

Technical & Production notes

Here are the brief notes from the production / technical session.

1: Safety

Worksafe is knocking on the door and doing site inspections (3 of the 6 venues represented)

WCB likes a proactive venue, which is aware of its issues and working towards resolution, rather than not being aware and forcing a write-up (7 in 1 venue).

WCB: looking at missed JOHSC meetings or minutes from meetings (get that paperwork done!)

Catwalk railings and mid-rails, Fall Arrest from catwalks if needed.

First Aid: it's good if all crew/staff are OFA 1 trained, but regulations required someone/a position NAMED AND POSTED as the First Aid person in case.

If there are safety orders for modifications, there is no specific outside funding source to fix the issue: it's the General Operating Budget of the venue/ company.

Maybe govt grants for facility upgrades, but that is a multi-year process.

How to prep for a WCB visit?

Do a building inspection, look at it with fresh eyes, have someone else walk your venue

Note every deficiency, blocked door, missing extinguisher,

Shared a draft version of a building inspection document designed for Performing Arts Venues (15 pages)

When to inspect?

(1 venue: Yearly for Chain Motors / Lifts/pit lifts as per regulation; Monthly walk around for all venues.)

Building inspections don't need to happen all at once; could do in segments or sections every 3 - 4 months, to break up time commitment.

Also: empower staff to bring up safety issues / broken equipment. Listen to their expertise and experience.

Have money available to FIX IT RIGHT AWAY, or remove it from service and replace it.

Training of New Hires for Safety:

Yes

Most venues are doing orientations in the building, job expectations;

Paid time for training

Some venues are paying for training courses (first aid, elevated work platforms, Fall Arrest) as well as staff hourly wages.

Daily top-of-call safety briefings for staff/crew; can include rental clients as well.

First Aid:

Some venues are required only FOA 1 level in-house; others are FOA 2 level.

Some venues have all staff (hourly/full time, production and admin) trained of OFA 1

Some venues have OFA staff, plus OFA 2 in the lobby area during events; can request of renters to supply OFA 2 as well, for their # number of staff.

WCB wants to see a designated, named, posted position or person as the First Aid Person.

1 employer = Stage Door Person is Safety Office / first aid.

2. Staffing Issues.

Question about wages, and attracting staff.

Some wages were mentioned, but our group ranged from Maple Ridge, Kelowna, West Van, Vancouver & UBC, and Nanaimo.

City and Location (West Van, Maple Ridge, UBC) have some effect on what is a “reasonable” wage (for distance travelled). The fact 1 employer is a charity, and FT staff are 20% less than typical, isn’t an argument:

- 1) all performing arts = charity
- 2) technicians’ rent and bills don’t accept a 20% discount because we work in the arts.

Venue rates:

\$22 – \$26

\$26 - \$31 (\$38 for a 10-year employee, “ATD” ability)

\$39 - \$42 Civics

Chan - \$20 for Usher, \$27 for acting FOH Coordinator (hourly staff in supervisor position)

Chan - \$28 for basic stage tech, \$32 for console op / acting head of department, heads are \$35 - \$39

That’s my notes.

Andrew M. Riter

Assistant Technical Director, Head Lighting Technician

Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

The University of British Columbia | Vancouver Campus

6265 Crescent Road | Vancouver BC | V6T 1Z1 Canada

Phone 604 822 2372

andrew.riter@ubc.ca