



Theatre Virtual Learning

Introduction to Theatre Design & Production Props

May 20



Lesson: **May 20**

Objective/Learning Target:

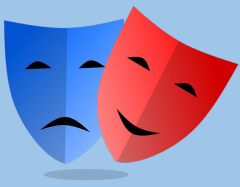
The student will learn how to set up a proper prop table.

Props

Let's Get Started / Warm Up Activities:

Why is it important for a prop table to be set up with clear markings?

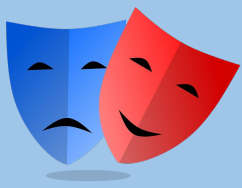




Props Backstage



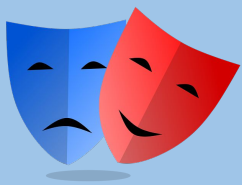
- An important part of the prop designer's position is to make sure the props are properly laid out before the show.
- Props will be preset on stage and backstage.
- The prop designer will have a complete plan for every prop and where it starts. They make sure each one is preset properly.



Props: Placement and Settings

- Any prop that starts on stage will be preset on stage.
- Any prop that starts backstage that is small enough to put on a table will have its specific place on a prop table
- Any prop that is too large for the table will have its specific designated spot.



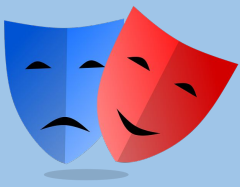


The Prop Table!

Prop tables need to be laid out properly to help the cast.

They need to be able to quickly get their prop and get onstage, often times in the dark.





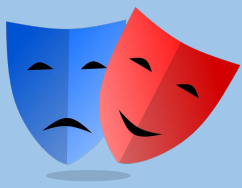
The Prop Table

The table is placed offstage where it is out of the way of scene changes, but has easy access to actors.

The props should be set up on the side the entrance is from, for easier access. Many times you will have a SL and a SR prop table.

Depending on the amount of props, there could be one, two, or more prop tables.

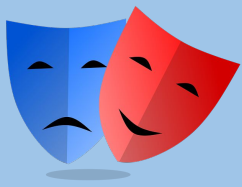




The Prop Table!

- The table should be set up in a very organized manner.
- The top of the table is covered in butcher paper and marked off in blocks for the props. OR masking tape is labeled and placed in a grid.
- Each block is marked with what goes in it.





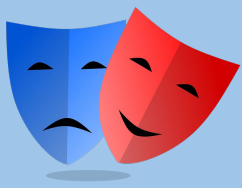
The Prop Table!

Not this chaos



Prop crews must be able to know if something is missing quickly in their pre-show checks.



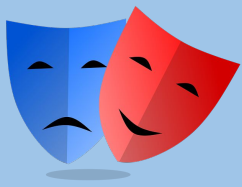


The Prop Table

Proper method to set up

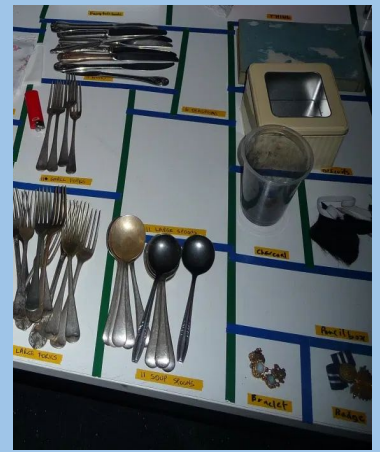


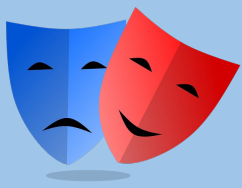
This makes sense and the designer can quickly see if something is missing before show.



Prop Table Tips

- Many small items that are the same can go in one block, such as 10 forks
- If something is too big for the table, but is still a hand/personal prop, it can go under the table, but still label where it goes.
- Setting up a small blue light or christmas lights near the table is helpful for the actors to get props more easily

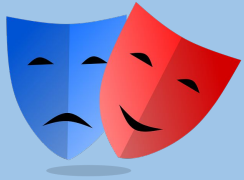




Prop Table Tips, cont.

- If you have guard spears, or flags, you can put them in a bin on the side so they are standing up.
- Make the organization logical. For instance, try to put the props on the table in the order they are used or put the smaller ones in front and the larger ones in back so they do not block the smaller props when actors are getting props in the dark.





Practice: Prop Challenge!

- Get random items in your home and set up a proper prop table.
- Take a picture of it and send it to your teacher.

