



## **THE AXSTANE PLAYERS - HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY**

### **Statement of Intent**

All people working with and on behalf of The Axstane Players shall at all times be responsible for ensuring they maintain best practice to maintain the safety of themselves, audiences, passers-by and other members of the Group. This will be achieved by the use of:

- Documented policies
- Monitoring and Review
- Risk Assessments
- Following best known practice for the work undertaken

This Safety Policy refers to all Group members

### **Lead Responsibility for this policy**

For each production undertaken by The Axstane Players (AP) an experienced member of the production team will be agreed in advance as the lead person.

For the purposes of this policy, it is their responsibility to ensure compliance with the policy by all members, including members of the lighting and sound crew.

Wherever possible this will be in conjunction with the designated Stage Manager who will have overall responsibility for safety during production preparation, rehearsals and performances.

### **Controls and Instructions**

These are normally by verbal discussion and instruction. Written instruction is given where deemed necessary by the lead person responsible for any production.

### **Health Issues**

It is the responsibility of each individual to make known to the lead person any medical condition that may affect his or her ability to work within the Safety Policy.

### **Alcohol Policy**

The Group strongly discourages the consumption of alcohol before and during a rehearsal or performance. The stage can be a hazardous place and everyone needs to be fully aware of what is happening around them.

Being under the influence of alcohol or illicit substances can affect your performance and put unnecessary pressure on your fellow cast members who may not know what your next move or line might be! Importantly, it does not set a good example for the younger members of the group. This is not how the group wishes to be perceived by its audience.

If anyone is considered to be under the influence of alcohol or illicit substances, then they will be asked to leave the hall for that rehearsal or performance.

### Stage Crew and Cast responsibilities

Within the Group it is generally acknowledged that there is a Stage Crew who are responsible for Scenery, Lighting, Sound, Props; and a Cast who are the performers. This safety policy relates equally to Stage Crew and Cast, requiring a high degree of co-operation from both groups at all times.

During performances, no member of the cast is allowed on stage unless the Stage Manager has agreed that it is safe for them to be there.

All members of the Stage crew must follow the instructions of the Stage Manager during performances.

### Risk Management

Risk is managed by the use of best practice and procedures.

Prior to each production, a briefing session is held by the Lead Person to ensure that all people taking part in the production are aware of how the work will be carried out and any unusual risks.

During the production, if any unsafe practices are observed, the Lead Person will call a halt to activities until the problem is resolved.

### Risk Assessments

Prior to each production, a Risk Assessment will be carried out to see if there are any unusual aspects to the production for example the use of pyrotechnics, smoke, naked flame etc

If an existing or generic Risk Assessment does not already cover the production, a separate assessment will be undertaken by the Lead Person and the new or unusual risks will be documented, typically covering:

1. The task
2. Hazards
3. Persons exposed to the risk
4. Control Measures
5. Risk Rating Low/Medium/High
6. Further Controls and Extra Safety Procedures
7. Informing the designated First Aider of any extra risk.

Risk Assessments will be filed with the AP Secretary and be available for inspection by any appropriate Authority.

### Policy Monitoring and Review

Following every production, a formal review is undertaken by the Group at a 'wash-up' meeting to ensure that all policies were met and identify any concerns.

The Stage Manager will raise any concerns with Committee, having first agreed any corrective actions that need immediate implementation.

This Policy will be reviewed annually by the Committee of AP

### Fire Safety

All local fire safety instructions will be followed.

In the production of a Risk Assessment pointing to the need for additional fire equipment or special instruction, this will be provided prior to any activity or production being undertaken.

The Stage Manager will be responsible for Fire Safety at the production venue.

A Fire Drill will form part of the rehearsal schedule to ensure all the cast know how to leave the premises quickly and safely.

For Farningham Village Hall the assembly point will be across the road from the hall.

### First Aid

Wherever possible a production team will include a qualified First Aider.

A stocked first aid kit will be available at the production venue.

A mobile phone will be available during rehearsals and productions.

If a Risk Assessment indicates the need for additional first aid equipment or special instruction, this will be provided prior to any activity or production being undertaken.

### Accident Reporting

An Accident Book should be held by the Stage Manager and will be available for each production.

In the event of an accident, the Stage Manager, or in his/her absence, the lead person should be advised and will update the book accordingly.

### Work Equipment

All equipment used, including lights, cables, sound systems, trussing, rigging tools, mounting brackets and similar will be in good order and condition. Any discrepancies must be notified to the stage manager or lead person for action as necessary.

### Manual Handling

All team members must have a working knowledge of good manual handling procedures. Protective clothing such as gloves, boots, hats will be worn by all people if deemed necessary by the Stage Manager/ lead person. The Stage Manager will provide advice on lifting upon request.

### Working at Heights

Where there is activity being undertaken above head height, appropriate safety measures will be deployed. For example, the footing of ladders by an additional person.

### General Accident Prevention

The policy of the Group is to make every effort to avoid production accidents. It is therefore essential that people under its guidance:

- Must not work on equipment without authority
- Must not fail to warn others of danger
- Must not leave equipment in a dangerous condition
- Must not use defective equipment
- Must not use the wrong type of, or inappropriate, equipment
- Must lift loads in the correct manner and with the appropriate number of people.
- Must not abuse alcohol or drugs.

### Lighting specific instructions

Whenever lights are being hung from brackets or ceiling mountings, the lighting crew will ensure that:

- the light is in good condition
- the mounting brackets are secure and adequately sized bolts are used
- a secondary mounting point is used to attach a safety chain
- all cables are in good condition
- all adapters will be in good condition and inspected for electrical and mechanical faults prior to use.

### Electrical Power safety

All power ratings will be calculated to ensure that no lighting channel, overall power supply or plug rating is overloaded.

All cables will be adequately rated to ensure that they can take the power.

### Sound Specific Instructions

The sound crew will ensure that:

- speakers and cables are in good condition
- the mounting brackets for speakers are secure
- all microphones and cables are in good condition and adequately secured

### Cast and Crew Instructions

An attendance book will be available for rehearsals and performances at the production venue to assist in the event of fire.

All cast, stage crew, sound and lighting crew and other helpers will sign in when they arrive and out when they leave.

Chaperones will sign in themselves and provide a list of names of children present for the performance.

Chaperones and children will be advised of “house rules” and will be notified of areas that are out of bounds

Comprehensive guidance for Chaperones is available separately and will take precedence over these guidelines.

Adopted by The Axstane Players

Date:

Signed: