



# **The Academy of Musical Theatre**

## **Health & Safety Policy**

### **STATEMENT OF GENERAL POLICY**

The Academy of Musical Theatre (AMT) fully accepts the obligations placed upon it by the various Acts of Parliament covering health and safety. The Company requires its Directors to ensure that the following policy is implemented and to report annually on its effectiveness.

### **MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION AND ARRANGEMENTS**

#### **Introduction**

This policy has been prepared and published under the requirements of Health & Safety at Work legislation. The purpose of the policy is to establish general standards for health and safety at work and to distribute responsibility for their achievement to all managers, supervisors, and other employees through the normal line management processes.

#### **MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

##### **Directors**

The Directors has overall responsibility for the implementation of the Company's policy. In particular, they are responsible for ensuring that the policy is widely communicated and that its effectiveness is monitored.

##### **Safety Officer**

The Safety Officer is a Director responsible for co-ordinating effective health and safety policies and controls across the organisation.

The Safety Officer is responsible for:

- the production and maintenance of the Company's policy and ensuring that Department Guidelines are consistent with policy
- the application of the policy
- monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of the policy
- the provision of general advice about the implication of the law
- the identification of health and safety training needs
- the production and maintenance of any health and safety documents or codes of practice as necessary for any relevant area of the Company services where this is required

#### **Responsibilities for Specific Workplaces**

<b>WORKPLACE</b>	<b>SENIOR MANAGER</b>	<b>ACCOUNTABLE TO THE SENIOR MANAGER FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THEIR DEPARTMENTS</b>
Admiral Lord Nelson School External venues for performance purposes	Directors of AMT	All AMT staff are accountable to the Directors of AMT for their respective areas

## HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT PROCESS

The Academy of Musical Theatre (AMT) believes that consideration of the health, safety and welfare of staff is an integral part of the management process. The provision of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act, associated Codes of Practice and other relevant Directives will be adopted as required standards within the Company. Responsibility for health and safety matters shall be explicitly stated in management job descriptions.

The Company requires staff to approach health and safety in a systematic way, by identifying hazards and problems, planning improvements, taking executive action and monitoring results so that the majority of health and safety needs will be met from locally held budgets as part of day-to-day management, although many health and safety problems can be rectified at little additional cost.

For major additional expenditure, cases of need will be submitted by staff to the Directors.

If unpredictable health and safety issues arise during the year, the Directors must assess the degree of risk, in deciding the necessary resources and actions to commit to addressing these issues.

## HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE GUIDELINES

It shall be the responsibility of the Directors to bring to the attention of all members of her staff, the provisions of the guidelines, and to consult with appropriate Health and Safety Representatives about the updating of these guidelines.

Suggested model contents of a guideline are:

- a clear statement of the role of the department
- regulations governing the work of the department
- clear reference to safe methods of working
- information about immediate matters of health and safety concern, such as fire drills, fire exits, first aid
- training standards
- the role and identity of the Health and Safety Representative
- names of specialist advisers who can be approached about the work of the department
- the manager responsible for organisation and control of work
- accident reporting procedures
- departmental safety rules
- policies agreed by the Company

## ANNUAL AUDIT AND REGULAR RISK ASSESSMENTS

It is the policy of The Academy of Musical Theatre (AMT) to require a thorough examination of health and safety performance against established standards in each department, **at least** annually. The technique to be adopted for such examinations will be the 'Safety Audit'. The Audit requires review of:

- standards laid down in the policy
- relevant regulations
- environmental factors
- staff attitudes
- staff instructions
- methods of work
- contingency plans
- recording and provision of information about accidents and hazards and the assessment of risk

The information obtained by the Audit will be used to form the basis of the plan for the department for the following year. The responsibility for ensuring that audit activity is carried out as part of this policy rests with the Directors and will be carried out by the Safety Officer. Although the Audit remains a management responsibility, managers are required as part of this policy to seek the involvement of the appropriate Health and Safety Representative in the conduct of the Audit. It is the management's responsibility to ensure that any deficiencies highlighted in the Audit are dealt with as speedily as possible.

In addition to carrying out Safety Audits, it is the responsibility of the Directors to have checked, at least quarterly, all portable equipment, including electrical appliances, in their area, and to ensure that all problems are immediately dealt with. All equipment must be PAT tested annually.

Directors have a continual responsibility for the elimination of hazards in order to maintain a safe working environment and will also be expected to carry out regular **risk assessments** in line with the Health and Safety Executive Guidelines; that is follow the 5 steps:

1. Identify the hazards
2. Decide who might be harmed and how
3. Evaluate the Risks and decide on precautions
4. Record the findings and implement the precautions
5. Review the assessment and update when necessary

## SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES

The Academy of Musical Theatre (AMT) will support Safety Representatives in carrying out their role and give all reasonable assistance. Safety Representatives will be encouraged to discuss specific health and safety issues with the Directors. Staff may also formally report hazardous or unsafe circumstances to the Head of Department and will be formally notified of the remedial action taken or be given a reason why the action cannot be taken.

