard copy posted as early in the day as possible—no later than 11am. If the SM cannot do this due to class schedule, see if an ASM is free to do so. In a pinch, ask the Production Manager to post for you.

Minutes from production meetings must be filed no more than 48 hours after the meeting. If you wait longer, your notes may become unclear to you. They may also become useless to the production team, who has continued to work on the show since the meeting.

All Items should be numbered sequentially throughout the entire rehearsal process. You do not need to number notes that merely say thank you. An example of a successful report is located on the next page.

Be sure to be as clear, exact and concise in your reports as possible. Saying something too general can often result in either wasted time by the shop trying to understand what you were trying to say, or them not doing anything. Make sure that notes from the entire SM team are included in the report. Sometimes ASM’s get notes from actors that the SM may have missed.

If you are writing a note to one department that might affect others, mention that in their individual note section. Start their section with a “Please see” note which directs them to the appropriate spot elsewhere in the report. This type of note does not need a number.

The first rehearsal will be the first time the Stage Management Team will need to fill out a Rehearsal Report. Since the introduction of Wix callboards has made it possible for SMs to post the online copies of their reports from home, some SMs opt to leave the building before any reports or schedules are written or sent out. All members of the SM teams have access to the stage managers office on the third floor of the Lowe Center for the Arts. SMs can use it as a location to write, even if they do not need the computers in the room. Use your best judgment about how distracted you will get at home, and if you will have enough time the next day to deal with hard copy postings.

Remember that this is a general forum; items that need personal discussion should be left for private emails and/or personal interactions.

Reports should never be seen as a substitute for face-to-face meetings. Also consider carefully how things are phrased in the reports. Some notes may be handled better through a meeting than through an obtuse note on a report. Try to remember that each department is operating under a deadline and that the tone used is important. Grammar, punctuation, structure and discretion are an important part of communicating with others. For instance “Is it possible to get...” is less offensive than “We need...” or “We must have...” Even this far away from grade school, “please” and “thank you” still work wonders.

Before you begin the rehearsals for your show, make sure you have a place to take notes during rehearsal every day. Some SMs prefer to take notes on blank paper in their prompt book.

REHEARSAL REPORT

Production: Puffs

Date: Tuesday September 24th, 2024

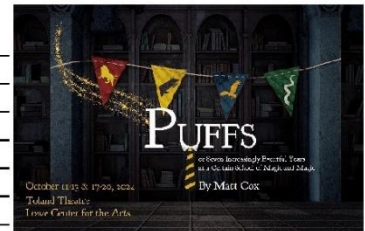
Stage Manager: Avery Weston

Assistant Stage Managers: Ellie Hemming, Thomas Hall, River Podjasek

Guests: None

Call Began: 6:30 pm Breaks: 7:37 pm (5) 8:42 (5) Ended: 9:19 pm

Late: None Absent: None



Rehearsal Breakdown		
Time	What	Who
6:30-9:19 pm	Run/Work Years 1-3 (p. 1-40)	Full Cast

Next Rehearsal Wednesday September 25th		
Time	What	Who
6:30-9:30 pm	Run/Work Years 4-5 (p. 40-69)	Full Cast

Scenery/Technical Direction (Mandy, Nate):

No notes tonight, thank you!

Lighting (Amber):

No notes tonight, thank you!

Costumes (Michelle):

- 68. The tail end of Kira Hirsch's belt broke off during rehearsal tonight. The belt still fits her on the last hole before the spot where the excess broke off. The broken-off piece is on the green worktable in the costume shop.
- 69. Alyssa Meissner will not be wearing glasses on page 25 in *Scene: Year Two* as noted in the stage directions.

Fittings:

Thursday September 26th

2:15 pm – Amanda Visger

2:30 pm – Paige Huling

Props (Sage):

- 70. Nic would like Oliver's math certificate used on page 19 in *Scene: A Trio Is Born* to just say "MATH" in the biggest letters possible.
- 71. Can some backup math certificates and pictures of the toaster be printed to use as needed as we work through the remainder of the rehearsal process?

Sound (David):

- 72. Stage Management would like the SM box and cue lights brought down by Friday of this week if possible. For cue lights, Stage Management would like #1 to be the lower stage right vom, #2 to be backstage right, #3 to be backstage left, #4 to be the lower stage left vom door, #5 to be green rail, and #6 to be red rail.

Dramaturgy (Amanda):

No notes tonight, thank you!

Puppets (Ozzy, Logan, Hailey):

No notes tonight, thank you!

The author prefers to use a notes sheet, which allows the SM to take notes directly into sections for each production area. Although there is a specific order on the report for the individual production areas, notes will not present themselves in a neat order over the course of the night. When typing the report at the end of the night, it is easier to skip over a single line on a long sheet of paper with jumbled notes while scanning for those that belong in a specific section than it is to transfer notes one section at a time.

FORMAT FOR REHEARSAL REPORTS

- Rehearsal date
- Start time/stop time
- Production Team members in attendance (designers, dramaturges, TD, props master, etc)
- Guests
- Breaks (when and for how long)
- Activities for that evening
- Schedule for next rehearsal

(Notes for each area)

- All Staff
- Scenery/Technical Direction:
- Props:
- Costumes: (including makeup)
- Lights:
- Sound:
- Projections/Video (if you have any)
- Dramaturgy (if you have one)
- Miscellaneous/All Staff Notes (such as meeting reminders)

Sign the document with a “signature”, your name or initials, initials of the team.

In addition to the staff listed on the distribution list, other personnel may be added to this list at the request of the director, production manager, or other members of the production team. (If you are uncertain if a person should really be receiving a rehearsal report, PLEASE ASK the Production Manager.)

FOLLOWING UP ON NOTES

Be sure that the SM or an ASM is checking in with the production shops on a regular basis—this will allow you to get answers to your rehearsal questions, to answer questions the designers might have, to make sure actors attended their scheduled fittings, etc. A member of the SM team should go to the Scene Shop EVERY DAY—typically after 4pm—to see Nate and Dylan. Checking in with props and costumes will happen less frequently, but at least once a week.

A member of the team should also always check in with the Costume Shop—especially on a day when fittings were scheduled. This is how you’ll find out if someone missed their appointment and needs to be rescheduled. It is best to do this daily if you can.

UPDATING PAPERWORK DURING REHEARSALS

As rehearsals progress, you will know more! This will mean updating many pieces of paperwork created during prep week and during the early part of rehearsals. The Character/Scene Breakdown should be updated and redistributed once you have blocked the entire show. The Prop List must be updated at least once a week—no later than the evening

prior to production meetings. Line change paperwork is typically published at the end of each week. Draft versions of crew paperwork (preset list, shift plot, etc) will be updated as you progress through the show.

PRE-TECH WEEK DEADLINES

As your production nears the beginning of tech, deadlines will start piling up. These will be addressed in Production Meetings, but the SM should keep them in mind and help the Director by reminding her/him that these are coming up.

PROP ADD DEADLINE

The date after which no new props should be added to the show.

PROP VIEW

The meeting at which the Director, SM, Scenic Designer and Prop Master will review all the props currently in the prop cabinet to confirm show props and finalize notes. If possible, the ASM focusing on props should attend as well. Plan to arrive early for this meeting to set up a table and possibly pull out the props ahead of time if you have to fit into a tight time window.

PUBLICITY EVENTS

Occasionally the stage manager or the cast may be involved in publicity efforts for your show. This might be photos or video taken during rehearsal, information for Krista for social media, or actors participating in media interviews, etc. You may be asked to help schedule these events but will not be required to attend anything that does not happen during rehearsal.

IMPORTANT NOTE- if someone is coming to take rehearsal photos or video, or if the SM team has been asked to do this, please give the actors 24-hours notice. And please ask them to refrain from wearing anything with an inappropriate saying or the logo of another university!

PAPER TECH

The last production meeting for your show—during which time the placement of cues is set in the SM Prompt Book. Usually the first 5-10 minutes are used for any last-minute production business, and then those not involved with paper tech will leave.

Ideally the SM will receive cue sheets from the designers prior to paper tech and will write them down in advance. This allows the meeting to focus on confirming placements, determining if cues should happen together or separately, and answering questions.

In some instances the SM will receive the cues during paper tech. In this case, the team will move systematically through the script, with the SM writing everything down as you go. This method is a bit more time consuming but is no less valuable.

The Director, SM, Lighting Designer and Sound Designer will always be in attendance. If your show has moving scenery, the Scenic Designer and/or TD may attend. If you have video cues, a Video Designer or Coordinator may attend. There is rarely a reason for Costumes to attend this meeting.

SM PAPERWORK DUE

This is the date on which a draft of all of the paperwork for the crew is due to the Production manager: the preset list, the shift plot, the costume quick change plot, etc.

You should turn in the most up to date working version the SM Team has created but expect that it is not final. You may discover new things during the few remaining rehearsals, and the SM Supervisor may have suggestions about format or phrasing, or request clarifications.

In general, this date is the Monday of the final week of rehearsals before tech, so that the SM Team will have time to finish the paperwork before tech begins.

As you work on your shift plot, you may wish to consult the list of shift plot verbs in the SM Forms Library.

GETTING READY FOR THE CREW

Your running crew for each show will primarily be students in Theatre Appreciation classes or Theatre majors/minors fulfilling a THA 360 requirement. It is important to keep track of who is on your crew. All crew members (costume crew, running crew, light op, sound op, and spot ops) should attend the crew meeting. The SM Supervisor will give you a list of your crew, with any available contact information

The first scheduled activity for the crew on any show is the Crew Meeting. At this meeting all crew members, including board operators, will get a brief overview of the show and their responsibilities, and be given detailed schedule information for tech and performances. The SM and all ASMs should be at the meeting. Even though the date of the meeting is printed on the crew contracts signed at the THA 110 signup, do not expect that the crew will automatically remember the date. You should plan to email the crew the week prior to the meeting, no later than Thursday of that week (no one reads email on the weekend!)

For the meeting you will need to prepare:

- A draft copy of the crew contact sheet, prepared from your crew list
- Crew Guidelines specific to your show

The Crew Guidelines outline the general responsibilities of crew members on every show, along with specifics about the call times and expectations for your crew specifically. It is important to include as much detail as possible on this sheet. Talk with the Production Manager about the best options for call times.

All crew is expected to come see a run of the show in rehearsal before tech begins. These dates should also be included on the Guidelines. It is up to the Director to determine when there will be runs of the show, and at which ones it is okay for the crew to attend. Ask the Director about this well in advance, so they have adequate time to provide you with an answer. Help the Director to find at least two options—on two different days of the week (MWF and TTh).

