

Theater Safety - NFHS 2021

KRISTI ROSS-CLAUSEN
ADAM JACOBI

NOTE: This file is an edited version of the presentation with extra resources

The information presented today will work in many venues, but may not work in all venues. **SO**

Unless you are 100% certain of what you are doing - **DO NOT DO IT!** Consult a competent person about specifics of **YOUR** situation who help you determine what to do.

Who is Kristi Ross-Clausen?

“Retired” teacher K-12 and University: choral/general music, theater, and speech

Journeyman Stagehand, IATSE since 1990, IATSE Training Trust Trainer

Stage Manager, Actors Equity Association since 2011

Masters in Theater from University of Wisconsin, Madison - thesis on theatre safety

Safety Consultant for Performing Arts Venues; Keynote/Inservice Speaker

Design/inspect/Train AVL Systems and Theatrical equipment

OSHA 10/ OSHA 30

Event Safety Access graduate - Event Safety Alliance - HS safety consultant

CTS - Certified Technology Specialist by AVIXA, CTS Technical Committee Chair

CQT - Certified Quality Technician (inspector for AV9000) by AQAV

Who is Adam Jacobi?

Degrees in education and communication

Former HS/University speech/debate teacher and coach

Ex. Director of Wisconsin HS Forensics Association (Theater/Debate/Speech/Film)

Region 4 representative to NFHS Speech, Debate & Theater Committee

Web site designer, social media guru, Author, Mentor, and Advocate



CAUTION

**IF YOU THINK OSHA
IS A SMALL TOWN
IN WISCONSIN,
YOU'RE IN TROUBLE.**

Legal, Moral, & Ethical responsibilities

- OSHA, NEC, NFPA (NFPA 101 Life Safety Code), local/state building codes & *IN LOCO PARENTIS* legal “duty of care” for minors we’ve been entrusted with
- Moral and ethical obligation to what is best/safest for you and your students, workers, volunteers.
- Standards: ESTA (and Event Safety Alliance), ANSI, AVIXA
- If you don’t know - ASK!

Traps

- OSHA rule for edges – risk of fall > 6' (4' in some instances)
- 42" top rail, mid rail, 4" kick plate that can withstand at least 200 lbs lateral force
- Net or crash pad with spotters to catch falling things with - illuminated
- Fall Restraint system
- Fall arrest system - harness that meets ANSI FA standards/lanyard or harness/SRL
- BUT have limited exceptions during performances - e.g. DS edge of stage -> pit

OSHA: Qualified, Competent, Authorized

29 CFR 1926.32(l) defines a **Qualified Person** as “one who, by possession of a recognized degree, certificate or professional status, or who by extensive knowledge, training and experience, has successfully demonstrated his ability to solve or resolve problems relating to the subject matter, the work, or the project.

29 CFR 1926.32(f) defines **Competent Person** as “one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them

29 CFR 1926.32(d) defines **Authorized Person** as “a person approved or assigned by the employer to perform a specific type of duty or duties or to be at a specific location or locations at the jobsite.”



Rigging

- Use the right item in the right way for the application - more is often less strong
- OSHA/ANSI annual inspection required for “overhead lifting”
- Get ETCP Certified Theater Rigger with necessary experience as per the ESTA standard to do annual inspection of all “lifting” equipment etcp.plasa.org
- Cost varies – rough estimate = \$1000 plus travel/expenses - USITT grant
- **FIX what needs to be fixed!**

