

Play Production 101

NSAA/NSCTA/NDE

Lincoln, Nebraska

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Play Production 101 Schedule

- 8:30 am – Registration
- 9:00 am – NSAA Welcome/Introductions
- 9:45 am – Don't Panic
- 10:20-10:30 Break
- 10:30 am – Festivals/Competitions
- 11:00 am – Scripts & Set Design
- Lunch (11:30-12:25)
- 12:30 pm – Team Building
- 1:30 pm – Directing
- 3:30 pm – Nebraska K-12 Fine Arts Standards
- 4:00 pm – Work Time

NSAA Rules and Regulations

Deb Velder
NSAA Associate Director

Don't Panic

- It does feel like a lot of work right now, but we have broken the process into a series of steps.
- You are also surrounded by many other coaches who are willing to help!

Don't Panic

Team History

- How do the students and staff feel about the current theater department?
- Why did the former coach leave?
- How many students participated last year?
 - Contact them right away.
- Did this team participant in area tournaments or host a tournament?

Don't Panic

School Administration

- Be their friend
- What is your budget?
- What do you have to pay for out of your budget?
- Get your dates on the school calendar ASAP!
- Do you have help? Who has helped in the past?
- Can you have a school performance to recruit?
- How much do you get paid?
- When has the group rehearsed previously?
- Where do we practice? How do we reserve this space?
- What kind of program does this administration want to have at this school?
- Can we stay at a tournament in its entirety or do you leave after you perform?

Don't Panic

What do you have?

- Do you have a stage?
- Do you have a trailer?
- Do you have a costume department?
- Do you have hair and make-up supplies?
- Do you have a light and sound board and/or lights?
- Do you have a spot light?
- Do you have an assistant coach?
- Do you have stock set pieces from the past?
- Do you have money to build stock pieces?
- Do you have a parent support group?

Don't Panic

Make a list

- KWL Checklist (Know, Want, Learned)

Fill out the information as we go along

Discuss with others later

Work Time

Play Production Priorities

1. Scripts
2. Understanding your students through casting
3. Blocking
4. Characterization
5. Tempo

And then when this is all complete, focus on

6. Making the set fit blocking



Break and Snack

10 minute break

Tournaments

How do sign up?

- Visit the NSCTA website
 - There are people on this website to help you!
 - Officers
 - Area representatives
 - Theater chairs
- Visit the NSAA for sanctioned tournaments and festivals
- Networking
 - That happens today at NSCTA, tournaments, online, email, etc.
- Email the tournament director to see if you can attend as soon as possible.

Tournaments

Make a contact

- What festivals are in your area?
- Email your administrator to see if you can attend.
- Email a director to see if they have room for you to attend.
- See the sample emails included in the packet.
- Work Time

Tournaments

Routine

- Everyone has his/her own routine
 - Share routines
 - MOST IMPORTANTLY!!!!
 - Show the students how to win and how to lose gracefully.
 - We are teaching about life and not just play production.

York's Tournament Routine

(45 Minute Increments- See Handout)

- Watch shows
- Eat
- Students are dressed and ready
- Hair/Make-up (This will usually take all morning. Have a schedule!)
- Warm-Ups / Run Show Verbally
- Line up with the set
- Perform
- Judge's Critique / Clear Stage
- Change into show shirts
- Watch /Support other schools
- Awards

Tournaments

Travel

- Renting/buying/borrowing moving materials
- Hotels
- Drivers
- Parental help
- Budget
- Travel requests
 - Busses and vans
 - Do this early!
 - How do you make these requests?
- Very expensive
 - Be prepared

Tournaments

Judge's Critique

- Prepare your students for this! Practice this!
- Coaches, Cast, Lights/Sound, Hair/Makeup/Head Crew Leaders should attend. Other crew is loading the set usually.
- Takes place directly after you perform in another room.
- Get there as quickly as possible.
- Put your main character at the front/Ensemble in the back
- Judges will ask questions
- Tell students to keep answers to a minimum
- Everyone is QUIETLY listening to the judges. NO PHONES!
- Judges will offer suggestions. You do not have to use them, but be respectful of their opinions.
- Clap at the end of each judge's commentary.

Scripts

Choosing a Script

- Go to the state organization websites and see what has won in the past.
- Choose an actual one-act as a beginner.
- Stage Combat and Travel
- Be careful on numbers and gender switching
- After three pages, if you can not envision the show in your mind, stop reading. Go on to another script.
- Scripts and Royalty Fees and Adaptations
 - Where does this money come from?
 - Who makes this purchase?
 - How many do you order?
 - You have to have an administrator sign a waiver for the NSAA.
- Where do you find this script?
 - See attached list of companies

Scripts

Choosing a Script

- Know the strengths and weaknesses of your cast
- Take the perceived weaknesses and turn them in your favor
- What special talents will your cast and crew have?
 - Singing? Dancing? Musical instruments?
 - What can the crew effectively handle?
 - What can make-up do ?
- Tell a good story; connect with your audience; build Pathos
- How can you make the script your own?

