



Special Props – Edged Weapons

Special props, such as weapons, add realism and excitement to productions. They also increase the risk of injury to the cast, crew, and audience, so special care is needed when handling, using, and storing weapons.

The category of edged weapons includes piercing weapons, and examples include, but are not limited to, knives, swords, rapiers, razors, arrows and bows (recurve and crossbow), pitch forks, maces (spiked ball on a chain), hatchets, axes, saws, spears, kunai, throwing stars, and darts.

Prior to Use

1. Never use personal weapons in a production.
2. Never bring personal weapons on site.
3. Use only weapons owned by UC or rented by authorized UC staff.
4. Follow the weapons checklist for each production to ensure all weapon requirements are met.
5. Obtain written permission for the use of weapons before weapons are obtained or used.
6. Notify Campus Law Enforcement when weapons will be used in any production.
7. Only use weapons designed for stage combat for stage combat, as these weapons are constructed to be strong enough not to break into dangerous pieces during use.
8. Ensure the edges of the edged weapons are dull, and the tips of piercing/pointed weapons are blunted.
9. Review safety precautions to be observed prior to each training, rehearsal, and performance session.



Use and Handling

1. Never play with the weapons or engage in horseplay onstage or offstage.
2. Never remove the weapons from the stage or backstage area without prior authorization.
3. Only use weapons during supervised training, rehearsal, and performance sessions.
4. Review and practice choreography prior to the actual use of the weapons.
5. Never leave weapons unattended.
6. Inspect weapons for damage after each use.
7. Immediately report weapons that are damaged during training, rehearsals, or performance, and submit them for repair. Damage includes the formation of burrs caused by contact with hard surfaces.
8. Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment such as hearing protection, eye protection, face protection, and body protection during training, rehearsals, and performances.

Storage

1. Keep all protective devices, such as sheaths, scabbards, and edge guards in place until ready to use the weapon.

2. Keep kunai and throwing stars in storage cases when not in active use.
3. Store weapons in locked cabinets and/or storage rooms.
4. Store bows in an unloaded state until needed for use onstage. Unloaded means the release of the string on a recurve bow and cross bow.
5. Store arrows in a separate location from the bows.

Talk to your supervisor if you have any questions about this information.