

Guidelines for Rigging & Suspension of Materials Overhead

- Any piece of equipment or scenery intended to be suspended overhead must be designed and built specifically for that purpose.
- All constructed material must be built to normal theatrical standards. References for this are available in most stagecraft books (easily found in the Virginia Tech Library). The UUSA Production Manager may also provide guidance on this.
- The UUSA Production Manager reserves the right to bar any piece of scenery or equipment from being rigged.
- Under NO circumstance will a person be attached to any campus rigging system.
- If a person is to be flown, only a professional rigging company will do this work. Under no circumstances will a Virginia Tech employee rig a live load.
- A person shall not be attached or rigged to the structure of any facility without the approval of a structural engineer; this work must also be done by a professional rigging company.
- Only approved employees will operate rigging equipment in any UUSA managed facility.
- All hardware used to rig any scenery must be approved and designed for that purpose. This hardware can include, but is not limited to, wire rope, cable clamps, shackles or bolts.
- Only welded link, proof coil chain is to be used for rigging when chain is used.
- Any equipment, scenery or other weight that is to be suspended over people's heads must be reviewed and pre-approved by EHSS and/or UUSA to ensure safety.
- If the item to be suspended is made ONLY of soft goods, or weighs less than 20 pounds, the client may do their own work.
- These guidelines do not apply to balloon drops and streamer type decorations; however, for such activities an 18" clearance must be maintained in all directions from sprinkler heads.
- The facility manager must approve any attachment of equipment or scenery to the facility for the purpose of suspension.
- Any client doing their own work must have the needed training as required by OSHA and EHSS. This could include, but is not limited to Scaffold Training, Fall Protection and Aerial Lift Safety. A copy of the individual's training record must be provided to the university upon request.

PLEASE SUBMIT THE SPECIAL EFFECTS GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION FORM TO THE PRODUCTION SERVICES OFFICE FOR APPROVAL OF RIGGING/SUSPENSION OF MATERIALS REQUESTS. THANK YOU!

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