



PTG BOARD POLICY 4-8

POLICY TITLE: Security of Weapons in Shows

POLICY STATEMENT

When stage combat and weaponry are involved in a performance, there is a far greater risk of serious or fatal injury than during normal performance activities. PTG is committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment for its theatre Community. In support of this commitment this policy sets forth the guidelines governing the possession and use of weaponry in a theatre production. All applicable federal and provincial laws and regulations shall be complied with. .

LEGISLATION AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Firearms Act

Criminal Code

Safety Guideline for the Live Performance Industry in Ontario, MOL www.labour.gov.on.ca

Canadian Actors Equity Association

<http://www.caea.com/EquityWeb/Committees/StageManagement/Firearms.aspx>

Imitation Firearms Act. https://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_00i37_e.htm

DEFINITIONS

Antique firearms

Firearms manufactured before 1898 that were not designed or re-designed to discharge rim-fire or centre-fire ammunition.

Blanks

Short for blank cartridges used to simulate the sound of a gunshot. They have all the elements of live ammunition except for the projectile.

Edged weapons

Weapons with blades attached, e.g. sword, knife, daggers, pole arms, etc.

Fight director

A person responsible for staging and coordinating all fights and/or stunts. The fight director should be a competent person as defined by the OHSAA.

Firearm

A barrelled weapon that fires blank ammunition. Examples include a convertible starter pistol.

Imitation Firearm

includes a non-convertible starter pistol and is not a firearm or replica firearm and is not designed or adapted to discharge a shot, bullet or other projectile.

Live ammunition

Ammunition capable of firing a projectile.

Possession and Acquisition License (PAL)

The license issued under the Firearms Act, authorizing the possession and registration of a firearm. Replaced the Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC).

Replica firearm

A device designed to look like a real firearm, but incapable of firing a projectile or a blank, could resemble an antique firearm;

Theatres may consider using a prop that resembles a generic firearm, but not so closely that it would qualify as a replica. If the prop does not meet the definition of a firearm or replica, then there are no restrictions under the Firearms Act for using it.

Vent

The direction of the hot gas that is produced when a blank is fired. A firearm may vent down the barrel, out the top, or the sides.

Weapon

Any object used in a staged fight.

Weapons handler

A person responsible for the maintenance and security of all weapons during the course of rehearsal and performance. The weapons handler should be a competent person as defined in the OHS Act and must possess a valid Possession and Acquisition License.

POLICY

1. Firearms and weaponry shall be respected at all times and all safety protocols shall be followed.
2. Live ammunition shall **never** be used in a firearm.
3. Restricted firearms shall not be permitted at PTG.
4. All weaponry to be used on stage shall be approved by the designated weapons handler. The PTG Board shall be informed of the use of weaponry in a PTG production.
5. The audience shall be warned that loud sound effects will be used during the performance by the placement of a notice in the playbill, in the newsletter, and at the Box Office.

6. A weapon shall not be pointed at the audience.
7. All weaponry on a set shall be in the care of the weapons handler
8. The Production Manager is responsible for recruiting an authorized weapons handler who shall then be approved by the PTG Board.
9. The weapons handler shall possess a valid Possession and Acquisition Certificate in order to be . Familiar with any weaponry being used, and their safety requirements; and be familiar with the applicable laws and regulations concerning the handling, transportation and storing of any blank ammunition, which may be required.
10. The weapons handler shall be present at all rehearsals and performances at PTG where the use of weaponry occurs, including any offsite Festival rehearsals and performances in conjunction with the production.
11. All firearms, including imitation firearms, shall be secured under lock and key by the Weapons Handler when not in use.
12. The weapons handler shall provide the approved blank ammunition and shall be responsible to load, test, fire and unload all firearms to determine the safe working distance onstage Refer to the definitions noted in the policy.
13. The weapons handler shall approve any blocking associated with the use of weaponry in a particular scene * and ensure all actors using the weaponry are fully aware of the safety rules for the handling of such weaponry including firearms and shall demonstrate the firing of the firearm in the presence of all cast and crew to ensure an awareness of sound levels, safety considerations and potential dangers. .
14. All firearms shall be loaded with blank ammunition as close to the entrance or firing time as practical. Once a loaded firearm is set on a props table it should be monitored by the weapons handler. When the firearm is no longer required, it shall be stored unloaded in the assigned locked cabinet.
15. During rehearsal periods a notice shall be posted at the backstage theatre entrance to advise that gunshots are being used in the rehearsal.
16. The use of weaponry such as a bow and arrow, or a slingshot shall be pre-approved by the PTG Board before being utilized in a production.
17. The Fight director shall be responsible for coordinating and staging all fights and/or stunts in consideration of health and safety regulations. The fight director should be a competent person as defined by the OHSA. The Fight Director may designate an individual to oversee the execution of the fights or stunts during rehearsals and performances. It is the responsibility of the Fight Director to ensure that this designate is properly trained.
18. Weaponry should be stored in the locked cabinet when not in use at rehearsal or performance. The only workers to handle the weapons shall be the fight director, their designate, and the performers who need to use them. The Fight Director shall approve the choice of weaponry for the production. The weapons that are used in a production shall be the same as the weapons used during rehearsals.

19. The Stage Manager shall be knowledgeable of the location of the first aid kit and emergency procedures.

MONITORING:

The Production Manager for each show will ensure that this policy is followed during the run of the show and shall bring any concerns or issues to the direct attention of the PTG Board.

Rev #1: October 2013

Rev #2: April 24, 2014

Review Date: April 2016

Approved by Board of Directors: April 24, 2014

Related Policies:

Related Documents: OHSA, Firearms Act, Criminal Code, Safety Guideline for the Live Performance Industry in Ontario, MOL www.labour.gov.on.ca, Canadian Actors Equity Association, <http://www.caea.com/EquityWeb/Committees/StageManagement/Firearms.aspx>, Imitation Firearms Act. https://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_00i37_e.htm