## TRAINING

Health and Safety training shall be incorporated within annual training programmes, as part of the development of a systematic training plan. Health and Safety training needs will, therefore, be identified and planned for in the same manner as other training needs.

Four areas of need shall be given special priority:

- training for staff, to equip them with an understanding of their responsibilities under this policy, and the role and purpose of safety representatives
- training for safety representatives to enable them to discharge their function

- training for all members of staff to acquaint them with the main provisions of the law and its practical implication, the main features of this policy and key safety rules
- induction and in-service training for staff at all levels to acquaint them fully with new requirements and hazards

## RECORDS, STATISTICS AND MONITORING

The Company will operate systems for recording, analysis and presentation of information about accidents, hazard situations and untoward occurrences. Advice on systems will be provided by the Safety Officer, in conjunction, where appropriate with specialist advisory bodies for example local Environmental Health Departments, and the responsibility for the operation of these systems rests with managers and supervisors at all levels. Information obtained from the analysis of accident statistics must be acted upon and, where necessary, bids for additional expenditure made to the Chief Executive.

## REPORTS TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE

The responsibility for meeting the requirements of the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1985 (RIDDOR) to the Health and Safety Executive, shall rest with the Directors as delegated to the Safety Officer.

## SPECIALIST ADVISORY BODIES

Certain bodies and the individual members of those bodies, have always had a Health and Safety role, most notably, the Health & Safety executive, or local Environmental Health Departments. If further specialist advice is required, this may be obtained by Managers from expert individuals or bodies outside the Company.

## THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

It is the policy of the Company to obtain independent Occupational Health advice when required. Such services can include counselling on health and associated matters, investigation of hazards and accidents, environment studies, health interviews and employment medicals.

## FIRST AID

It is the policy of the Company to make provision for First Aid and the training of 'First Aiders' in accordance with the First Aid Regulations (1982). The Director / Principal is responsible for ensuring the Regulations are implemented and for identifying training needs.

## FIRE

The Directors are responsible for ensuring that the staff receive adequate fire training, and that nominated fire officers are designated in all The Academy of Musical Theatre (AMT) premises.

In addition, the Company will nominate a Fire Officer (Directors) who will:

- report and advise on the standard of fire safety in the Company's premises and the standard of fire training of its staff
- undertake overall responsibility for fire training
- assist in the investigation of all fires in the Company's premises and to submit reports of such incidents

## LIFTING AND HANDLING

Directors are responsible for informing staff of safe lifting techniques. The Safety Officer will identify specific training needs and ensure training in lifting and handling is provided to staff who require it.

## NON-SMOKING ON COMPANY PREMISES

The Academy of Musical Theatre (AMT) policy is that there will be no smoking in its buildings. The overall aim is to reduce smoking and so save life, reduce risk of fire, prevent unnecessary illness and chronic disability. These rules also extend to e-cigarettes / vaping.

## CONTROL OF SUBSTANCES HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) require the Company to identify those substances which are in use and which are hazardous to health (as legally defined) and to assess the risk of those substances. The Company must also provide and use controls to prevent exposure to substances hazardous to health; maintain controls by monitoring exposure, or by health surveillance of employees; and provide information, instruction and training for employees on all these matters. The Directors are responsible for implementing these Regulations.

## CONTROL OF WORKING TIME

The Academy of Musical Theatre (AMT) is committed to the principles of the Working Time Regulations. No member of staff is expected to work more than 48 hours per week unless there are exceptional circumstances. Similarly, all other requirements of the regulations e.g. in relation to breaks etc. will be complied with.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY AND THE INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEE

The Health and Safety at Work Act requires each employee 'to take reasonable care for the Health and Safety of himself and of other persons who may be affected by their acts and omissions' and co-operate with management to enable management to carry out their responsibilities under the Act. Employees have equal responsibility with the Company for Health and Safety at Work.

The refusal of any employee to meet their obligations will be regarded as a matter to be dealt with under the Disciplinary Procedure. In normal circumstances counselling of the employee should be sufficient. With a continuing problem, or where an employee leaves themselves or other employees open to risk or injury, it may be necessary to implement the formal stages of the Disciplinary Procedure.

## PEOPLE WORKING ON COMPANY PREMISES NOT EMPLOYED BY THE COMPANY

Persons working in The Academy of Musical Theatre (AMT) premises who are employed by other organisations are expected to follow Company Health and Safety Policies with regard to the safety of Company employees, their own personal safety (and that of other parties such as the general public if appropriate) and their method of work. This responsibility will be included in contracts or working arrangements.

## VISITORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Company wishes to ensure that as far as is reasonably practicable, the Health, Safety and Welfare of visitors to Company establishments will be of the highest standard.

Any member of staff who notices persons acting in a way which would endanger other staff, should normally inform the Directors. If the danger is immediate, common sense must be used to give warning, call for assistance or give aid as necessary. It is equally important not to over-react to a situation.

