

Basic Practicum Skills: Props

Hand props: elements that actors use for business onstage.

Set props: small elements added to scenery to create ambience

Food props: anything consumed during the performance

Props are stored in large prop boxes between rehearsals and performances

Hand Props are typically laid out on a paper covered table with each prop being appropriately labeled. The Stage Manager is responsible for determining the layout of the tables

The props crew is responsible for laying out the props and for storing them back in the cabinets after each performance. Cast members are responsible for checking all of their props to ensure they are preset.

Occasionally props will need to be preset onstage or in a costume piece. Pay special attention to these pieces...they like to wander off and hide.

Food props:

These can range from a simple bit of grape juice simulating wine, to an entire meal served onstage. Please follow appropriate food safety and hygiene practices. Everything coming into contact with food props should be thoroughly washed after each use. Food poisoning, botulism and e-coli are to be avoided!

Props/Costumes/Scenery:

Props overlaps several areas including Costumes and Scenery. Costume props (watches, handkerchiefs, purses and whatnot) are placed by the Costume Crew. Scenic props are sometimes placed by Set crew, sometimes by Props crew. Your SM team makes the final determination if there is any question as to who does what.

Handoffs:

Occasionally the action onstage will call for a person to receive or give props to an actor(s). Sometimes these handoffs can be -very- fast. It is important for you to be in the right place with the right props for this kind of handoff to happen smoothly.

Paperwork:

All hand props must be checked in and out of the prop box to prevent loss. The SM team should provide these checklists.

The paper covering the props tables is the biggest piece of paperwork you will have to deal with. A list detailing presets, shifts and handoffs will be helpful also, see below. Perhaps the most helpful is a photograph of the props in their preset positions.

Order of MVT. By Crew Member

Show: _____

Name: _____

Shift: _____

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A		B		C	
1		1		1	
2		2		2	
3		3		3	
4		4		4	
5		5		5	
6		6		6	
D		E		F	
1		1		1	
2		2		2	
3		3		3	
4		4		4	
5		5		5	
6		6		6	
G		H		I	
1		1		1	
2		2		2	
3		3		3	
4		4		4	
5		5		5	
6		6		6	