Scripts

Popular Script Publishers

- playscripts.com
- dramaticpublishing.com
- pioneer.com
- Eldridge (histage.com)
- dramatist.com
- theatrefolk.com
- samfrench.com
- Heuer (hitplays.com)
- brookpub.com (Brooklyn publishers)

Scripts

- Take out your script options
- Read a few pages
- Pick one to use today. Work Time:
 - Can you picture the scenes?
 - Can you see your talent accomplishing the story?
 - Does the script offer the creative license you want or need?

Scripts

Cutting

- It's an art!
- You have to have written permission from the playwright/publishing company.
- FINES!!!!!!
- Observe the cuttings of other coaches' work.
- Watch other people's shows.
- This is a workshop in itself. Maintain the integrity of the storyline.
- Do minimal cuts your first year/years.

Scripts

Cutting

- Pick a section to cut.
- Work Time

Scripts

Set Design

- When you read a script, I know that I like it when I can picture the set.
- Who will be in charge of set design?
 - Use your kids! Give them authority!
 - Shop teachers? Assistant coach?
- Google images
- Remember you will have to travel with this!
- Have a rough drawing
- Ground plan
- Make a list of what needs to be found/built
- Have a rough idea of your staging concepts.
 - This idea can evolve, but have jobs that your crew needs to start building right away.

Stage Design

- Show sample stage designs
 - Hand out a blank stage
-
- Work Time

Lunch Checklist

- Tournament/Festivals
- Script
- Cutting
- Staging
- Set Design
- KWL--Add to the chart

LUNCH

- Doug Zbylut
 - Executive Director,
Nebraskans for the
Arts
 - Working Lunch

Directing

Auditions/Tryouts

- Audition sheet
- Sign up
- Multiple times/dates
- Introduce themselves
- Talk about your grades
- Warm-up activities
- Provide scripts or excerpts for reading
- Possibly have other adults watch tryouts

Directing

Tech Meeting

- Have days devoted to these departments.
- Make sure everyone has a job
- Sound and Light
 - Right away, they train students on the equipment.
- Crew
 - I give them my overall concept with specific building projects to start.
- Hair and Make-up
 - Keep everyone busy or you will lose the student!

Directing

Costumes

- School Costume Department
- Good Will / Thrift Shops
- Local Community Theater
- Halloween
- NSCTA website/Facebook to ask other directors.
- Rentals
 - See attached list

Directing

Posting a Cast List

- Post on a Friday and leave
- Post on the back of your door/theater
- Initial that they accept the role
- Put the time and location of the first meeting
- Warning: There will be students that will be unhappy and/or quit the show because of your decision. Don't take it personally.
- Warning: You may have parents or administration question your decisions.
- A note of encouragement to students.
- Hold tight. You know what you want!

Directing

First Rehearsal

- Checking out scripts
- Getting to know your activities
- Bonding and trusting
- Read through
- Research
- Schedule
- Get all of your forms in
- Picture
- T-shirt order forms

Directing

Other Rehearsals

- Have a plan
- Make sure you rehearse the second half of the show as much as first
- Rehearse technical theater
- Blocking rehearsals
- Small group rehearsals
- Timing a show
- Fast forward/ Shot Gun
- No words run through

Directing

Dress Rehearsal

- Tech rehearsal definition
- Cue to cue rehearsal definition
- Dress rehearsal definition
- Psychology of dress rehearsal
- Bring in an audience

Directing

Keep it Fresh

- Add something new every week
- Putting students in stressful situations
- Prepare students for EVERY scenario
 - Running late to a show
 - Sound doesn't work
 - Missed sound/light cues
 - Sick/missing actor
 - Student forgot their costume
 - The set breaks
 - Overtime/Undertime

Blocking :Go With The Flow

- Blocking: Intentional and artistic arrangement of actors on the stage or in the performance space

Movement / Blocking

Ground Plan/Floor Plan

Acting Areas (See Manual)