Also be sure to find out in advance what night the costume crew will actually join the show! The schedule they received at the beginning of the semester marked your first cue to cue as their first day. For some shows you will be in costume this day and need them. On other shows you may have a wealth of costume pieces which you have been using in rehearsal and can no longer keep an eye on because tech has begun. This may also be a good reason to have them start that day. But if you aren't in costume and don't have a zillion pieces, your costume crew will probably not start until Tuesday. You will need this to be correct on the crew information sheet and will need to draw their attention to it at the meeting.

At the crew meeting the SM will distribute the guidelines and go over the details; pass around a copy of the contact sheet so the crew can add or correct the information; ask the crew to choose a rehearsal to attend.

After discussing the schedule and answering general questions, the meeting will break into subgroups. The Costume Shop Supervisor or Wardrobe Crew head may take the costume crew for some orientation specific to their jobs. The ASMs can give a tour of backstage to the deck crew and provide them with any additional information. If you do not have a representative from Costumes, have the costume crew go on the tour with the deck crew. You can include the dressing rooms and the laundry room in the tour but will not need to do any sewing training. Usually the SM speaks with the board operators.

Usually the Crew Meeting is scheduled for 5:00 pm, so there will be time to accomplish all of this and still get ready for the night's rehearsal.

If there are crew members who miss the meeting, be sure to follow up with them right away to find out if they still intend to be on your crew. If they do, arrange a time to get them the information. If they do not, let the Production Manager know right away so the process of finding replacements can begin.

SCHOOL MATINEES

If your show has a student matinee, you will receive copies of a letter from the Department Chair to distribute to all cast and crew members. This letter is intended to provide documentation for an excused absence for any classes your cast or crew may miss. Stress this with your crew especially. Much of your crew will be freshmen, and may be anxious about missing class. Have them present the letter to their professors well in advance. In the event that a crew member cannot be excused (an exam is scheduled and the professor is unable to reschedule it or something similar) you may need to find a substitute crew member for that day.

If you can, distribute the letters at the crew meeting. If you cannot, or if you run out, have the crew pick them up from you when they come to watch a rehearsal. Distribute letters to the cast around the same time.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT AT THE CREW MEETING

Many of your crew members are Theatre Appreciation students, who may have opted to be on crew so they can avoid a final exam or project. Some may have wished to be in another shop which filled up too quickly on the sign-up day. This does not mean they will not be great crew members, but it does mean they may not be predisposed to enjoy the work. It is likely they have never worked backstage before and have no idea what they'll be asked to do.

Make the crew meeting fun! Engage in small talk as they arrive. Smile. Begin with a very brief overview of the show and how the crew fits into it—stressing why they are important. Be sure to communicate that you like the show with both your words and body language. Think about it as finding your “inner flight attendant.”

Review the important information BEFORE handing out the information sheet. Once people have a piece of paper to read, they stop listening. Hit the highlights and then give them paper. But don't just sit on the edge of the stage and read the paper to them. Make eye contact.

Tech and performances will sound like a lot of time to your crew, and they will worry about their other classes. If you can reassure them that you will help identify times they can multitask. If your show has minimal crew duties within the acts, you may opt to let your crew know that there will be some time to do homework during the rehearsal. Even if it is a busy show, once you reach performances there is a guaranteed half-hour (7-7:30 pm) when they can likely get some work done.

Engage your ASMs to lead the backstage tours so the crew gets to know them as well.

THE TECH PHASE

Technical Rehearsals, or Tech, is the most challenging time for the Stage Management team. Tech Week represents the transition period between rehearsals and performances. This is when all of the elements of the show begin to come together into a cohesive whole. It is an intense period, but can be made easier and more enjoyable if the Stage Management team maintains focus and keeps the lines of communication open. It is essential that the Stage Management team anticipates and prepares themselves and their crew for the upcoming rehearsals. This is where the organization of the rehearsal period will really pay off.

STAGE MANAGEMENT LOAD IN

Typically on the Sunday afternoon prior to the beginning of tech, the stage management team will arrange its own load in. This will allow the team to set up the space specifically for the show. Even though you have been working in the theatre, you will still need to prepare for the crew's arrival. Typical tasks include covering and labeling prop tables, identifying and labeling parking spaces for scenery, creating and hanging backstage signage, posting sign in sheets, and preparing the SM and ASM work areas in the theatre. Please see the Forms Library online for a sample load-in checklist.

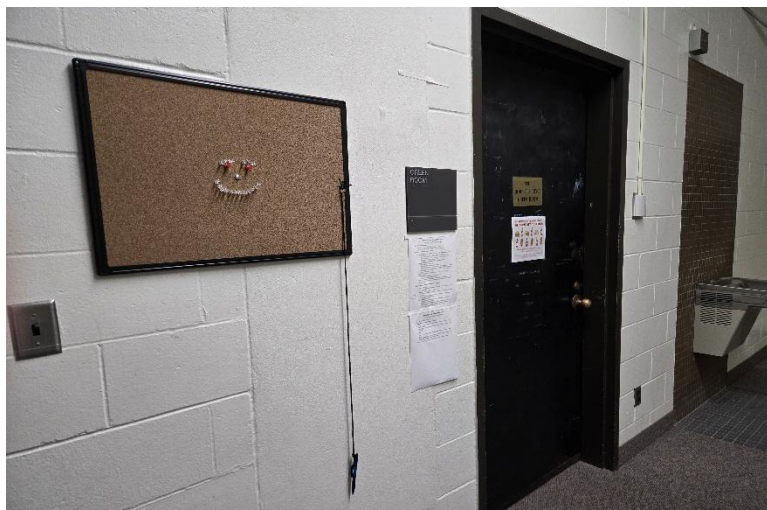
For semesters with holiday breaks interrupting tech week, SM teams typically need to find their own stretch of time to complete load-in tasks. This usually includes staying late after the last few rehearsals, or finding a different weekend day to set everything up. Coordinate this with your ASM's early so you can all be prepared for the extra hours!

NEW CALLBOARD NEW PIC

Once your production begins tech rehearsals, the SM will begin to make use of a new callboard. A [cork board](#) is located on the wall outside the Green Room. This space is intended to contain the daily tech schedule, announcements for the cast and crew, and the sign in sheets.

It is rare during tech that actors will look at the hallway callboard, and it is certainly not the most efficient location for posting up-to-the-minute details for a given evening. By using this new space and combining the announcement and sign-in details, you increase the chance the cast will see your news.

Student Perspective: If your set does not have a logical spot for a music stand with a sign in sheet during rehearsals, you may opt to start using this callboard from your first day of rehearsals. Or if you have trouble communicating announcements to your cast, you might decide to move your callboard early--perhaps after the designer run.



LEVEL SET/CUEING TIME FOR LIGHTS

Time is set aside for the Lighting Designer to create the cues for the show. Known as a level set in some theatres, this cueing time at UWL usually takes place on the weekend before tech begins. Other activities may happen during this weekend, including the SM load-in above, but it is always shared time with priority given to Lights.

Activities requiring work lights, an empty theatre, or the need to make a great deal of noise should be scheduled in coordination with the Lighting Designer—and during a time when they will not be in the theatre.

THE DECK CREW ORIENTATION

At the beginning of the call on the first day of tech, the deck crew will be trained to do their specific jobs. The SM Team will take the crew through the Preset List—where all props and furniture are at the top of the show—and the Shift Plot—a chart of their duties during the show.

There is a limited amount of time available to the SM Team on this day, so it is important to prioritize. If you are working on a show with a lot of shift plot moves, you may opt to set out the props for the crew and focus solely on the shift plot for the first day. In this instance, the crew will “meet” the props when they put them away at the end of the night, and they can learn the preset on day two.

CUE TO CUE

UWL begins the tech process with a cue to cue. This is a two-day (sometimes one-day in the Fred) stop and start work through of the show. You will stop frequently to evaluate and change cues, discuss sequences, and get practice calling some tricky spots. Most often you will handle Act One during the Sunday evening rehearsal and Act Two during the Monday evening rehearsal. Actors will not be in costume, but should be asked to wear street clothes in the very general color family of their costumes. It is especially important that actors do not wear black or white unless those are the colors of their costume—and in that case it is important that they do! This is a big help to the lighting designer. (See note on page 50 about your costume crew.)

COMPANY MEETING

Before the beginning of the first tech rehearsal, the full cast, crew and production team will gather in the house. During this meeting, everyone will be introduced and the area heads will make important announcements about safety, how the night will run, and other show-specific reminders. The meeting will take place at approximately 6:45, once the cast has arrived and the crew has received their training. (You may need to have a second mini-meeting on the first night with costumes if your costume designer has announcements for the cast. The SM Supervisor can help you strategize about the best time of night for a company meeting part two--often the best option is NOT at 6:45.

TECH REHEARSAL BASICS

Because we have a limited amount of time at UWL for tech, we strive to stick to the schedule. After the two nights of cue to cue, our goal is to run the entire show each of the next three nights. It is also important to limit the number of times we stop. You may well need to stop on Tuesday, but you should not stop except for an emergency on Thursday so you can get used to the “pressure” of an audience situation.

Often, a difficult tech moment from one evening will be worked prior to the beginning of tech the next night, once everyone has had a chance to do their notes. The 6:45 company meeting time from cue to cue becomes your work time. Be sure that you communicate to everyone involved what will be worked each day. Specifics should be posted on the “Schedule” area of the new mini-callboard outside the Green Room.

Beginning with the first tech rehearsal, there is a Production Meeting every evening after the rehearsal, where the Director will give notes to the production team and answer their questions. At the end of this meeting, the Director will give notes to the cast. It is important that these activities take place in this order! Have the cast get out of costume

and take a break during tech notes. (It is fairly common not to need a meeting during cue. Hopefully all of the notes have been handled during the rehearsal and there may be little to say to the cast. But be sure to check before simply dismissing everyone!

A member of the SM Team should always attend the Director's notes to the cast. This is important for several reasons:

- The Director may come across a tech note they missed earlier, which will need to go into the rehearsal report
- In the process of giving a note to an actor, a problem may be discovered that requires attention from a designer.
- The Director may give actors a blocking or timing change, which affects how or where the SM calls a cue.
- The Director or actors may request that something be placed on the "things to work before tech tomorrow" list

Usually the designers will give their individual notes to the SM after the full production team tech notes session. This may mean you need an ASM to attend actor notes until you can get there. Plan for this at the beginning of the night, so you are not caught off guard. One ASM can oversee the crew putting away the props while the other attends actor notes. It is essential to have a member of the stage management team in attendance— you may need to answer a question, record a blocking change requested by the director, receive information about a backstage problem, or catch a production note the director missed that now needs to be included in the rehearsal report. Your presence also helps to reinforce that you are still connected to your cast, which is essential if you ever need to give notes or solve a performer-based problem during the run.