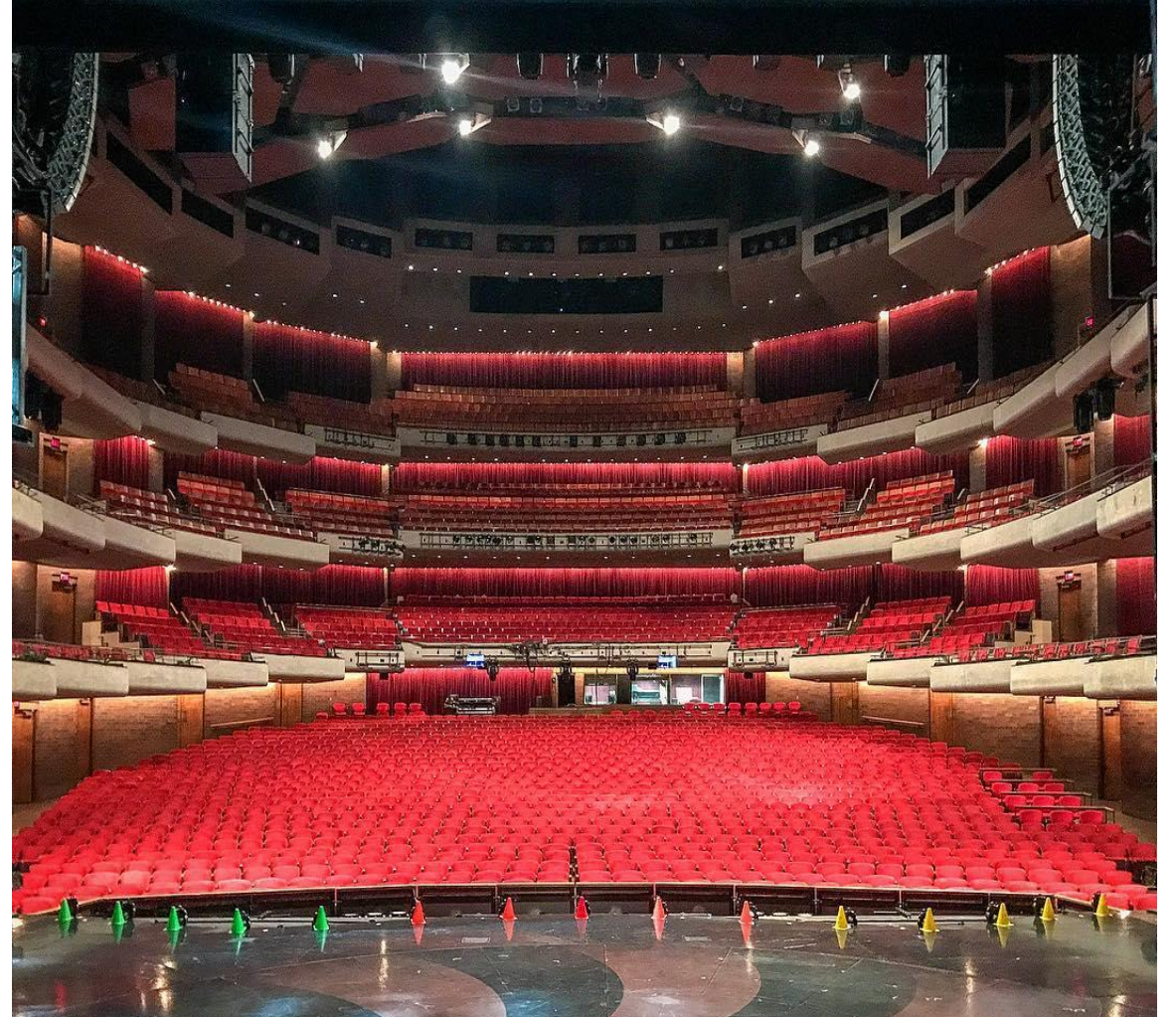
Slides depicting
violations have been
redacted

The Good!







