

THE COCKPIT

House Rules

This document outlines the basic house rules that we expect all users of the theatre to follow. Please ensure that **all** members of your company take the time to read it. If you have any questions or concerns, just ask a member of our staff.

General responsibility for Health, Safety and security

This lies with all staff and users of The Cockpit.

- Please correct any easily remedied risks you may encounter in the building and report all defects to either the duty manager (ask for the message book if necessary) or any member of Cockpit staff.
- Take care of personal belongings.
- Visiting companies are responsible for conducting their own risk assessments with respect to their specific activities.

Specific responsibility for Health and Safety

All events involving an audience at The Cockpit are subject to the requirements of Westminster City Council Rules of Management. At such times the College Principal, The Designated Premises Supervisor and the designated Duty Manager and technician are charged with enacting the Rules of Management. Their decision in matters relating to stewarding, seating, crowd management, operation of the bar, technical arrangements and all other aspects of health and safety within the venue should be regarded as final.

Events in the auditorium can only commence once clearance has been given and must cease immediately if instruction is given to do so.

Get ins and Get outs

Our procedures are in line with current TMA/BECTU agreements:

<http://www.abtt.org.uk/includes/attachments/TMABECTUCodeofConduct20May2010.pdf>

Additionally, Instructions given by staff technicians for safe and proper conduct, use of equipment and procedures during get-in and get-out including the handback of equipment and cabling and accessories used must be complied with.

House lights (the lights for the audience focussed on the seating) must not be changed at all. No regelling, refocusing or swapping out of lanterns will be permitted. They are on channels 4, 18 (upper gantry) and 57 (stage level), and these channels must also not be changed. If the house lights have been changed the duty manager will stop your show from starting until the change is rectified. There are two multi pars rigged on one of the upstage bars on the upper gantry which provide 4 colours of backlight, and these mustn't be moved, but can be recoloured.

Signage

All signage in the building is up-to-date, current and there for a reason.

- Please take note of and comply with all door sticker warnings and instructions.

Fire hazards

- Corridors, entrances and seating walkways and steps must be kept clear at all times. There are no exceptions to this rule.
- If tripods or other gear are to be placed in seating rakes, then audience can only be seated on the exit route side of the equipment.
- Fire doors cannot be left propped open.
- Fire extinguishers cannot be obstructed or moved other than in the event of a fire.
- Fire Action notices must be read and left in place.

Eating and drinking

- Food and drink (other than bottled water) is not permitted anywhere other than the foyer or the dressing rooms. Chewing gum is banned from the building. Drinks are not permitted in the control box.

Operating equipment

Visiting companies may not operate the theatre's power tools, cyclorama winch or stage trap. The cyclorama must be operated by two people, one of which must be a Cockpit technician. Special procedures apply to the operating of the stage-trap and this must only be opened with the minuted agreement of the Cockpit manager. The stage lift cannot be used. Set and scene painting must take place in the workshop or car park using water-based paint only, no gloss finish or spray paints allowed. Use the paint sink in the workshop to wash painting equipment - not the dressing room sinks.

Working on the gantries

There are clear risks of serious injury resulting from falls and falling objects. There is an additional risk of head injury particularly on the upper gantry.

In general, work on the gantries and work in the auditorium should not be carried out simultaneously.

- Rigging-time must be scheduled and booked separately to rehearsals and tech runs.
- Nothing to be stored on gantries except within lined areas.
- No trip or slip hazards to be left on walkways.
- Bump Caps to be worn on upper gantry. Hard hats to be worn below if people working above.
- No rigging of lights or other equipment while people are on the ground floor of the auditorium.
- No climbing on scaffolding.
- No use of stepladders on gantries.
- Safety chains/bonds to be used with all lanterns, bar mounted appliances and freestanding tripods and stands.
- During rigging, all entrance drapes must be fully open and appropriate signage displayed.
- Multi pars can only be moved if pre-requested and approved by the Cockpit production manager.

Working on the Upper Gantry

- No more than 2 people at any one time on the upper gantry
- There is a clear risk of falling and dropping objects onto stage and people below
- You must wear a bump cap on the upper gantry at all times (except when sitting down and leaning over creating risk of it falling off onto the stage below)
- No step ladders or hop ups/work platforms
- No music playing whilst working on the upper gantry – you must be able to communicate clearly with people below
- No rigging of anything larger than a 1K fixture without a Cockpit Technician present
- If work requires leaning out over the edge of the gantry please call to the attention of a member of Cockpit staff who can provide fall restraint equipment
- Do not over reach on the gantry, if in doubt, ask for help.

Stage Effects

- Please note that companies intending to use live flames, weapons, cigarettes, pyrotechnics, smoke/fog/haze machines or strobe lighting must seek advance clearance (at least two weeks).
- All set and props and must be fireproofed to City of Westminster Council licensing standards (If in doubt, please ask).
- Make yourself aware of where the trap door is and ensure that the whole company are aware of where it is and to be particularly careful in that area, particularly if barefooted as the surface there is not completely flat.

Standards of behaviour

We aim to engender a culture of respect, co-operation and industry.

- Abuse of people or facilities at The Cockpit will not be tolerated.
- It's essential that all users of the building help us to keep noise outside to a minimum in the evenings so as to avoid upsetting our neighbours. This applies outside the front when leaving or having a smoke, and also in the car park during load-outs.

Unsupervised students, young people and children

Separate risk assessments must be undertaken if young people under the age of 18 are working with you in any capacity. Arrangements must be made with The Cockpit Manager for all unsupervised use of the building by anyone under 18.

- Where such arrangements have not been made, young people may be required to leave by the theatre manager or security staff.
- Unsupervised students or young people are not permitted under any circumstances in the workshop, sub-stage area, gantries, dimmer room, theatre control room, front office or technician's room.

Key Points – Summary

- Please take note of and comply with all door sticker warnings and instructions.
- Corridors, entrances and seating walkways and steps must be kept clear at all times.
- Fire extinguishers cannot be obstructed or moved other than in the event of a fire.
- Food, drink (other than bottled water) is not permitted anywhere other than the foyer or the dressing rooms. No chewing gum anywhere.
- City of Westminster licensing requirements apply at ALL times.
- Instructions given by the management or house technicians for safe and proper working must be complied with.
- See special notes concerning work on gantries, above. PPE at all times. No working above people on the floor.
- You will need to clean all spaces after you have used them. This means sweeping, mopping, hoovering as required and cleaning dressing room surfaces and basins.