Even though you have the nightly meeting, the SM should still send out a Rehearsal Report every day. As soon as possible, start to include running times of scenes and acts. Running times are the amount of time an act runs, not the start and stop times.

OTHER THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- Just when you think you have everything figured out, it will change! Realize that the paperwork you've worked to create for the first day is a good plan A. You have not failed or missed something if the original plan doesn't work, or if the director or designers want to do something different. Be prepared and be flexible. And save your old notes! If plan B doesn't work, plan C might be to go back to plan A.
- At least one ASM must be on headset at all times. If you need to go off headset to check on something, find someone, or execute a duty, the ASM should say that they are going off (at a time when the SM is not talking) and also check in when they are back. Be sure to listen for a moment before talking when you get back on headset to be sure the SM is not about to say "go."
- Any time the rehearsal holds, the ASMs should be at the edge of the stage ready to act. Always have spike tape, glo tape, and a notepad and pencil at the ready. Most likely the rehearsal has stopped for an adjustment to be made, and time is only lost if the stop is to place a spike and the ASMs have to first locate the spike tape.
- Take notes all the time. No matter how good your memory is, tech week is a busy time. Don't trust that you will remember everything at the end of the night.
- The Stage Manager will call "Hold, please" if work needs to stop. When everyone is ready to continue, give the actors a line from which to begin, and then say "Go ahead, please" once you want them to begin speaking.

- Any time the stage lights go out the Stage Manager or Lighting Designer must announce, in advance, “Stage going to black.”
- Make sure to give adequate breaks and to keep the whole process moving safely ahead. This is tricky on a show with no intermission. Talk with the Production Manager in advance about how to handle this situation.

THE IMPORTANCE OF UP-TO-DATE PAPERWORK (AGAIN)

No matter what kind of first call you have with your crew, it is essential that the paperwork you hand them is as up to date as possible. Things will inevitably change, but you want the crew to use and trust the paperwork you have worked so hard to create. If need be, take time at the end of your load-in to finish and copy the paperwork so that all you have to do is distribute & explain it.

It is equally important to stay on top of changes. Each time you return to the top of the show, you should have updated paperwork for the crew if something is different than written.

The first version of the paperwork should last for both days of cue to cue, since you may not be repeating any part of the show. But when you reach Tuesday and are running the whole production, you will need to have revised paperwork with all of the notes and changes accumulated so far. There would be no need to print something for Monday since it will be the first time you work that act!

CALLING CUES

As you start to call your first cues, you will understand why the position of SM is both so exciting and fulfilling, and yet rather stressful. Everyone is on headset, awaiting your word. It is vital that you know your sequences well, that you understand not only what you’re saying (that is, what you’re asking your operator to do) but also what you’ll be watching and listening for, to know if what you called actually happened. It can be nerve-wracking, especially as you sit at the tech table with every one around you, looking to you to create their artistic visions.

Despite the pressure, you must remain calm and controlled. Even when you’re tired, avoid sighing or other vocal cues that can affect the mental state of the operators on headset. More importantly, NEVER SAY ANYTHING LESS THAN FLATTERING ON HEADSET. Never say anything that can be misconstrued. You have no way of knowing who is on headset that shouldn’t be.

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL CUE CALLING

- **Stay Focused:**

It is just as important for the Stage Manager and crew to remain focused on the show at all times as it is for the performers on stage. It is the stage manager and crew’s responsibility to make the scene changes safe. Therefore, it is important to keep unnecessary conversation backstage and on headsets to a minimum. When a mistake occurs, talking about what has happened over headset can often cause more mistakes or missed cues. Solve the problem and go on with the show. It can be discussed after the final curtain falls.

- **Eyes Onstage:**

Keep your eyes on the stage because that is where all the action is taking place. The stage manager needs to know the show forwards and backwards before tech week starts. You should be able to turn the pages in your production book without even looking. In most cases, you have the best view of the stage. If your eyes are on the stage, you can recognize and correct problems more efficiently or before they even occur. Your eyes must tell you if it is safe for the crew to execute a scene change or detonate a pyrotechnic.

- **Anticipation:**
One of the hardest things to learn about calling cues is to anticipate the call. You must call a cue a split second before you want it to occur in order to give the operators time to react. Timing is everything. Knowing the rhythm of the show is crucial. Be aware if the cast tends to ad lib, change lines or occasionally gets lost within the scene.
- **Consistency:**
As tech week progresses, you should begin to develop a consistent calling style and rhythm. Your crew members should be able to count on you warning them of an upcoming sequence at the same time during each performance. They should be able to anticipate the pause you insert between the words “Light Cue 38” and the word “Go.”
- **Composure**
No matter what happens onstage, keep cool. You must be able to make quick, level-headed decisions if something goes wrong. This is a very hard skill for many people to master, but becomes easier with experience.

There are 3 types of cues:

Warning: Warnings are used much less frequently now with the advent of computerized lighting and sound boards. In general, Warnings are now reserved for situations where an operator or the backstage crew has had an extended period without any actions. It can be given a page or two before the cue. If it is for a backstage cue, where the crew might have gone to a different location to wait out the preceding scene, you may wish to call the Warning as much as 5 minutes before the upcoming cue. It is regular practice to no longer give lights and sound warning cues.

Stand by: Given approximately 30 seconds before the cue, to alert the operators of the upcoming cue. If there are a number of operators being “Stood by,” you might want to start calling it sooner, so that you know you’ll be able to fit in the entire stand by and receive acknowledgement from the operators before the cues need to be executed.

Go: ALWAYS tell you operators to wait until they hear the “G” of “GO” before they do the action. The hard part with calling the Go is calling it that nanosecond prior to when the action is to happen.

In between paper tech and the first day of tech rehearsals it is essential that you take the time to put the standbys into your script. There is no reason to do this for paper tech, as things might change, but you will need these warnings for yourself and the crew, and not taking the time to do so will only make you feel unprepared and frustrated. Rather than focusing on the show, you will continually be flipping forward in your book to see what is coming next, hoping you’ve done so in time to get the operators and crew ready!

Calling a sequence should sound similar to this:

STAGE MANAGER:

Standby Lights 37-39, Sound 10 and 11, Shift 5 and Fog on

LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR

Lights.

SOUND BOARD OPERATOR

Sound.

STAGE LEFT ASM or CREW HEAD

Stage Left.

STAGE RIGHT ASM or CREW HEAD

Stage Right.

FOG OPERATOR

Fog.

(Approximately 30-45 seconds of further stage action goes by)

STAGE MANAGER

Lights 37, Sound 10 and Shift....GO. (The watch the shift until the next cue.) Lights 38...GO.

STAGE RIGHT AND LEFT ASM's

Right Complete. Left Complete

STAGE MANAGER

Lights 39, Sound 11 and Fog....GO

Be consistent about the order in which you give your standbys and Gos. The generally accepted order for areas in the standby is:

- Lights
- Sound
- Deck
- Rail
- Effects (F/X)
- Actors

Ask the operators to respond with their position, so that you know who has responded. Also, have the operators respond in the order in which they're called. Make this consistent throughout the show. It will make it easier for the operators to listen and recognize when they have cues and make their jobs easier. It becomes a rhythm for everyone on headset. Notice that a warning/standby comes BEFORE the cue number and the GO comes AFTER the cue number.

Plan to take a few minutes prior to your first day calling cues to let your operators know what they will hear from you over headset, and how you would like them to respond. This will save you any panic once you begin and no one responds to your standby, or tries to execute a cue before hearing the word GO.

The logic of shift plot verbs can be helpful in cue calling as well. In the prior sequence, it would be much clearer to call “Fog GO” and “Fog STOP” than to say “Fog GO” and “Fog stop GO.”

HEADSET ETIQUETTE

Besides just the calling of the cues, there are a number of rules and courtesies that will help the hours on headset be more pleasant.

Never chew gum or eat.

Never yell with your mic on.

Always turn the mic off before you remove your headset.

If you are getting on the headset and don’t know if the SM is in the middle of a cue sequence, listen in for a few seconds first. Then acknowledge yourself in the fewest syllables possible. For example, if you are backstage left, you can say, “Left on” or your name “on.” This is much briefer than, “Hi, Sarah. This is Allison, backstage left. I’m back on headset now, if you need me.”

Recognize that the headset is not the place to engage in lengthy conversations. All communication on headset should be show related. Do not argue on headset, do not discuss irrelevant matters. There should be quiet on headset when the Stage Manager is not calling cues.

NEVER say anything on headset that you wouldn’t say to that person’s face.

CUE LIGHTS INSTEAD OF HEADSETS

When it is impossible to have a technician on headset to receive called cues or when the SM needs to communicate to actors, the Cue Light system can be used. A light is turned ON as a standby and OFF when the technician should act or the actor should enter. Cue lights should be marked in the SM script just like other cues, including a “standby” in the place where the light is turned on.

WORKING WITH THE CREW

The SM Team leads the crew during the tech rehearsals and performances. This does not mean, however, that you are their boss and that it is your job to yell at them or treat them like your children. Remember, you could not do the show without them.

Although they come to see a rehearsal before tech begins, the crew will need some time to really get to know the show. During the first few rehearsals you will need to pay attention both to the show and to the crew to make sure that everyone is in the right place. But gentle, professional reminders of the next duty will work much better than scolding.

The crew may also feel the same frustration as you when things change. Be sure to approach changes positively. It doesn’t matter if you like the new spike or sound cue—that is for the Director and Designer to decide. You just need to make sure everything is executed correctly and on time, according to the latest plan. If the SM Team shows a negative attitude about a part of the show, the crew will see that and feel that they can express similar opinions too. Pretty soon that will get back to the cast or the Director or Designer, and then only a bad situation can follow.

This professional respect will also make the exchange of information with the crew much easier. Throughout tech, things will change. Cues will move, props will be added or cut, scenery will be adjusted. It is important to have a

good working relationship with your crew so that they will respond to your notes, and so that they will pass notes onto you. Often a crew member will see something, receive a comment from an actor, or find they are doing an additional duty to make life better. Those notes need to pass through stage management. If your crew is doing a job you don't know about (such as shining a flashlight to help someone exit in the dark) and you don't know, it won't be in your paperwork. This means that if that crew member is out sick, no one will be there to fill in.

Similarly, notes about props or costumes need to pass through the SM team before going to the departments. Sometimes a problem can be solved by the stage managers. Sometimes a crew member misunderstood a note, or a prop was not correctly tracked to the other side of the stage because a section of the show without cues was skipped. The SM team will know this, and can sort this out easily instead of having the crew member ask the prop master to provide more of an item that will not actually be needed.

While the SM team participates in the evaluation of crew members, grades are assigned by the faculty. If your crew members have questions about this, they should discuss the matter with the supervising faculty member or Production Manager.