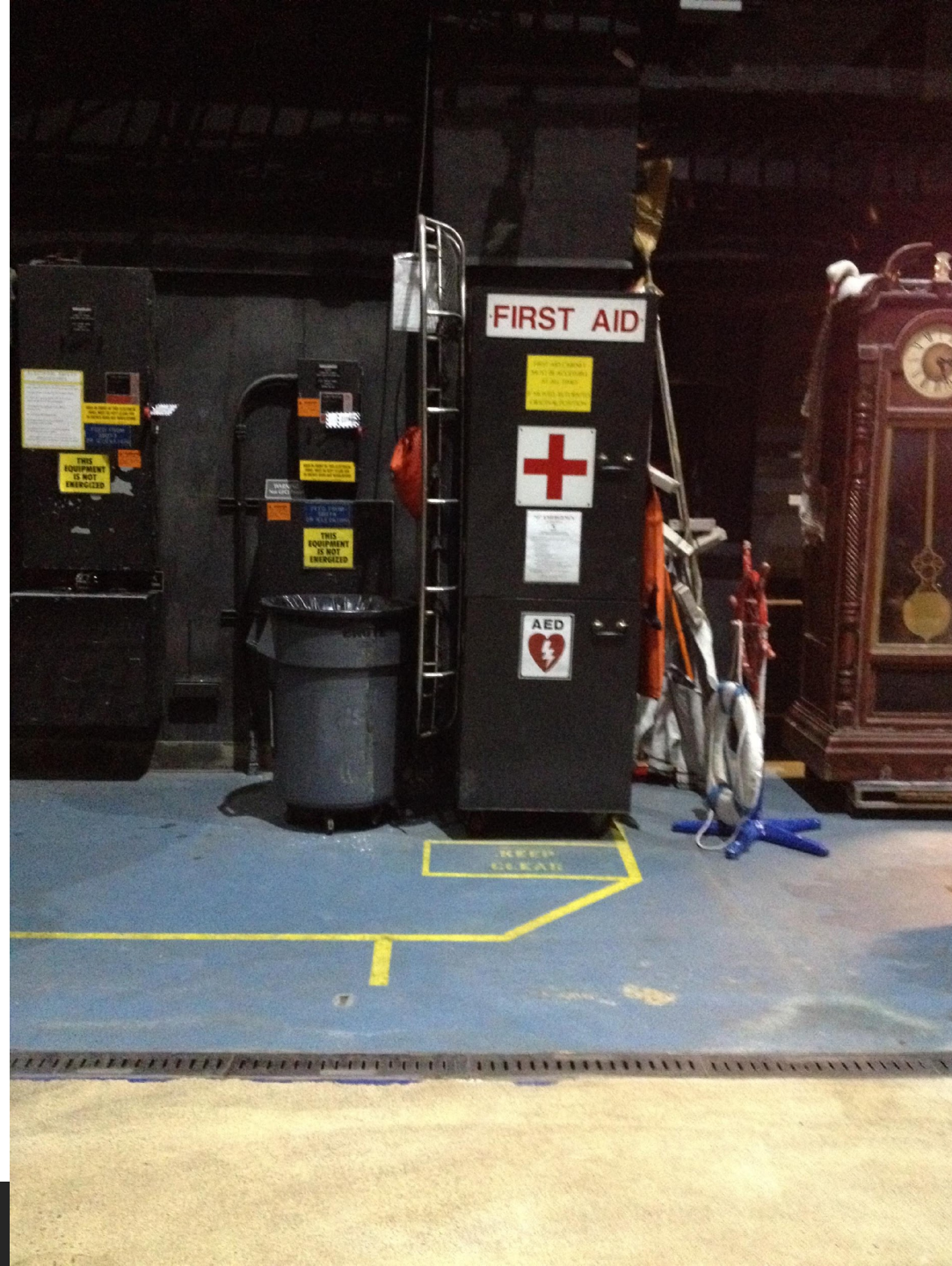












Event Safety Alliance - Training

Event Safety Access Training - online

Event Safety Alliance Reopening Guide, and the 6 month supplement - online

Severe Weather Summit - Norman, OK (was online in 2020)

Event Safety Summit - Pennsylvania & online

Podcasts, books, and people to call - especially for concerts and “industrials”

EventSafetyAlliance.org



ANSI ES1.9-2020

Crowd Management

Approved by the ANSI Board of Standards Review on 06 July 2020

ES/2019-2001r4

Emergency Action Plan & DIME-ICE

https://eventsafetyalliance.matrixlms.com/visitor_catalog_class/show/212590

<https://performingartsreadiness.org/sample-emergency-plans/>

DIME-ICE: Design, Information, Management, Expectations - Ingress, Circulation, Egress

NFHS Theater Safety Class - online

<https://www.nfhslearn.com/courses/theater-safety>

Increasing Awareness, Chemicals, Heights,
Rigging, Tools, Construction, Lighting, Audio/
Video, Costumes, Hair/Makeup, Stage
Combat, Pyro, Lasers, Pits/Traps, Inspections,
Maintenance, Stage/House Management



BACKstage

Technical Theatre for High Schools





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Top 10 Terrors of the Theater:

1. Lack of a qualified, competent person:

29 CFR 1926.32(l) states: "**Qualified**" means one who, by possession of a recognized degree, certificate, or professional standing, or who by extensive knowledge, training and experience, has successfully demonstrated his ability to solve or resolve problems relating to the subject matter, the work, or the project.

An **OSHA "competent person"** is defined as "one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them" [29 CFR 1926.32(f)].

2. General Cleanliness - keep it clean

3. Fire failures - blocked egress, inoperable equipment, lack of training

4. Rigging issues - Inspect as per standards, fix as needed

5. Electrical issues - do the math, keep it clean, repair as needed

6. Poor construction techniques - use standard methods

7. PPE problems - train and use properly every time

8. Chemical exposure/storage issues - follow the rules - obey manufacturer instructions

9. Training - SDS, Tool usage, procedures, equipment usage

10. Lack of trained crowd manager during events - Is there an Emergency Action Plan? Have they been trained on it and practiced it? DIME-ICE model as per standard. (Design, Information, Management, Expectations for Ingress, Circulation and Egress)

BONUS:

There are ANSI standards from ESTA, AVIXA, et al. (or your local equivalent)! Our peers wrote them - they work!

Long hours often with inadequate sleep/nourishment - take care of yourself!

Constant pressure to perform perfectly - just do your best and help others to do theirs.

Thank you!

KristiRC@gmail.com

www.TheaterHealthAndSafety.com