Body Positions / Stage Levels / Triangles / Space

Eye Focus

Blocking Slide Show





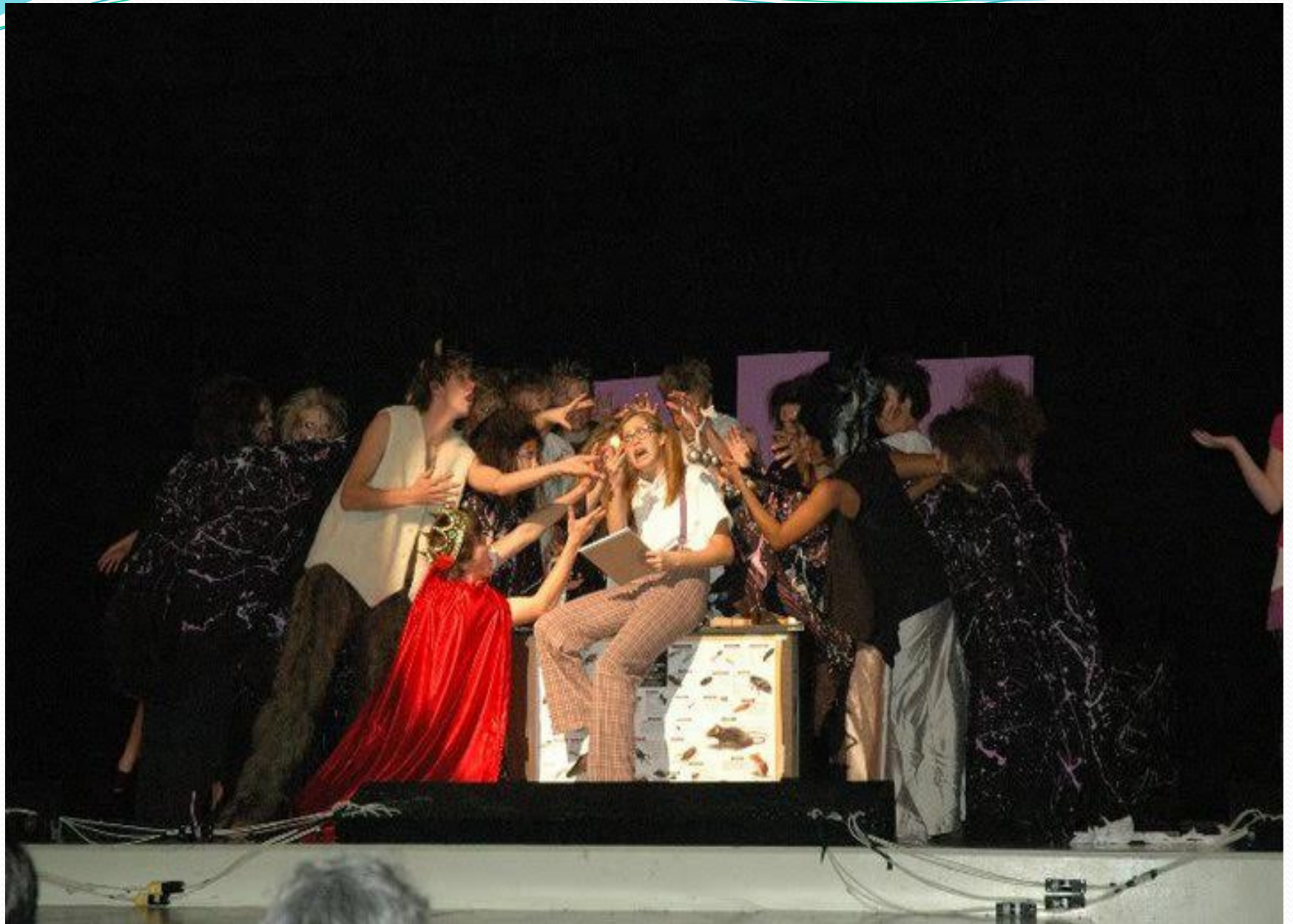
























Blocking

Color

Speech / Movement

Reinforcement

Variety / Unity / Balance

Blocking- Go with the Flow #2

Blocking Errors

- Straight Lines / Semi-Circles
- Upstaging / Covering
- Improper Counter-Crosses
- Multiple Scene Changes

Blocking Pluses

- Give and Take
- Dress the Stage
- Simplify & Heighten

Stage Picture Theory



Break Time

Where are we at right now in our process?

Directing

Transitions

- Define a transition
- Add music
- Add group singing
- Add movement
- Choral reading
- Light changes
- Freeze characters
- Please do not just use a blackout without transitional elements such as music, multiple exits, etc. so the energy and tempo isn't interrupted.
- Make transitions fluid and quick and quiet.
- How do you make your set a quiet transition?

Directing

Chorus

- There are no small characters, only small actors.
- Not every show provides an opportunity for a chorus in the cast, but when they do; it is a great opportunity for kids to begin their acting careers.
- A chorus is sometimes director or playwright created, but there is disagreement when artistic license is used.

Characterization

- How can the characters come to life?
- What skills/talents do the actors have to incorporate into the character?
- Start with the posture, stance, walk of the character...no words or lines
- Keep adding to the characters (internalize)
- Sometimes I've had students create backstories to their characters...one of them could have been a one-act in and of itself

7 keys to characterization

- Concentration
- Observation
- Emotional Memory
- Externalization
- Projection
- Motivation (Believability)
- Uniqueness

Reminders

- Your students are not only developing a reputation from their performance on stage, but their demeanor off of the stage.
- Students should not speak badly about the judges, their show, or any other show.
- Teach your students to have respect for all of the arts. Model the appropriate behavior.
- They should not have phones/electronic devices or anything distracting them from the show in the performance area.
- Students should not talk during a performance.
- Students should not enter/leave during a performance.
- Everyone wants the one-act experience to be a positive atmosphere. EVERY school can learn from the other shows at a competition no matter their competitive level.

Nebraska State Fine Arts Standards

- Debbie DeFrain
- aQUESST
- Sell this to your administration

Break a Leg!

- Wishing you all the best this season!
- Please contact us if you have any questions.
- Break up into groups.