QUICK CHANGE REHEARSAL

If your show has complicated or very fast costume changes for one or more of the actors, it may be beneficial to have a time to practice the changes with the costume crew before the first day actors will wear them. This will make everyone more comfortable with the procedure and let the costume shop know if there is anything they need to do to make the change easier.

If you think your show might benefit from a quick change rehearsal, talk with the Production Manager and the Costume Designer ASAP. Since this time was most likely not included on the costume crew's original crew contract, you will want to talk with them about a possible day & time at the crew meeting. Because the costume crew will be getting a lot of their training on the first day of tech just like the deck crew, it is not usually possible to pull them out of that training for a quick change rehearsal.

During a quick change rehearsal, the actor will go through their entire path—from the time they exit the stage wearing one thing until they're enter the stage wearing something else. The SM should use their stopwatch during rehearsals to find out how much time the actor has, so that they can time the quick change to see how it compares.

Ideally the actor will be in the theatre and will change in the exact spot where they will change during the show. If the stage is unavailable, you may be able to practice the change itself in the costume shop or dressing room to at least get a feel for that part of the process.

Think ahead so you can adequately plan out the backstage space. If the actors do not have time to get to the dressing room to change, do they need a privacy panel? Extra run light? A table for the costume crew to preset something? Planning ahead will allow you to have these things in place.

If you are unable to schedule the rehearsal in advance, or just discover the need during the first night of tech, this activity could well go on your "list of things to work" before tech begins the next night.

ADDING COSTUMES

As stated above, at UWL the actors typically work in costume once you finish cue to cue. Hair and makeup are most often added on the second night (Wednesday). Because the schedule in the Fred is a little shorter, you might add it all at once—or you might be in costume for cue to cue! If you have been working with costume pieces prior to tech, those will still be available to you before the actors are in full costume.

Although they are still called “tech rehearsals” here at UWL, many other theatres specify these as “Dress Rehearsals.”

These days also signal the transition from the rehearsal period to the performance period, and care should be taken to begin to operate as close to show conditions as possible. This means not stopping during a run except for intermission, giving the actors time to warm up onstage, not having tech calls right up until you begin, etc.

This is also the time in the process that the stage manager will move to the booth. Typically, the SM will conduct cue to cue and the first tech with costumes from the SM table (now located in the back of the house next to the lighting table) and then move up to the booth. Stage managers who have never called shows in Toland before usually move upstairs on Wednesday. Returning stage managers may stay downstairs until Thursday, when everyone must be upstairs. By now you will hopefully not need to stop, and it is important that you give yourself time to get used to your surroundings.

You have been watching the show “live” for several weeks. Now you are much farther away, looking at the show from up above, and listening to the actors through a speaker. You will need some time to mentally adjust to this, and to request any changes to make your life easier before the audience comes.

(You might need a different speaker to hear the show better, a taller chair to see the downstage edge of the set, or something like that.)

The Final Tech Rehearsal is the final rehearsal and should be conducted under show conditions as much as possible. This includes “opening the house”—which means the cast and crew should clear the stage as close to 30 minutes before the run begins as possible. (15 minutes may be more realistic, but do what you can.) This is the best way for everyone to get a realistic sense of how long it will take to be ready for the show, and confirm the best order in which to complete preshow tasks. You may have an invited audience for this rehearsal. Sometimes this is a small crowd of friends, usually including your house manager. As part of being in show mode, do not use the god mic to call breaks. Communicate via your ASMs like you will do in performances.

MUSICALS

When you are the stage manager for a musical, you will encounter some additional technical elements in your show and a few changes to your rehearsal process.

WORKING WITH THE MUSICAL DIRECTOR

In addition to the Director of your show, you will have a Musical Director, responsible for teaching the music to the cast, giving vocal notes, and conducting the orchestra. The Director and Musical Director work as a team, and your Musical Director will attend production meetings—and may attend design meetings as well. They should receive your reports, minutes, and announcements.

Learning music typically adds one extra week to the rehearsal process. Most UWL musicals fall into the first performance slot of the spring semester. Auditions take place in late November or early December, and will include time to sing, act, and dance.

Rehearsals for the musical often begin the week before classes resume in January. Be sure to confirm the start date with your Director and Musical Director prior to auditions, so that you can include a question on the audition form about actor availability before classes—which is typically before the dorms open. Depending on cast availability, you may be asked to help figure out which cast members live off campus and may have a free room, couch, etc. for that week of rehearsals. The SM should also talk with the ASMs about this week. Since it is typically devoted to learning music, you may be able to function successfully without the full SM team if one of your ASMs has a conflict, but you

will need to plan for this. And if it is you the SM who has the conflict, be sure to talk with the Production Manager immediately so that appropriate coverage can be planned.

DANCE

The musical will also have a choreographer. They will be part of the audition process and will also need time in the rehearsal process specifically devoted to choreography. Normally the Director and Choreographer discuss these time needs as the Director is making a rehearsal schedule.

Initial dance rehearsals for a show may be held in the Dance Studio located in Room 103A in Mitchell Hall. Stage managers do not have keys or swipe access to the room, but it's generally unlocked when a reservation is made. Ashley tends to run sound herself during these rehearsals. Your main roles will be attendance/schedule, notetaking, and video.

Taking choreography notes can be more difficult than taking blocking, but the SM is not responsible for documenting dance moves in the same detail. You will focus on major patterns, solos, and other significant moments. You are welcome to practice taking minute notes, and may indeed find them useful, but the SM is not normally responsible for this recording. In a professional theatre a member of your cast will serve as the Dance Captain—who is responsible for this information.

The choreographer should be invited to production meetings and should be included on the distribution list for rehearsal and performance reports.

Taking video of dances during rehearsals is crucial for the cast to practice outside of rehearsal time. Phones have sufficient cameras for this purpose. Have your team record from the front and back to get a full view of the choreography.

Creating a google folder to share these videos with the cast and production team is an easy way to easily share these videos! This should be a separate folder from the one in which you upload runthroughs and tech videos, as those do not need to be shared with the cast.

MICROPHONES

Most, if not all, of the performers in your cast will wear wireless microphones during the show. Early on in the rehearsal process, the Director and Sound Designer will discuss specifics about which actors will have mics, which style of microphone will work best, and if any mic “swaps” will be necessary. A swap occurs when there are not enough individual microphones and/or transmitters for each cast members, and two or more actors share during the show. Just as you have tracked costume changes and the available time, you will need to track these microphone changes to help determine when and where they can occur.

If your musical has recorded effects as well as microphones, you will most likely have two separate sound operators. The board operator will be stationed in the booth, just as during a play, and will be on headset. The engineer mixing the musical will be in the back of the house so they can hear the show live. This operator may have a headset nearby, but will not wear it throughout the show. Be sure that you have discussed how to reach the mixing engineer during a performance, should that become necessary.

The mixing engineer will need more than the standard number of technical rehearsals to master the complexity of turning on and off and balancing the microphones. Usually your show will begin working with microphones the week before tech begins. This means:

- As of that day, the actor call will be 30 minutes prior to rehearsal
- Every rehearsal will begin with a mic check, to determine they are all working

THE ORCHESTRA

Musicals at UWL have a live orchestra. The Musical Director is responsible for finding the musicians and will usually hold a few rehearsals with them outside rehearsal time. The cast and orchestra meet during that week prior to technical rehearsals. Wednesday night is usually the first night with orchestra.

This rehearsal may either be a regular rehearsal with the orchestra playing just as the piano has done previously, or it may be a rehearsal specifically devoted to coordinating music and song, known as a Sitzprobe.

SING THRU WITH ORCHESTRA (SITZPROBE)

If you are holding a Sitzprobe, the Musical Director will likely ask the SM Team to set enough chairs near the orchestra for the cast to be close and visible to him or her. This is not a rehearsal where the cast goes through any blocking, but sits and sings with the orchestra, which will sound much different than the piano they've been singing to for 8 weeks. The Sound Designer will use microphones, as this is their first chance to set preliminary levels for the vocal and orchestral mix.

If you are doing a show with a great deal of choreography or other instrumental sections of music, you may have what is known as a Wandelprobe (basically, walk and sing) instead.

PRODUCTION PHASE

Congratulations! You've made it through tech. Your show is opening. But your job is far from over. To continue into production, and to insure a successful run, you must remain diligent to details and attentive to your cast and crew. Each member of the SM team will develop a run sheet—essentially a timeline of their tasks each evening. Detail is especially important, as it is this document which will be of the most use to a substitute should the SM or ASM need to miss a performance for illness.

In addition to the tasks you are able to predict yourself, you may receive tasks from the lighting, sound or scenery areas that you will need to conduct or supervise.

The list included below is a generic outline of activity. Sample run sheets can be found online in the Forms Library.

PRE-SHOW CHECKLIST:

- Report to the Theatre 1.5 - 2 hours before curtain time (15 minutes before the first crew call)
- Check your station: writing implements, your clipboard, prompt book, headset are all set up and ready for you when you go to start the show.
- At appropriate call times, check to see that all crews are present and all actors have checked in.
- Give "1/2 Hour", "15 minute", "10 minute", "5 minute" and "Places" calls to actors and crews.
- Check to see that the crews and operators have done these designated duties:
- Floor is swept.
- Scenery is in correct place.
- Props are set and in working order.
- All sound and light equipment is ready.

- Let the cast know when they may come to warm up and do a last check of the stage before the house is open. This should be after the preset is complete and prior to the house opening (normally 6:30-6:55 pm).
- If you are working on a musical, the warm up time will include mic check. If you have fights in your show, this time will include a fight call.
- Close the stage 5 minutes before the house is scheduled to open so you can double check the preset for things the actors may have moved, or to finish the things you did not do before warm up (such as close the main curtain if it is in use.)
- If you are working on a musical, the Musical Director will typically have a vocal warm up for the cast from 7:00-7:15 pm in the Choir Room.
- Tell the House Manager when the preset is complete and you are ready to have the House Manager open the house. You may wish to synchronize watches with the House Manager.
- Do not start the show until you have been given a GO from the House Manager. They will let you know when the audience is all in and seated and any seating problems have been resolved.
- Note the start time for the Performance Report.

INTERMISSION CHECKLIST:

- Restart your stopwatch when the house lights come up.
- If possible, have the crew wait at least one minute until they begin their intermission duties. This will allow the majority of the patrons to leave the theatre.
- If you have a 15 minute intermission, you should give a 5 minute call to the cast when you are 7 minutes into the intermission.
- Check in with your ASMs.
- Check in with the House Manager, and be sure to coordinate your watches so you both agree how much time is remaining.
- Call places at 12 minutes into intermission.
- Wait for the House Manager to tell you the house is closed, and for the ASMs to tell you the actors are in places before beginning Act Two.

