



# SAFETY INFORMATION SHEET

## FLY SYSTEM LOADING & UNLOADING

### TO WHAT AND TO WHOM THIS SHEET PERTAINS

---

Everyone changing weights for the Mullady Stage counterweight system.

### RISKS OR CONSEQUENCES

---

Falling objects, muscle & ligament injuries, crushed fingers and rope burns

### BEST PRACTICES, RULES & PROCEDURES

---

- At least three trained, certified people are required to load and unload; two on the loading gallery a supervisor on the stage to test the line set, call commands, and spot the line set as it comes in or out.
- When ascending to the grid or loading gallery to work remove all tools, phones and anything that could possibly fall out of your pocket or off your belt before you go up. If you need hardware and tools to work on the grid use the workboxes that are on the grid to hold those items.
- Avoid carrying stuff up to the grid. You need your hands to hold on while you climb. A rope and 5-gallon bucket make a good system for moving material and tools to the grid.
- When loading with the batten lowest to the floor the scenery or lights are loaded first and the **weights last**.
- When unloading a batten lowest to the floor the **weights are the first to be unloaded** and then the scenery or lights. This takes the potential energy out of the system.
- Always make real sure that all persons have cleared the deck below before you load or unload an arbor from the loading gallery. Yell out your intent to "**clear the rail**". Don't be shy.
- Remember proper lifting body mechanics while lifting weights. Lift with your legs and keep your back straight and chin up.
- Use the spreader plates that are stacked on the arbor when you intend to stack weights more than 24 inches high from the bottom of the arbor.
- When stacking weights on the loading gallery catwalk make no weight is stacked higher than the kick rail.
- Line sets should always be kept in balance. When a load is out of balance and the position of the arbor is out of reach, "Sunday" (use a tie off and friction bar) the load and mark it "DO NOT USE". Do not use the rope lock alone it may not hold.
- If an arbor is over-weighted and gets loose do not try to stop it. Get out of the way and get everyone else out of the way.
- Always wear gloves when operating, loading or unloading the counterweight system.
- See also the companion sheet "Fly System Operation"

### FOR FURTHER STUDY

---

**EMERGENCY UNIVERSITY HELP LINES-8-6039 OR 4-4911**



## SAFETY INFORMATION SHEET

**Stage Rigging Handbook, Third Edition** by Jay O. Glerum M.A. B.A.  
(**Paperback** - April 3, 2007)