**North Hunterdon Theater Safety and Professionalism Rules & Regulations**

Non-compliance with these may result in Disciplinary Action and/or Referral.

In General:

-Unless a student has received ***direct, firsthand permission from an adult member of the Theatre Staff***, he/she may not:

                -be up in the Flies

                -be in the Cage

 -be up in the Cove

                -be in the Tech Booth or handle any technical equipment

                -be in the Orchestra Pit

 -be in the Music Office or the Music Office closet

                -be in any restricted area

 -use a Theatre Staff member’s key(s) to turn on lights, unlock Cage, Flies, classrooms, Dressing Rooms, etc.

 -leave the Theater area unsupervised for any reason (this includes going to your locker, a bathroom outside the Theater, water fountain, classroom, etc.) during rehearsal/performance/Theater Organization event (Always ask first!)

-No student is permitted to leave the building in the middle of a rehearsal and/or performance to drive anywhere (i.e. pick up food during dinnertime at an evening rehearsal). We are still responsible for you when you leave the building, if you plan on coming back during that rehearsal/performance, so we cannot allow you to drive anywhere, as we cannot supervise that.

-Students must use the stairs in order to get onstage and offstage. They may ***not*** hoist themselves up or jump off the stage onto the House floor.

-No student may engage in “horseplay” while in the Theatre area. This includes the Music Area, House, Dressing Rooms, Backstage, Tech Booth, Cage, Flies, Cove, etc.

-Unless they are part of a scene you are preparing *onstage*, please refrain from overt displays of affection while in the Theater. This close physical contact with others creates a lack of focus and an atmosphere of unprofessionalism during the rehearsal process.

-***Always obey the instructions given to you by an NHTO Staff Member!***

Regarding the Cage & Flies:

-No student is permitted to enter the Cage and/or Flies area by any means other than walking through the doorway. ***This means absolutely NO climbing the Cage walls/door.***

-Please do not lean over the railings of the Flies area and/or the stairs going up to them. This is a major safety concern.

Regarding the Pit:

-No student is ***ever*** permitted to be on the beams of the Pit or approach the edge of the Pit when it is uncovered. This is a major safety concern and will not be tolerated.

Regarding the Tech Booth:

-No student is ***ever*** permitted to have food or drink (even water) in the Tech Booth. This is a major concern for the safety of the technology. If you need to eat or drink, please exit the Theatre. *There will be no exceptions to this rule.*

-The Tech Booth is not your locker. Please do not leave any personal items in there.

Regarding the Dressing Rooms:

-No student is ***ever*** permitted, for any reason, to be in the Dressing Room of the gender that is not his/her own.

-Please do not leave valuables in the Dressing Rooms. We cannot guarantee the safety of your personal items.

-The only time students may be in Dressing Rooms, for any reason, is from the start of rehearsal (usually 3:15) to 15 minutes after rehearsal ends (to allow for student meetings, etc.), unless a Staff member says otherwise (i.e. after a Saturday rehearsal when the theater is being locked up and we need everyone to go home immediately).

-Anything left in the Dressing Rooms that is not known to be a necessary part of the current NHTO production may be taken to the Lost & Found by NHTO Staff.

-The only people allowed in Dressing Rooms are students who are directly involved in the current NHTO production and NHV District Staff members. No parents of students are allowed in the Dressing Rooms (unless they are also NHV District Staff members).

Regarding Rehearsal Hours:

-Students must take responsibility for arranging to ***have a ride home as soon as rehearsal has ended***. This includes ALL rehearsal and performance days. Parents and guardians should note that being diligent about pick-up time is a necessary courtesy towards the Staff.

During a rehearsal, performance, or any NHTO-sponsored event, the adults on the Theater Staff are responsible for your well-being. We need to be accountable for your whereabouts at all times. Please understand this before you make decisions about your whereabouts and behavior while you are under our care.

Please remember that while theater is fun and an extra-curricular activity, it also demands some of the hardest work and most intense focus we have to give. You are in this Theater to do a job, and to do that job in a manner that is safe for all involved. First and foremost, you are here to work hard and produce excellent theater for your audience. **Lasting relationships with others will be borne out of that hard work and the discipline you must exhibit in the process.** Please never forget that the rules of **safety** and **professionalism** do apply.

Sincerely,

North Hunterdon Theater Organization Staff