END OF SHOW CHECKLIST:

- Turn on backstage work lights after house lights are up and the house is clear.
- Be sure all props are checked in and put away.
- Be sure all furniture is returned to its overnight storage location.
- Fly drapery out or to head height as requested by the Technical Director
- Be sure all appropriate lights are off. Make sure the ghost light has been set and is on.
- Meet with your ASMs to give them any notes you have, and to receive any notes they may have about problems backstage, broken props, etc.
- Check in with the costume crew head for their notes as well.
- Once everyone has left, lock all doors (stage doors, house doors, green room, room 70, dressing rooms, makeup room, and costume shop.)
- Fill out a performance report at the end of each night.

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER SHOW MODE

- Be prepared to assist the Stage Manager with any of the above duties. These duties may vary according to the type or size of the show.
- The Assistant Stage Managers become the link between the actors and the Stage Manager.
- The Assistant Stage Managers need to be familiar with all aspects of the Production at all times.

- The most important things are to keep order backstage and to stay in close touch with the Stage Manager

Notice that the Stage Managers' call goes to 1.5 to 2 hours before curtain. This is so you and the crew will have ample time to prep the stage before the house would be scheduled to open. Tech Week is when you should be coming up with your pre and post-show checklists.

PERFORMANCE PERSONNEL

For every performance, you will have a House Manager, a crew of volunteer ushers and a faculty member on duty. The House Manager is usually a theatre major or minor, receiving THA 360 credit for their work.

Mary Trotter coordinates the House Managers. By no later than your second tech rehearsal, you should fill out the Front of House Information Sheet and send it to Mary. This gives her a chance to read it, ask questions, and coordinate with your student house manager. Most of the questions on the sheet can be filled out by the stage manager with little input from others. However, be sure that you have talked with your director about the late seating point and other things that may impact the actors before you send the form in.

Typically the house manager will attend the final tech in order to see the show. Plan to spend a few minutes before and after the rehearsal with your house manager to answer questions.

During each performance, one faculty member is "on duty." This faculty member is present to provide assistance to the House Manager in handling patron or box office problems. You should receive a list of who will be on duty each night.

In the event of an emergency during a show, the Stage Manager should be in touch with that faculty member as soon as possible. They might be able to help you. And they are almost certainly freer to make a phone call to the appropriate shop supervisor if you need someone to come to campus in a hurry.

OPENING

The focus now should be on running the show in a professional and efficient manner. Work closely with the Front of House to ensure that things run smoothly from the time you open the house until the last patron leaves. Performance Reports must be filed every night and the Stage Manager should be very specific in noting any technical concerns that need to be addressed. Remember to continue your daily rounds, especially if there are technical notes or things that need fixing.

Performance reports should restart the numbering at #1 as of the first note on opening night.

MAINTAINING THE ARTISTIC INTEGRITY OF THE SHOW

For many stage managers, this can be the most challenging part of the entire production process. It is the Stage Management Team's responsibility to make sure that the Production remains true to the artistic vision of the Director. Use the Performance Reports and face-to-face meetings to communicate notes and concerns to the Cast and crew.

Maintaining the show is a difficult task. People get bored or may have a special friend in the audience, causing their performance to change. In professional theatre, the Director will leave after opening and it will be solely the SM's job to give necessary notes to the actors. At UWL, our directors are never far away.

Unless it is a matter of safety, or a major technical problem, it is recommended that a stage manager wait until the SECOND time a problem occurs to give a note, and to give any “artistic” notes to the Director first rather than directly to the actors. Anyone can flub a line, cross too far stage left, or forget to pick up a prop. You will maintain a better working relationship with your cast if you do not rush to judgment and give notes every day. The Director may pass along your note, may ask you to give the note to the actor, or may wish to watch that part of the show the next day to see what you mean.

Artistic integrity also applies to how the technical elements are accomplished. As the crew gets used to the performance and their duties, they may begin to change things as well. These “improvements” should be nipped as kindly as possible. Crew and especially ASM’s backstage should continue to perform their show in the same manner as they did at the beginning of the run. Backstage should never be left unmanned during the performance.

Most importantly, remember that every audience member came to see the same show that the opening audience saw. Do what you can to keep the show as fresh and charged as it was on opening.

PRODUCTION PHOTO CALL

Production photo call represents a chance for the entire creative staff to get a permanent record of their work. These photos are useful for creating your professional portfolio, and they are used by the Department in promotional materials.

The date of your photocall will be listed on the Production Calendar. Be sure to remind the cast and crew about this date multiple times. If your show has a weekday student matinee, the photo call will often follow this final rehearsal. In this case, the excused absence letter should indicate the photo call as well or at least cover a long enough time period for both the show and the photos.

As of 2024, the Department has a two-part photocall. (1) David Harlan will take photos during the final dress rehearsal. (2) Your show will have a call for set up shots before or after one of your performances. This date will be marked on the production calendar.

The Director typically takes the lead in creating the shot list for this second photo call. Ask to get the list from them in advance. This will allow you to put the photos in the optimal order for scenic and/or costume changes--which may not simply be reverse chronological order--and to figure out which light cue you need to be in.

Once you have set the order, type up the list. If the photo call is after the show, plan to post the list during Act Two. If the photo call is before the show, you can just have it posted for everyone’s early call time.

The shot list should be 8-10 images. Every once in a while there is a need for more, and in even rarer instances a different schedule. (On *Dracula*, for example, the second photo call is divided into two parts so we can take photos of people both when they are clean and when they are bloody.)

You will need the deck crew, costume crew, and light board operator to stay. If your show has follow spot operators, they will stay as well. You can let your sound board operator go home. Just have them leave the system on so your god mic will still work, and you can turn it off for them at the end of the photos.

ACTF RESPONSE

UWL enters most productions into the American College Theatre Festival. This makes actors eligible for the Irene Ryan Awards, and designers & stage managers eligible for certificates of merit. For each entered show, one or two adjudicators will attend a performance and conduct a notes session with the cast and interested production team

members after the show. On response night, remind the actors to get out of costume quickly and to say as few hellos in the lobby as possible. Most of the time the SM will have to do a certain amount of wrangling to get everyone back inside so the response can begin.

The crew can do their post-show duties while you are waiting for the response to begin. Crew is welcome, but not required, to stay.

Coordinating adjudicators is a complex process for the ACTF administrators, so this date will NOT be on the production calendar. You will get the date from your Director at some point during rehearsals.

CLOSING THE SHOW

Casts and crews usually experience mixed emotions about the closing of a show. Some are elated, some are saddened. Most are somewhere in between. Many times, people consider the final show as their last opportunity to do something crazy on stage, like practical jokes or blocking that they think is superior to what they've been directed to do. Discourage any sort of silliness. If you feel that the cast and/or crew plans to do something despite your exhortations, feel free to enlist the aid of your director or the Production Manager to squelch these impulses. Plays are done on stage for an audience, so the closing audience deserves to have the same show that the opening audience did.

STRIKE

All theatre majors and minors are required to attend the strike for every show, in addition to everyone in the cast and crew. The Technical Director will organize the strike and break the students up into teams to work on various tasks, each with a Supervisor.

The Stage Manager should check with the TD in advance to find out how many of the regular post-show duties should still be completed. You will probably not have to put the props back into the props cabinet since they will be put away, but you may still need to do other tasks like sweeping up snow.

The SM team should make sure the cast and crew report to their teams as quickly as possible. Usually the ASMs will have assignments as well. The SM is often not on a specific team, so they can complete their own strike duties.

These will include:

- Pack up personal items in the booth
- Collect and return SM supplies to the prop cabinet or to the Production Manager
- Take down your callboard & any paperwork on the mini callboard by the Green Room
- Return cubes to Third Floor Rehearsal Studio as needed
- Pass off your keys to the next SM in your theatre, or return them to the Production Manager if the stage manager is absent or if it is the last show of the semester.
- File your final performance report
- Neaten up your area in the SM office
- Be sure you have no show-related items in the rehearsal room

AFTER STRIKE

The Stage Management Team will have two final responsibilities following the close of the show: completing crew evaluations and turning in prompt books.

Evaluations are completed for each member of the deck crew, wardrobe crew, and board operator. The Stage Manager may opt to complete the evaluations alone or may wish to get specific feedback from their ASMs—especially if a crew member did particularly good or poor work. Be sure to save your sign-in sheets so you have specific documentation of

how many times an individual was late or absent. Once completed, the evaluations should be emailed to the Faculty Supervisors for each area (Michelle Collyar, Laurie Kinckman, David Harlan, and Mandy Kolbe.) The Faculty Supervisors will assign grades and report these to the appropriate THA 110 instructors.

For the first and second production slots of the semester, crew evaluations must be completed within one week of the close of the show. For the final production, crew evaluations must be completed by the final day of classes for that semester.

A clean, organized and completed Prompt Book must be submitted to the SM Supervisor by each Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager receiving credit for the production by the date listed on the stage management contract. No grade will be distributed without meeting these requirements.

If you are not getting credit for your stage management assignment, you can still submit your book for feedback! (And you are encouraged to so. The SM supervisor wants to help you grow as a stage manager no matter where you are technically receiving a practicum credit in any given semester.)

HANDLING EMERGENCIES

Before the first performance the entire Stage Management Team should review their procedures for fire, injury or emergency. Should a crisis arise, you will be far better prepared if you've already played out in your head what you'd do. The best rule of thumb is to figure out what is the safest, most efficient solution that will disrupt the Production the least. Put that solution in place and keep everyone calm. Chances are that the audience will not even know that anything was amiss.

During any emergency situation, it is essential that the show keep running if possible. If it is a minor mishap backstage, the cast and especially the crew **MUST** remain focused on continuing the show. It is important that the rest of the show not suffer due to a minor problem. This is not to say that an actor should go on bleeding profusely, but if that actor isn't on again for the rest of the show, then by all means, keep the show going, and the company focused on completing the show.

Every SM must eventually deal with a technical problem during a performance. The main questions a SM should ask themselves when something happens are

How will this impact the rest of the show tonight? Can we keep going?

If a set piece that is used only in one scene breaks on its way offstage, that may impact the show very little. However, if it comes back on again later in the show, the question becomes "Can it be fixed during intermission?" If so, then again, keep going. If it must be fixed now, what is the easiest and best way this can be accomplished, with the least amount of disruption to the show? It is essential that small problems not become compounded by people missing cues to fix one problem, thereby creating another problem.

Fortunately, you will have developed paperwork to use in the event of an emergency. At some point during your tech rehearsals, the SM Team will develop an emergency shift plot based on the primary shift plot used by the crew. This emergency version would detail what to do if a piece of scenery breaks, if an automated piece needs to be switched to manual control, or other potential situations. The stage manager and SM Supervisor should meet to discuss which emergency scenarios are worth predicting, and the best potential solutions.

