

# Theatre Virtual Learning

## Introduction to Theatre Production & Design Maintaining Your Space

**April 16, 2020**



Lesson: April 16,2020

**Objective/Learning Target: The student will practice the importance of maintaining a theatre space.**



# Maintaining Your Theatre Space

## Let's Get Started / Warm Up Activities:

Consider the following: Your school's production of *Shrek: The Musical* is in tech week rehearsal. You are an assistant to the stage manager and one of your tasks each night is to sweep and mop the floor. Why is this important to the cast and crew?



## Lesson/Activity

It seems like a simple concept, but sweeping and mopping a stage floor is not only about keeping your space clean and pleasing to the eye, but it is also about safety! Can you imagine:

### The Show Must Go On: Music Theatre Fails

There are many things that can go wrong during the run of a show. Actors dance, run, jump, flip, etc. on stage. Set pieces move on and off. Safety is important. So why do we sweep and mop the stage so often?





# Lesson/Activity

Why do we sweep and mop so often in theatre?

- Actor's safety, screws, splinters, staples or bits of glass could be anywhere
- Actor's safety, dust, sawdust & dirt makes for a very slippery deck.
- Peace of mind, if they are wearing footwear they are less likely to be hurt, and if they happen to pop off their shoes for a moment they will not be hurt.
- Makes the deck look good!
- Shows performers, directors, and audience that you CARE! We are all in this together!

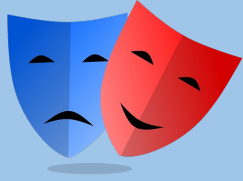


# Lesson/Activity

1. It is important to remember, that since every theatre space is different, there will be set procedures for sweeping and mopping for each one.
2. For example, every technical director will have a set direction SL to SR etc. for you to follow in the space.
3. But, there are some basics to follow.



[How to mop a stage: theatre maintenance.](#)

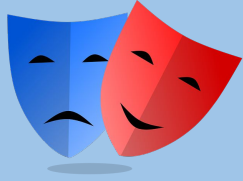


# Lesson/Activity

## Tips., Tricks and Best Practices in Sweeping and Mopping a stage floor:

- Sweep the floor first! Choose a set direction. (Ask your technical director)
- Sweep from the outside to the middle to avoid getting dust onto the drapes & scenery.
- Use a vacuum cleaner (for the floor pockets and crevices) if needed.
- Use only hot or warm water to mop, cleaners will only be added on a case by case basis.
- Mop in figure 8 pattern, and switch sides of the mop head every few passes.
- Mop yourself off the stage, don't get trapped!

**Reflect on the following question:** Think of your current theatre space, what would be the process of sweeping and mopping your stage deck? Where are brooms, dustpans, and mops located? Which direction would you mop (SL to SR),e tc?



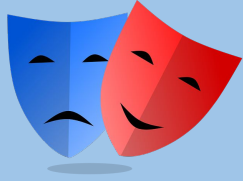
## Practice: Applying a Concept

Today, your practice will accomplish two goals: advance your backstage skills and give you high fives from your guardians!

Steps:

1. Choose a space in your home that you can sweep and mop
2. Locate necessary supplies available to you (you may have to improvise. For example, you can use an old towel lightly dampened as a mop.)
3. Make a plan of how to best sweep and mop your space.
4. Execute the plan!
5. Get love and praise for sweeping and mopping a floor!





# Practice: Example Pictures

