

## **LEATHERHEAD DRAMA FESTIVAL**

### **USE OF WEAPONS IN THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS**

The legal regulations covering the use of any weapons in a production have been seriously tightened. (*The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006*)

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) have produced an information sheet titled 'Safe use of Fire-arms in productions' This covers all aspects of fire-arms use in all productions, amateur and professional.  
You can download the information sheet from our website.

Here is a very brief extract that is particularly relevant to amateur theatre:

#### ***Replica (props) and deactivated weapons***

*Props and deactivated weapons should not be capable of discharging a projectile but could still inflict bodily harm if used to hit someone. However, the main hazards are theft or loss, public distress, breach of the peace or if the police respond to an apparent emergency. The police must therefore be informed.*

*The producer must ensure that the security arrangements for storage and transportation are adequate, in other words:*

■ *there is a dedicated and named person responsible for the security of the weapon at all times (including the collection, storage, transportation and safe return);* ■ *the named person will accompany the weapon if it is to be moved, for example a courier cannot collect it on behalf of the production;* ■ *when not in use, the deactivated weapon is locked in a secure case, which is stored in a locked room with restricted access.*

If you want to use any weapon in your production, either just wearing it as part of a costume or actually using it in a fight or act of violence, then both parts of the mandatory 'USE OF WEAPONS' form below must be completed.

You have to provide written 'proof of need', plus a risk assessment regarding safe practices, storage and supervision. The definition of a weapon is ANY weapon that looks realistic to an audience, no matter what it is made of.

The Leatherhead Drama Festival will comply with the law in this respect.

If any group taking part in the Festival tries to use or display any weapons without submitting the 'USE OF WEAPONS' form they will be disqualified from the Festival.

Should you wish to discuss any problems regarding this or any other matter arising from staging your play in the Festival, please contact the Festival Stage Manager.

**Sally McCormack**

**Festival Stage Manager**

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**USE OF WEAPONS**

**1. Proof of Need**

Drama/Theatre Group	
Play Title	
Weapon/s to be used	
Page/s in Script stating requirement for weapon/s	
Character/s using weapons	
Name and Age of performer/s if under 18	

Signed on behalf of the group named above:.....

Please print name:.....

Date:.....

## USE OF WEAPONS

### 2. Risk Assessment

Drama/Theatre Group	
Play Title	
Weapon/s to be used	
Materials weapons made of	
Type of use:  Guns: Fired, Used but not fired, Display only  Edged weapons: Fight, Act of violence, Display only	
Person responsible for supervision of weapons (Must be over 18)	
Method and location of storage of weapons	

Signed on behalf of the group named above:.....

Please print name:.....

Date:.....