A complex show may require more than one version of an emergency plot, taking into account multiple combinations of events. The two most crucial pieces of information for any emergency plot to identify are: will we need to stop the performance to put this plan into action; and can this emergency scenario be conducted with the personnel currently

on the crew (or do we need to call for backup personnel). Should extra crew be required, this will be worked out at the time the emergency plot is created, and the SM will likely have a list of “on call” personnel who can come to assist in such a situation.

Before the show opens, make sure to get training for the SM team and/or crew for quick fixes for which you are responsible during the show, and an accurate list of production team phone numbers if you need to call someone to come in. And if you have been given instructions or a troubleshooting guide, be sure to use it before making calls.

If you are on headset during an emergency, relating the problem to your SM, be sure to tell them as succinctly and quickly what has happened. “Just the facts” very much applies to theatre emergencies.

The Stage Manager should have a set of emergency announcements from the Production Manager with them in their booth. These announcements script what you will need to say should you have to stop a performance for technical problems, illness, audience problems, etc. Remember to always let the house manager know before you stop a show, and have a member of the SM team contact the House Manager and Faculty on Duty IMMEDIATELY after stopping (if someone cannot contact them before the stop).

There is a binder in each booth documenting the procedures for a number of emergency situations including fire, tornado warning, medical emergencies onstage or in the house, power outages, and other scenarios. Review the binder thoroughly and ask if you have any questions.

STAGE MANAGER'S PROCEDURE FOR FIRST AID

The Stage Management Team must always place the safety of the Crew and Actors first. Having the work environment as safe as possible will significantly reduce the chances for injuries. Basic first aid guidelines are included in Section 3. When injuries do occur, the Stage Management Team is responsible for administering first aid. If professional medical assistance is necessary, the Stage Manager must not attempt to do more than protect the injured person, prevent additional injuries, and minimize the effect on the show.

Do not attempt to render first aid beyond any certified training that you personally have received!!!

- **REMEMBER NEVER TO TOUCH BLOOD WITH YOUR BARE HANDS! ALWAYS USE GLOVES!**
- One of the most important things the Stage Manager can do is keep the victim, the acting company and themselves calm. Tell the actors to focus on doing their work and to let you do yours
- The Assistant Stage Manager should alert the Stage Manager whenever an injury occurs.
- If professional help is required the Stage Manager will ask the House Manager to call 911.
- Supply as much information about the nature of the injury as possible.
- If the Stage Manager needs to stop the show - in case of A MAJOR INJURY ONLY - advise the Assistant Stage Managers so that they can tell the actors.
- Bring the stage lights down and bring the house lights up. Using the god mic, read the appropriate announcement from your sheet.
- Have one of the Assistant Stage Managers go outside to help the emergency personnel locate the facility.
- One Assistant Stage Manager should stay with the victim.
- The Stage Manager should stay on headsets to monitor the situation and to get the understudies lined up to be ready to finish the show as soon as the situation is well in hand.
- Whenever an injury occurs during a rehearsal or performance, the Stage Management Team must fill out a University Accident Report Form.
- Include the information on the Rehearsal/Performance Report.

SECTION 3: APPENDIX

Most of the paperwork the SM team will need to create can be found online in the Forms Library. In addition, stage management teams can consult the folders for previous shows for samples.

The Forms Library is located at: <https://theatresm.wixsite.com/uwltheatrerecallboard/forms-library>

If you choose to use paperwork from a previous show as a starting place, be sure that you pay attention to all the small details. The template may have been a show with very few props. That SM team might have drastically shorted the crew training time. You might have a show with a ton of stuff and want all the time you can get! Once you have distributed information with specific days and times on it, your ability to make changes decreases. This is especially true if you now need someone hours or days earlier!

A few pieces of information have been placed into this appendix in order to keep them quick-access. They include:

- SM & ASM Guidelines

- Anatomy of a Script Page

- A quick overview of reading music in a score

- Instructions for using the online callboard

If you are having trouble finding or understanding paperwork referenced in this manual, please just ask the Production Manager or one of your fellow SM students.

STAGE MANAGER GUIDELINES
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

ASSIGNMENT

Name	
Production	Semester
Position	Theatre

IMPORTANT DATES

	<i>Date</i>		<i>Date</i>
Keys Checked Out		Tech Paperwork Due	
First Rehearsal		Run Sheet Due	
Crew Meeting		Prompt Book Due	
Strike		Other:	
Keys Due Back			

TECH PAPERWORK- this includes (1) everything you will be giving to your crew: your preset list, shift plot, rail cue sheet, quick change plot, and whatever else is necessary for your show; and (2) a draft of your tech schedule from first cue to cue through closing

RUN SHEET- a detailed accounting of your activities from the moment you arrive at the theatre to the moment you go home, which would allow someone to fill in for you if you were unable to attend a performance

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

- Attend at all auditions, rehearsals, prep/SM load in activities, meetings and performances
- Maintain good communication with all production areas throughout entire production process
- Maintain clear and timely meeting minutes and rehearsal reports
 - Meeting minutes to be sent out within 48 hours of a production meeting
 - Rehearsal and performance reports to be sent out by 8am the following day (including weekends)
- Have a positive, proactive attitude
- Maintain Good team spirit, cooperation, and respect for the other members of the stage management team
- Have respect for your director, production team, actors, understudies, and crew
- Delegate responsibilities to your ASMs, and provide support and assistance when needed to complete those tasks
- Ask questions if you aren't sure about something, or need help
- Despite the schedule or demands of your production, keep up with the work in your other classes. If you anticipate problems, please talk with Laurie BEFORE you are headed for trouble!

BEFORE REHEARSALS BEGIN

- Meet with your director to get information about the plan for rehearsals
- Meet with the SM supervisor and confirm the names of your ASMs and their contact information, and confirm the important dates & special activities for your show

- Create a version of the actor contact sheet and actor conflict calendar to be double checked by the cast on the first day
- Begin to assemble your prompt book
- Make the Character/Scene breakdown- ideally to be included in the actor packet
- Collect/Create the items needed for the actor packet

DURING REHEARSALS

- Arrive at rehearsals 30-45 minutes before they are scheduled to begin, to ensure you are set up for the night
- Take blocking in your script
- Facilitate the scheduling of costume fittings, interviews, or other activities for the actors
- Keep items like your prop list up to date, and share those updates with the appropriate departments
- Make sure the SM team is ready to prompt and take line notes once the actors have reached their off book deadline
- Meet at least once a week outside of rehearsal time with your SM team to discuss upcoming events, changes, problems, paperwork, or whatever else may be next on your horizon (this may just be coming 15 minutes early or staying 15 minutes late once a week.)
- Organize the crew meeting for your show and create the paperwork with important dates
- Check in with the production departments at least once a week—you will probably want to visit the shop/theatre every day before 5pm to know what is in store for you that night, though!
- Oversee the creation of the paperwork the crew will need to run the show: a preset list, a shift plot, a quick change plot if necessary
- TURN INTO LAURIE a draft of all the paperwork for your crew no later than one week before tech rehearsals begin
- RESERVE the Sunday before tech rehearsals as a time to finish preparing the theatre and/or your paperwork in case you need it
- Have all cues and standbys written in your script prior to the beginning of tech rehearsals
- Update your script as needed based on notes/changes during tech and dress rehearsals

DURING PERFORMANCES

- Attend all performances and call cues as set during tech rehearsals
- By opening night create your Run Sheet.
- By opening night be familiar with any emergency procedures that could come up for your show

AT THE END

- Attend strike
- Complete crew evaluations as requested by production area supervisors
- Turn your prompt book in to Laurie by the end of the day following your strike

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER GUIDELINES
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

ASSIGNMENT

Name	
Production	Semester
Position	Theatre

IMPORTANT DATES

	<i>Date</i>		<i>Date</i>
Keys Checked Out		Tech Paperwork Due	
First Rehearsal		Run Sheet Due	
Crew Meeting		Prompt Book Due	
Strike		Other:	
Keys Due Back			

TECH PAPERWORK- this includes (1) everything you will be giving to your crew: your preset list, shift plot, rail cue sheet, quick change plot, and whatever else is necessary for your show; and (2) a draft of your tech schedule from first cue to cue through closing

RUN SHEET- a detailed accounting of your activities from the moment you arrive at the theatre to the moment you go home, which would allow someone to fill in for you if you were unable to attend a performance

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

- Maintain a positive, proactive attitude
- Ask questions if you aren't sure about something, or need help
- Maintain good team spirit, cooperation, and respect for the other members of the stage management team
- Have respect for your director, production team, actors, understudies, and crew
- Despite the schedule or demands of your production, keep up with the work in your other classes. If you anticipate problems, please talk with Laurie BEFORE you are headed for trouble!

BEFORE REHEARSALS BEGIN

- Help to run auditions for your show (if you are assigned before they occur)
- Help the stage manager with scripts and other paperwork for the first day

DURING REHEARSALS

- Arrive at rehearsals 30-45 minutes before they are scheduled to begin so that you can be set up for the night, as requested by the SM
- Be attentive during all rehearsals (which means no homework, reading, or other non-show-related work)

- Take good notes on your assigned area (props, costumes, etc) in your script and check in with the stage manager and/or production area head if you have questions
- Participate in prompting & taking line notes once the actors are off book as coordinated by the SM
- Help the SM and other ASMs put everything away at the end of the night, and don't leave until dismissed by the SM
- Work with your SM and fellow ASMs to create the paperwork you will give to the crew to teach them how to set up and run the show
- Be willing and flexible to help with non-assigned areas, special projects, emergency situations, or changes
- Attend the crew meeting and be prepared to describe briefly to the crew what their jobs will be
- Meet at least once a week outside of rehearsal time with your SM team to discuss upcoming events, changes, problems, paperwork, or whatever else may be next on your horizon (this may just be coming 15 minutes early or staying 15 minutes late once a week.)
- TURN INTO LAURIE a draft of all the paperwork for your crew no later than one week before tech rehearsals begin
- RESERVE the Sunday before tech rehearsals as a time to finish preparing the theatre and/or your paperwork in case you need it
- Update crew paperwork as needed during tech rehearsals

DURING PERFORMANCES

- Attend all performances, and work to ensure that crew carries out all assignments as set during tech rehearsals
- By opening night create a Run Sheet.
- By opening night be familiar with any emergency procedures that could come up for your show

AT THE END

- Attend strike
- Help to complete crew evaluations as requested by production area supervisors
- Turn your prompt book in to Laurie by the end of the day following your strike

GUIDELINES FOR PROMPT BOOKS

Below is a general list of the many things that can and possibly should end up in your completed prompt book at the end of a show. Some items (like contact sheets) will always be needed. Other items may be specific to your show or theatre. It is also possible that your show will have a specialty consideration (like kids) that may warrant attention & paperwork, and would therefore be added to the list for this production.

