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:

Hernia and other personal injury related to heavy lifting, mild and severe bodily injury and even death from falling objects.

GUIDELINES, RULES, AND PROCEDURES:

• At least three trained, certified people are required; two on the loading galler 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 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.

FOR FURTHER UNDERSTANDING: