LIGHTING SAFETY

LIGHTING HANG & FOCUS FOR MAINSTAGE SHOWS:

• The Lighting Hang for a mainstage show occurs when all the lighting instruments to be used in that show are hung in the positions indicated on the Lighting Designers plot. Lighting Hangs are approximately two weeks before the show opens.

• The Focus for a mainstage show usually on a Sunday approximately two weeks prior to the opening. This involves focusing all the instruments hung for the show, installing colour (or gel), patterns (or gobos) and outboard accessories.

• The Technical Director and the Lighting Designer direct operations assisted by Thea 105 crew, Thea 205 Lighting Students and Technical Work Study Students.

• As this activity again involves people working on catwalks above the stage and seating areas, great care must be taken to prevent anything from falling.

• To help prevent accidents during a focus, people not involved should stay out of the theatre.

• Calls for Lighting Operations, including Hang and Focus calls, are scheduled by the Technical Director and posted on the 105 Board in the back hallways so that you may sign up for your required practical assignment hours. These calls involve Thea 105 Lighting Students and may be supervised by Thea 205 Lighting Students and/or Technical Work Study Students.

LIGHTING SAFETY RULES:

NO ONE MAY SERVE ON A STAGE LIGHTING CREW WITHOUT READING AND UNDERSTANDING THE FOLLOWING RULES. If you are unclear about something you owe it to yourself to ask. There are no ‘dumb questions’ when your personal safety is at stake. Failure to follow these rules may result in serious injury or death to yourself or those around you.

1. Proper clothing and shoes are MANDATORY (i.e. no open-toe sandals, slippers or high heels; no scarves, party dresses, flowing robes or other loose clothing)

2. Notify your instructor if you have issues with climbing ladders and/or working at height.

3. It is your right and responsibility to refuse to perform any task you feel uncomfortable with or that you feel may compromise your personal safety.

4. Save yourself before saving equipment; equipment is expendable – you are not!

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5. IMMEDIATELY report any accident to your Technical Director or Supervisor.

6. If UNSURE about something, ASK.

7. NEVER EVER work alone.

8. USE COMMON SENSE.

9. Know the location and operation of all fire extinguishers.

10. Know the location of the nearest fire alarm.

11. All ground personnel MUST WEAR HARD-HATS during overhead operations.

12. Empty pockets and remove loose jewelry before climbing ladders or working on catwalks. NO CELL PHONES WHEN WORKING OVERHEAD!!

13. All wrenches should have a wrist-loop safety line.

14. Be aware that anything dropped from above presents a serious safety hazard to those working below! Do your best to ensure this does not happen. If something should fall, shout a warning: “HEADS!”

15. During technical operations, alert everyone in the theatre before going into a BLACKOUT by calling out “GOING DARK!”

16. Never operate the fly system or electrics winches without instruction from and supervision by the Technical Director or his designate.

17. Never remain on a ladder, Tall-a-scope (aka “cherry picker”), Genie Lift or scaffolding while it is being moved.

18. Do not leave tools on top of a ladder, in the cherry-picker, Genie Lift, on scaffolding or catwalks.

19. Always use properly adjusted outriggers when working on the Tall-a-scope or Genie Lift.

20. Always inspect ladders, scaffolding, the cherry-picker or Genie Lift before climbing/ascending to ensure equipment stability.

21. Use a properly fitted safety harness in all situations where there is a potential falling hazard.

22. Ladders should be raised, lowered and set in position by at least two people. As well, at least one person shall remain at the bottom of the ladder to “foot” it while the ladder is in
use (consider lashing the ladder to infrastructure at the top).

23. Do not hang any lighting equipment without first having received instruction in proper procedure from the Technical Director or his designate.

24. Always unplug a lighting instrument before inspecting or changing a lamp.

25. Do not ‘hot patch’ an instrument unless specifically instructed to do so by the Technical Director.


27. Never affect repairs on electrical equipment without supervision. Improperly wired equipment may cause electrocution resulting in fire, serious personal injury or death.

28. Never touch the glass of a tungsten-halogen lamp, particularly when inserting a new lamp.

29. During focusing, or any other time when an instrument is being energized or turned on, keep your hands off the unit until you are confident it is firing correctly. IMMEDIATELY INFORM YOUR SUPERVISOR IF THERE ARE SPARKS OR A HISSING, CRACKLING SOUND coming from the instrument or electrical connector.

30. Never rig anything overhead unless supervised. Always ask yourself, “Would I sit under this?”

31. Make sure that all instrument accessories are securely placed.

32. Use safety cables on all instruments and outboard accessories.

33. Lighting instruments produce a great deal of heat, which can set fire to fabrics and scenery very rapidly. Always ensure lighting instruments have adequate clearance from possible flammable objects. If in doubt, ASK!

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