

Yale College Dean's Office, Office of Undergraduate Production

Staged Combat and Weapons Policy

DEFINITIONS

Staged Combat

Staged combat is defined as any physical confrontation, armed or unarmed, between two or more participants, in which bodily harm is threatened or represented, with or without actual physical contact.

Weapons

Weapons include but are not limited to: guns (working, non-firing, rubber and toy), knives, swords, daggers, spears, bows and arrows, cross bows, slingshots, nooses, hand cuffs, shackles, restraints and any other implements fashioned or used in a threatening manner, whether capable of inflicting actual bodily harm or not. Unsecured prop weapons will be eliminated from the production.

BANNED ITEMS

No firearm will be used that is capable of firing projectiles in any form. There will be no use of blanks, caps or any other explosive device. Any and all gunshots must be accomplished through the use of sound effects, either recorded or by a stage device such as a slap-stick.

No weapon will be allowed that is capable of firing a projectile, such as a bow and arrow or crossbow. All such weapons must be incapable of firing and used for visual effect only.

No cutting implements will be allowed unless the cutting edges/points have been dulled and rendered incapable of cutting or piercing. No retractable knives or swords will be allowed. Switch blades are banned in Connecticut.

STAGED COMBAT/WEAPONS REQUESTS

No use of weapons or staged combat of any kind is allowed, in rehearsal or performance, without the express permission of the OUP. Requests for the use of weapons and/or staged combat must be made to the appropriate OUP technical advisor at least 6 weeks prior to the first performance date, using the Staged Combat/Weapons Request form. The OUP will determine whether a proposed stage combat, if approved, may be staged by the students in consultation with the OUP, or if the services of a professional fight director are required. In all cases, no consultant may be hired without the approval of the OUP. All fights involving weapon-to-weapon contact will require oversight by a professional fight director. For all productions requiring oversight by a professional fight director, all fight rehearsals must be overseen by OUP staff or by a person approved by OUP staff. Yale Police will be notified about any approved uses of staged combat and/or weapons in undergraduate productions.

RENTAL AND BORROWING

OUP Prop Weapon Inventory

The OUP has a small inventory of prop weapons, available by written request (see above), free of charge, on a first come-first-served basis. Please contact Rorie Fitzsimons (rorie.fitzsimons@yale.edu) for more information about specific prop weapons. None of the OUP prop weapons are appropriate for weapon-to-weapon contact.

The rental or borrowing of prop weapons from any source other than OUP must be arranged in consultation with the OUP.

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STORAGE/TRANSPORT

One designated student will be responsible for oversight of all prop weapons used in a production. This student will retain responsibility for the use, care and maintenance of the weapon and, if the weapon is rented or borrowed, will be responsible for returning the weapon to the renter/lender. Weapons will be transported in a locked transport case, and will be secured in a locked room when not in use. At no time will weapons be stored in a student's room.

Off Broadway Theater

Once brought to the space, weapons will be secured in a locked cabinet in the OBT except during actual rehearsal/performance. Repeated transportation to and from the space is discouraged.

Whitney Theater

Once brought to the space, weapons will be secured in a locked cabinet in the WT except during actual rehearsal/performance. Repeated transportation to and from the space is discouraged.

Yale Dramatic Association

Arrangements for the use and secure storage of any weapons pertaining to a Dramat production will be made with Rorie Fitzsimons. In general all weapons used in a Dramat production, regardless of venue, will be transported in a locked transport case and locked in the Dramat office at 222 York St when not in actual rehearsal/performance. In certain circumstances provision may be made for secure storage in the Yale College Properties Service/Rentals room in 305 Crown St. In all instances the stage manager will retain sole responsibility for the secure care and custody of any weapons in use.

Other Venues

When in any other campus venue arrangements must be made for secure storage of any weapon with the Master's Office of the governing college. Weapons must be secured at all times when not in actual rehearsal/performance. Arrangements must be made and approved by the OUP before any weapon is brought into any campus venue.