Ultimately your book should reflect your work on the production, and contain all the information you need to do your job. It will be a combination of things you have received and things you have created

ASMs do not need to have all of the cues and blocking in their scripts, but should instead have the notes they took during rehearsal.

- ✓ Cast list
- ✓ Character/scene breakdown
- ✓ Contact sheet(s)
- ✓ Distribution lists (who receives what documents: rehearsal reports, production meeting minutes, etc.)
- ✓ Schedules and Calendars
- ✓ Script labeled with acts and scenes
 - with blocking and blocking key (from your ASM if this was not your job)
 - with line notation key (from your ASM if this was not your job)
- ✓ Copies of reports, minutes, other communication
- ✓ Sections containing information collected from or generated for each department (scenery, props, costumes, lights, sound, etc.)
- ✓ Backstage plots: i.e. scene shift charts, rail cues, prop tracking, prop table lists, costume quick changes.
Any piece of paper you generated that had to do with the actual running of the show needs to be included.
- ✓ Ground plans
- ✓ Run Sheet (SM should also have copies of ASM run sheets)
- ✓ Emergency information and plans.
- ✓ Front of House information sheet (SM only)

The prompt book should be in a 3 ring binder with LABELED DIVIDERS BETWEEN EACH SECTION. You can purchase label packets at the bookstore or any office supply store.

Thoroughness is key. Think of it as a record that could be used as a basic structure should the show ever be remounted. All of the information to take over your job, should you become unavailable, should be readily accessible in the book.

Review this list periodically throughout your show. If you haven't begun working on an item on this list, one of two things will be true-it might not be needed for your show, or it might be something you should be doing! If you don't know which is true in your case, please just ask.

NEATNESS, CLARITY AND THOROUGHNESS COUNT TOWARDS YOUR GRADE!

BEFORE HOUSE OPENS:

LX 1

PRESET

SQ A

Preshow Music

Even though it is all before the play starts, pre-show cues (taken at 7:00) are separated from the actual top of the show

S/B

LX 2-5

SQ B-Ex

DLQ ↑

Standby includes all cues and cue lights in close succession and is visually distinct from the actual cues themselves- in this case, on a post it

LX 2

H 1/2

House Closed - OK from HM

SQ B

CEL

LX 3

H out

Announcement Complete

SQ C

TOS J

ACT ONE

1995

SQ D

TRAFFIC

IN BLACK

DLQ ↓

FOR WALKER

Setting: a somewhat dilapidated, spartanly furnished apartment located on a winding street in downtown Manhattan. Also a portion of that street.

Middle of the night.

Lights are dim.

A low hum of traffic. Walker is lying on the bed, eyes closed, listening. A car alarm sounds, abruptly shuts off. Walker opens his eyes.

SQ E

W on Bed

Specific markings in script for the cue's placement (before or after line, on an individual syllable or on stage direction)

LX 4

After :05

WALKER X Meanwhile, back in the city.... Two nights of insomnia. In this room, in the dark ... listening ... soaking up the Stravinsky of it.... No end to the sounds in a city.... Something happens somewhere, makes a noise, the noise travels, charts the distance: The Story of a Moment.

SQ Ex

LX 5

FULL STAGE

God, I need to sleep! (He lets out a breath, takes in the room.)
Yes. All right. Begin. (Lights fill in. Walker addresses us.)
My name is Walker Janeway. I'm the son of Edmund Janeway, whose slightly premature death caused such a stir last year, I'm told.

As you're probably aware, my father, along with that tribe of acolytes who continue to people the firm of Wexler Janeway, designed all — yes, all — of the most famous buildings of the last thirty years. You've seen their pictures, you may have even visited a few. That Shi'ite Mosque in Idaho. The new library

The cues themselves include the type, number, and information on what the cue does or when it is called (if a visual or something that can't just be specifically marked in text)

Page enlarged from play script original size and (this one for a right handed person) set up with script on left, and shifted toward binder rings and bottom of page for maximum cue writing space on top and left

HOW TO READ A SCORE

REHEARSAL NUMBERS are marked in the score and are good for choosing places within the song to start during rehearsal or tech. It is often a place where the **tempo** of the song changes, or where more/different people begin to sing.

25

#2 "Skid Row"

Individual 5-line row with musical notes is a **STAFF**

A group of staves joined together is a **SYSTEM**

Each staff is subdivided into parts known as a **MEASURE**

The measure is noted by a single vertical line.

A double line means the measure is the beginning of a new section of the song.

This page has two systems. Each one has:

3 treble clef staves noting the vocal parts

A treble and bass clef staff noting the instrumental parts

107 (Seymour) - that I'm stuck here 108 **Tempo primo** Seymour/Audrey: Gee it sure would be swell to get out - ta here 109

(Girls) Chiff: Crys/Ron: When you live Down - town Where the sun don't shine

(Winos/Mushnik) W1: When you live Down - town Where the sun don't shine

(+Ky2) *mf* (+Congas) *marcato*

110 Bid the gut-ter fare-well and get out - ta here I'd move hea-ven and hell

Down - town Past the bot-tom line Down - town Go ask

W2/Mushie W1,3-4: Down - town Past the bot-tom line Down - town Go ask

Cue placement from a designer referencing a score will include 4 numbers- page/system/measure/beat
If that location is a lyric, it will be included as well. If it is a rest or just a note, there would only be the numbers

Because only the stage manager and musical director may have a version of the score with the rehearsal numbers, they are generally not used as references for cue placement.

A cue to be called on the word **BID** would be noted as 25/2/1/2

HOW TO USE THE ONLINE THEATRE CALLBOARD

UPDATED AUGUST 2025

Some General Information

1. The online callboard is a companion to the callboard in the theatre hallway. You should post to both locations.
2. The web address is <https://theatresm.wixsite.com/uwltheatrerecallboard>
3. Both callboards should be as up to date as possible
4. Please do not post contact sheets on either callboard, as it is giving out personal information not intended for the public. (It is still okay to email the contact sheet out!)
5. Just as it is necessary to post your report and schedule update in the hallway by the next morning, you should also update the website at the same time. If you type your report in the SM office, you can take care of all of these things at once. If you type your report at home, try to update the website at the same time you post the hard copy.

Getting Started


I recommend building your sites in Wix because it is the most user-friendly. Several additional callboard links can be found at the end of this document to give you ideas

During auditions, everyone will function off the audition page on the main callboard so actors only have to visit one location to get information. Plan to have your individual show sites ready to go shortly after casting—and at least one week before your rehearsal begins.

UWL Department of Theatre & Dance


[Home](#) [Auditions](#) [Calendar](#) [Safety](#) [Box Office](#) [Department Info](#)

THEATRE & DANCE




Online Callboard


Auditions for Fall 2025 Productions




DRACULA
A FEMINIST REVENGE FANTASY.
REALLY.
BY KATE HAMILL
DECEMBER 10-19, 2025
TOLAND THEATRE
LOVE CENTER FOR THE ARTS
HATRED. CONTEMPT. AND LOVE BY BLUDDY



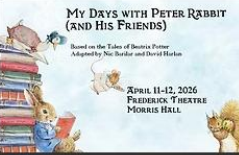
tick, tick... BOOM!
Book, Music, and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson
November 7-16, 2025
Frederick Theatre - Morris Hall




December 4-7, 2025
Toland Theatre
Love Center for the Arts
Ken Ludwig's
THE GAME'S AFCT
THEater




February 27-March 8, 2026
Second Theatre
Love Center for the Arts
MACHINAL
BY SOPHIE THODWELL
When I did what I did, I was free.






**MY DAYS WITH PETER RABBIT
(AND HIS FRIENDS)**
Based on the Tales of Beatrix Potter
Adapted by Nia Barber and David Horton
April 11-12, 2026
FREDERICK THEATRE
MORRIS HALL



April 24-May 3, 2026
Toland Theatre, Love Center for the Arts
**A GENTLEMAN'S
GUIDE TO
LOVE AND MURDER**
Book and Lyrics by Robert L. Freedman
Music and Lyrics by Dennis Edwards



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Requirements

All show sites should have a standard set of pages: a home page, a cast page, a production team page, and a page with your show calendar. You can add a separate page for your weekly schedule or put it on your cast page with a link on the production page. There may be other things appropriate for individual shows.

Weekly Schedule

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

FITTINGS

Wednesday June 21

1:10 pm- Eddie Doerr

1:45 pm- Brianna Frost

2:15 pm- Brittany McGuire

5:00 pm- August Jennings

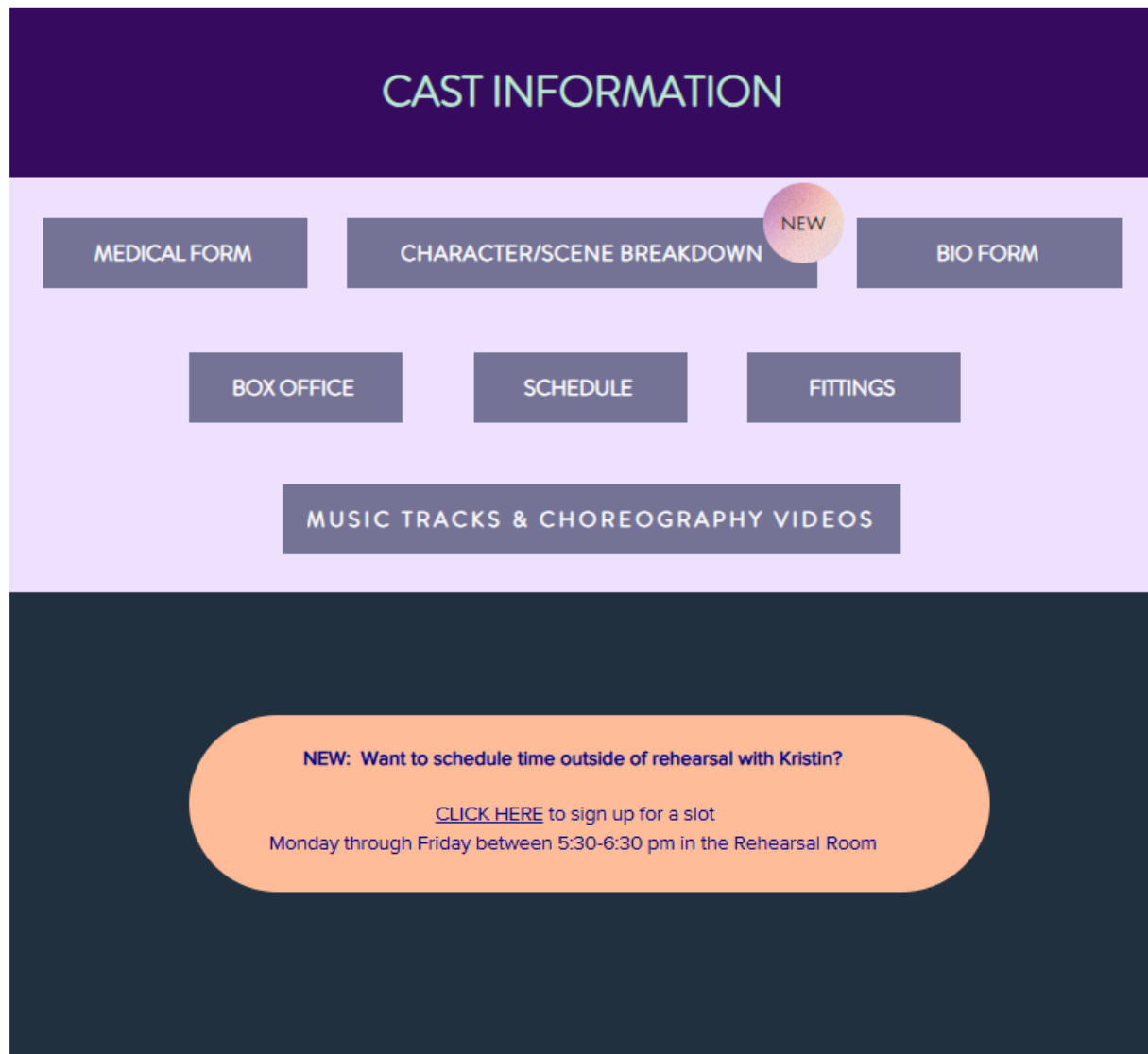
REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

