Theatre Code of Ethics

“Successful performances are possible only if everyone – actor, director, stage crew, and audience – shows proper respect for everyone involved. Achieving the best results is possible only in an environment of personal responsibility and mutual respect.” – Unknown

Part of the great tradition of the theatre is a code of ethics, which belongs to every worker on or behind the stage. It is an attitude toward craftsmanship, a respect for associates, and a dedication toward the audience. This code outlines a self-discipline, which, far from robbing one of individuality, increaser personal esteem and dignity through cooperation and common purpose. The result is perfection, which encompasses all that is meant by “Good Theatre.”

1. The **SHOW MUST GO ON! I WILL NEVER MISS A PERFORMANCE.**
2. I will be patient and understanding during the rehearsal process.
3. I will always be on time, which means fifteen minutes early, for **EVERYTHING!**
4. I shall never miss an entrance by my failure to be ready.
5. I will never peek through the curtains before or during a performance. If you can see the audience they can see you.
6. I will not alter lines, stage business, properties, costumes or any phase of the production unless told to do so by the director.
7. I will use the stage properties and costumes with care, knowing they are tools of my craft and a vital part of the production.
8. **Golden rule of theatre: IF IT IS NOT YOURS DON’T TOUCH IT!**
9. I will never upstage other performers.
10. I will never engage in giving advice or criticism to another actor or crewmember.
11. I will respect and encourage the contributions of each member of the cast and crew.
12. I will be polite and do as the stage manager instructs.
13. I shall accept the director’s advice in the spirit in which it is given and make an honest effort to make requested adjustments remembering that she sees the production as a whole.
14. I will always show my appreciation to the director, the crews, and any other staff members associated with the production.
15. I will observe backstage courtesy and shall conduct myself in strict compliance with the rules of the theatre in which I work.
16. I will respect those who want to carry on the theatre traditions even though these traditions might seem like superstitions to me.
17. I shall play every performance to the best of my ability.
18. I will respect my audience regardless of size.
19. I will subordinate myself to the performance by accepting my role, costume, hairstyle, and makeup that go with it.
20. I shall never lose my enthusiasm for the theater because of disappointment or failure for they are the lessons by which I learn.
21. I shall direct my efforts in such a manner that when I leave the theatre it will stand as a greater institution for my having labored there.