



FLY SYSTEM LOADING & UNLOADING

WHAT THIS SHEET APPLIES TO

Anyone changing weights to balance the Strider Theater counterweight fly system. (See also the *Safety Information Sheet* entitled "Fly System Operation".)

RISKS INCLUDE

Falling objects, muscle & ligament injuries, and overexertion.

GUIDELINES, RULES, & PROCEDURES

- At least three trained, certified people are required; two on the loading gallery and a supervisor on the stage to test the line set, call commands, and spot. **Hard hats must be worn by all people on stage.**
- Remove any unnecessary items from pockets or which could fall off (this includes hard hats) before climbing up to the loading gallery.
- During the loading/unloading process, an unbalanced load condition exists. This is potentially VERY DANGEROUS. Use the Department of Theater & Dance's official procedure each time a line loaded or unloaded. This procedure is taught as part of the certification process.
- Whenever possible, battens should be loaded at **Low Trim**. Counterweights should be the **LAST THING LOADED**, and the **FIRST THING UNLOADED**.
- Never load or unload weights when anyone is standing below the loading gallery.
- Lift weights with your legs while keeping your back as vertical as possible.
- A spreader plate should be used for each 24" of counterweights stacked on the arbor. Arbor collars should remain fastened in place after loading and unloading.
- There should be quiet on stage whenever counterweights are being loaded/unloaded.
- Counterweights should never be stacked higher than the top of the kick rail and should be evenly distributed along the length of the loading gallery.
- Line sets should always be kept in balance. Never rely on the rope lock to hold an unbalanced load.
- If the line can't be perfectly balanced because the imbalance is smaller than the smallest weight available, it is usually better to leave the line arbor heavy.
- See also the *Safety Information Sheet* "Fly System Operation".

FOR FURTHER UNDERSTANDING

Glerum, Jay O., *Stage Rigging Handbook*, 3rd ed., Carbondale: Southern Illinois Press, 2007.