 TECH REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE			
Sunday June 18			
3:00-5:00 pm	Crew Training	Deck Crew	
5:00-5:30 pm	Dinner Break	Deck Crew	
5:00 pm	Call to Theatre	Light Board Operator	
5:30 pm	Call to Theatre	Adults: Full Company Kids: None	
5:50 pm	Company Meeting	All	
6:00 pm	Cue to Cue (piano only) We will hope to get to the end of the 2-1 Ballroom scene tonight	All	
9:00 pm	End of Day Note this is the only night with a hard stop!	All	
Monday June 19			
5:00 pm	Call to Theatre	Deck Crew	
5:30 pm	Call to Theatre	Light Board Operator	
6:00 pm	Call to Theatre	Adults: Full Company	
6:15 pm	Call to Theatre	Kids: Greta Eliot Maeve Maya Michael	
6:30-8:00 pm	Tech Scenes with Kids (piano only) Own Little Corner, Transformation, 12 O'clock will be priorities	All	
8:00 pm	Finish Cue to Cue of show (piano only)	Adults: Full Company	
Tuesday June 20			
5:00 pm	Call to Theatre	Costume Crew	
5:30 pm	Call to Theatre	Deck Crew	
5:45 pm	Call to Theatre	Adults: Full Company	
6:00 pm	Call to Theatre	Light Board Operator	
6:20 pm	Mic Check	Full Company	
6:30 pm	Call to Theatre	Kids: Greta Eliot Maeve Maya Michael	
6:35 pm	Intimacy Call	Montgomery Nysse	
6:45 pm	Band Check	Band	
6:50 pm	Work Notes TBA	All	
7:00 pm	Tech #1	All (Kids released at 8:30)	
As of 6/14/23			Page 1 of 3

Cast Page

It is easiest to post cast lists and schedules as embedded PDFs. Fittings can be typed onto the page or linked in a Google spreadsheet. In the sample below, the fittings are typed on the schedule page but then linked on both the cast and production team page in case someone looks in the wrong spot.

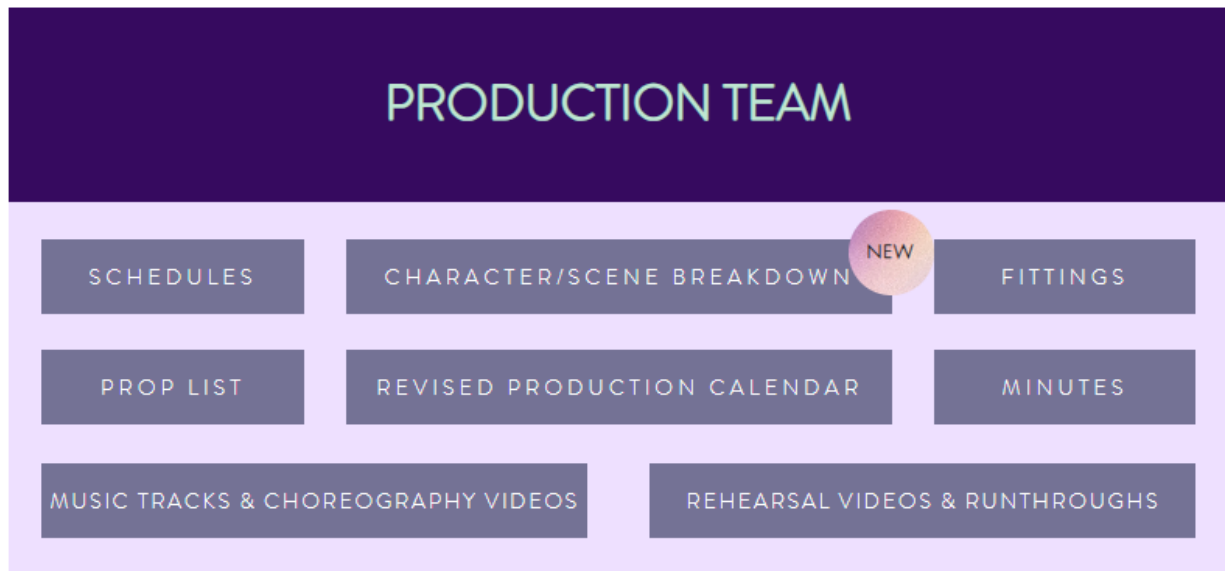
An item which has been updated is also marked NEW.



Production Team Page

On this page, some documents are posted a second time, like the character/scene breakdown. The schedule and fitting pages link to other places in this site. The minutes link to a page on the site which is hidden to keep it out of the navigation menu. The buttons for props and videos are links to Google files or folders.

Creating the little calendar for reports will take some work the first time you do it. It is a collection of buttons. But once you make it, you can save it in your Wix items and then only need to drag it into future sites and edit!



REPORTS

click on the date to access the report for that day

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	June 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	July 1

OTHER SAMPLES TO PERUSE

<https://kreger1625.wixsite.com/dirtyrottenscoundrel>

<https://kreger1625.wixsite.com/a-christmas-carol>

<https://milne8697.wixsite.com/the-secret-in-the-wi>

<https://goetsch7061.wixsite.com/dragons-love-tacos>

<https://krishappe.wixsite.com/4ctseussical>

<https://krishappe.wixsite.com/itsawonderfullife>

<https://krishappe.wixsite.com/uwlshelovesme>

<https://hessfortben.wixsite.com/lasttraincallboard>

<https://felde3025.wixsite.com/orient-express>

<https://weston8736.wixsite.com/puffs>

<https://lkinzman.wixsite.com/uwldance>

<https://krishappe.wixsite.com/constitution>

<https://goetsch7061.wixsite.com/wemberleypemberley>

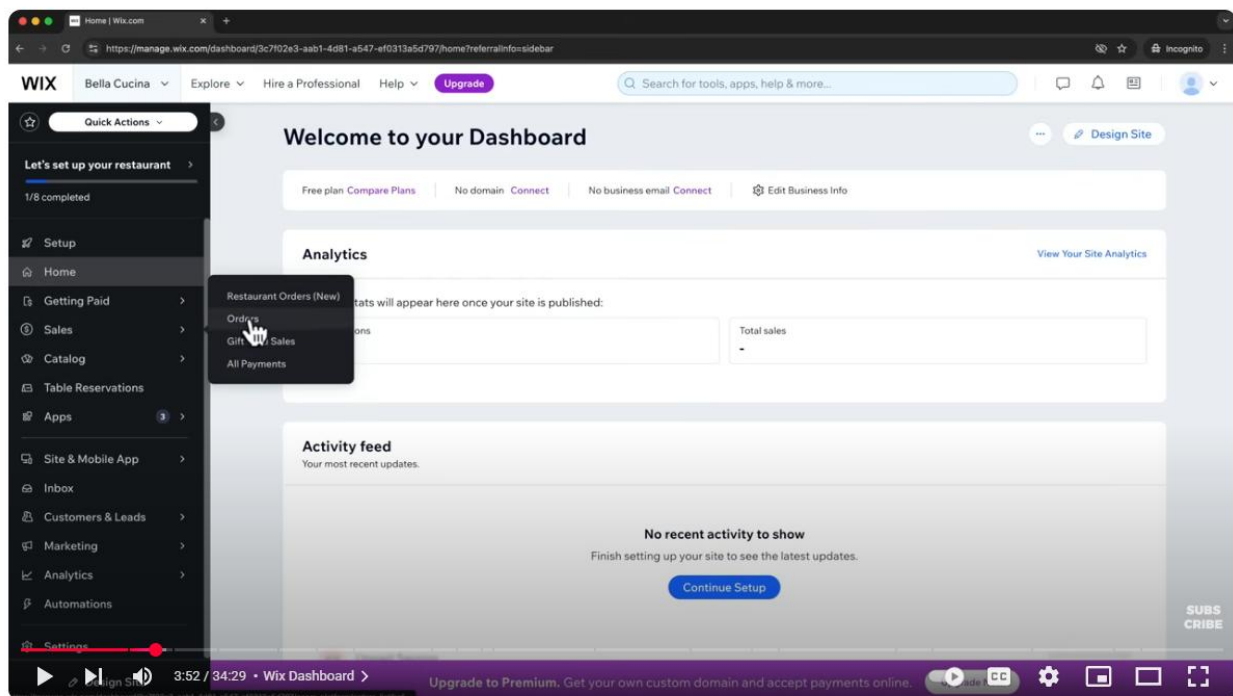
<https://weston8736.wixsite.com/muchado>

<https://millard3984.wixsite.com/lillys>

<https://goetsch7061.wixsite.com/cabaret>

GETTING STARTED WITH WIX

Tip: Avoid the AI option at all costs. It has no idea what theatre is!



Wix Website Tutorial 2025 - Complete Guide for Beginners

Video Tutorial: https://youtu.be/0EjInFSQ5C8?si=v70iu_ZKuv5tm2Fi

Or from Wix itself: <https://support.wix.com/en/article/getting-started-with-wix>