


Risk Management in the Performing Arts

Best Practices
for
Higher Education
or
Everybody Wants to be Peter Pan

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Lots of Ground to Cover

- What Are the Performing Arts?
- What Can Really Go Wrong Anyway?
- Risk Management Techniques
- Special Considerations
- Loss Control and Lessons From the Trenches
- Resources for Further Research




What are the Performing Arts?

- Subset of "The Arts"
- Performing arts include music, drama & dance
- Why are higher ed exposures different?
Academic mission along with public exposure
Student participants are by definition still learning
College students have really bad taste
- What goes on at your campus?
School-produced versus hired acts

Really, what could possibly go wrong?

- Student injuries
- Employee injuries
- Visitor injuries
- Fire
- Egress
- Security
- Reputational risk



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Risk Management Techniques

- Contractual risk transfer
 - Standard agreement with producer/artist (hopefully...sometimes)
 - Indemnity & insurance requirements
 - Waiver on back of tickets
 - Owned or leased venue?
 - Is this your act or theirs?



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Risk Management Techniques

- Insurance transfer
 - Master program versus special events
 - Special events –
 - Broker or online
 - Purchased by university or producer/artist
 - General liability (additional insureds)
 - Liquor liability
 - Property damage of others
 - Event cancellation
 - Damage to premises, extreme weather, strikes, withdrawal of artist, no access...



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Risk Management Techniques

- Crisis planning
Medical, fire, crowd control
- Claims management
Incident reports, claimant follow-through
- Loss control
Involve everyone necessary



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Special Considerations for Student Programs

- Someone must *always* be in charge
- Training, training, training
- Confirm competence
Leave the technical & construction to the experts
Drama students don't make the best engineers
- Dress rehearsals as soon as possible
- Housekeeping
- Deconstruction & disposal



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Special Considerations with Hired Acts

- Avoid letting them shift liability for their negligence
- Consider special events coverage for the big ones
- Security
Inside, artist/producer, or contracted
- Setup
Inside, artist/producer, or contracted

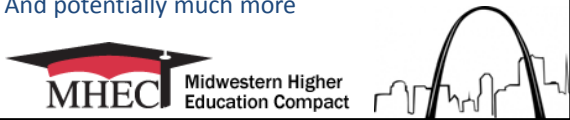


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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Evaluation, selection, training & use

- Hard Hats
- Gloves
- Safety Glasses/Eye Protection
- Fall Protection
- Respirators
- And potentially much more



Stage Rigging – Set-Up & Tear-Down

- Employee Safety
- Equipment – Lift Trucks, Cranes, Hoists
- Capacities – Calculations
- Securing of Equipment



Tool Safety

- Hand Tools
Choose the right tool for the job
- Power Tools
Training
Maintenance






Ladders & Scaffolding

- Proper set-up and use
- Training
- “Competent Person”
- Access/Protection



Fall Protection

- “Flying” of actors
- Falls from stage
- Rigging
- “Simple” slips and falls



Chemical Safety

Solvents, Paints, Dyes, Adhesives, Others

- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
- Flammable and Combustible Liquids
- Makeup



Fire Protection and Prevention

- Welding and Cutting
- Chemicals
- Open Flames
- Pyrotechnics
- Lighting
- Combustible Materials
Costumes and Sets



MHEC logo with a graduation cap and the text 'Midwestern Higher Education Compact' next to a stylized city skyline featuring the Gateway Arch.

Electrical Safety

- Training
- Expertise
- Inspection
- Fire Safety
- Circuitry




A photograph showing electrical wires and components inside a clear plastic safety enclosure on a workbench. A blue pen is placed next to the enclosure for scale.

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Fog and Smoke

- Inhalation
- Visibility
- Notifications/Alarms
- Emergencies



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Firearms and Weapons

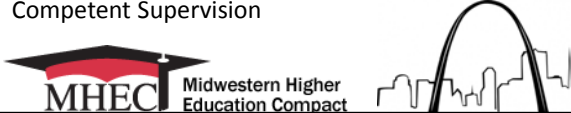

- Proper Use
- Training
- Supervision
- Security
- Legal Issues



MHEC logo and St. Louis skyline graphic.

Personnel/Student Issues

- Training
- Fatigue
- Time Constraints
- Food Safety
- Competent Supervision



Workshop photo showing a person working at a table in a large room with various equipment. MHEC logo and St. Louis skyline graphic.

Thank You!

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