

## **BIG THEATRE FOR SMALL SPACES SUMMER 2020**

### **COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES - Artist Experience**

Theatre on the Ridge recognizes that rehearsals and public performances are no longer inherently safe activities. As an organization, we care deeply about the health and welfare of our patrons, performers, staff, and volunteers. As such, additional precautions are being taken to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Following the procedures outlined below does not guarantee an illness-free event; however, we aim to minimize the risk of infection as much as possible by adhering to these best practices.

#### **On-Site Rehearsals**

All artists engaged by Theatre on the Ridge must adhere to the same safe working practices followed by Theatre on the Ridge staff. **Orientation on safe working policies will be given online before the first day of on-site rehearsal**, including filling out a digital declaration of fitness, washroom assignments, building access, distancing protocols, and other preparations as seen fit.

On site rehearsals will be conducted outside, with appropriate physical distancing observed. Access to the rehearsal space will be limited to only essential staff and artists, at the discretion of stage manager(s).

Artists will be given individual water and tissue stations and will be responsible for cleaning their own cups and other personal items. Artists will each use their own individual kit of supplies that they will also be responsible for, including pencils, highlighters, and other items that may be needed throughout the rehearsal process.

**If performers, stage managers, or creative team members must get within 6 feet of one another, it will be done with the explicit consent of all parties and written understanding of the risk involved. Rejection of such direction will not affect employment, and the right to refuse unsafe work will remain protected.**

A meeting with the stage manager and director will take place prior to each on-site rehearsal to discuss any additional risks that may be present due to blocking choices, staging, and cast call times. Company members will not be required to be on site longer than is absolutely necessary.

#### **Props**

**Hard surfaces and props will be wiped down between uses and on a daily basis. All props and costumes will be disinfected before entering the storage space or being put in the performance area.**

Where possible, props should be doubled to reduce the need for sharing between performers.

**Microphones and body mics will be disinfected before and after every use.** If a technician is required to adjust the position or set a body mic on a performer, they will be required to wear a mask and face shield.

## **Green Rooms and Dressing Rooms**

**The use of common spaces should be limited, and time spent before a show will be limited to personal stations or dressing rooms.** Similarly, stage management will remain in their office/designated area whenever possible, and the crew will remain at their technical station.

Headsets/radio will be utilized for distanced communication.

Dressing rooms and stations between technical/stage management areas backstage/off of the performance area will reflect a physical distance of six feet where possible. Performers will also be given separate dressing rooms and bathrooms if possible.

**Cleaning of common touch areas backstage, the theatre control booth, and crew and cast bathrooms will be done on a daily basis.**

## **Backstage and Performance**

Areas where an actor or crew member prepares to come onstage or collect their props will be set up utilizing physical distancing.

Hand sanitizer will be available back/offstage.

**Entrances and exits will be divided between performers to allow for physical distancing wherever possible.**

## **Illness of Artists and Crew**

Theatre on the Ridge recognizes that the importance of artists not coming to work when sick may conflict with the idea that “the show must go on.” However, **performers and crew must not come to work if they are experiencing any cold- or flu-like symptoms, such as coughing, fever, or sneezing.** Efforts will be taken to ensure that all cast and crew feel comfortable coming forward if they are feeling unwell. **Theatre on the Ridge accepts that cancelling or postponing a performance/rehearsal due to illness is a necessary and appropriate course of action.**

**Updated July 19, 2020**