**Stage Combat, Prop Weapons & Violence**

**Stage Combat**

Stage combat is defined as any physical confrontation, armed or unarmed, in which bodily harm is represented, with or without actual physical contact. Slapping and shoving can easily cause injury and are considered to be stage combat. Self- injury is also considered to be stage combat.

**Prop Weapons**

Prop weapons include but are not limited to: guns (non-firing, rubber and toy), knives, swords, daggers, spears, bows and arrows, cross bows, slingshots, nooses, hand cuffs, shackles, restraints, and any other implements fashioned or used in a threatening manner, whether capable of inflicting actual bodily harm or not.

**Hand-to Hand Combat, Acrobatics, Stuntwork**

Some types of non-violent physical activity also carry increased risk. Productions planning to involve any type of heightened physical activity such as hand-to-hand combat, acrobatics, stuntwork, pratfalls, etc. should discuss this with the Department Chair as early in the process as possible, and must receive permission from the Chair before including these in rehearsals or performances.

**Banned Items**

No firearm may be used that is capable of firing projectiles in any form. There will be no use of blanks, caps, or any other explosive device. Any and all gunshots must be accomplished through the use of sound effects, either recorded or by a stage device such as a slap-stick.

No weapon will be allowed that is capable of firing a projectile, such as a bow and arrow or crossbow. All such weapons must be incapable of firing and used for visual effect only.

No cutting implements will be allowed unless the cutting edges/points have been dulled and rendered incapable of cutting or piercing. No retractable knives or swords will be allowed.

The Technical Director must approve all weapons used on stage.

**Stage Combat/Weapons Request**

No use of prop weapon or staged combat of any kind is allowed, in rehearsal or performance, without the permission of the Department Chair. Requests for the use of prop weapons or combat must be made at least four weeks prior to the first performance date. The Chair will determine whether a proposed stage combat, if

approved, may be staged, or if the services of a professional fight director are required. In all cases, no consultant may be hired without the approval of the Chair. All fights involving weapon-to-weapon contact will require oversight by the Technical Director. For productions requiring oversight by a professional fight director, the Chair and the fight director will determine the level of supervision required for fight rehearsals. Campus Safety will be notified about any approved uses of prop weapons in productions.

**Rental and Borrowing**

We haves a small inventory of prop weapons, available by request with the permission of the Chair and the Technical Director. Prop weapons may not be taken out of the JKB Theater building.

The rental, borrowing, or purchase of prop weapons from any source other than UP must be arranged in consultation with the Chair and Technical Director.

**Storage/Transport**

One designated student will be responsible for oversight of all prop weapons used in a production. Prop weapons must be transported in a locked transport case and must be secured in a locked cabinet or room when not in use.