

Tuesday Theatre Challenge, April 28

Thank you Tracie Steger Skipper for putting this together. Tracie is our former Technical Director and is currently the Operations Manager and Technical Director at the American Shakespeare Center.

Theatre Properties

What is a prop?

A prop, formally known as (theatrical) property, is an object used on stage by actors during a performance. In practical terms, a prop is considered to be anything movable or portable on a stage or a set, distinct from the actors, scenery, costumes.

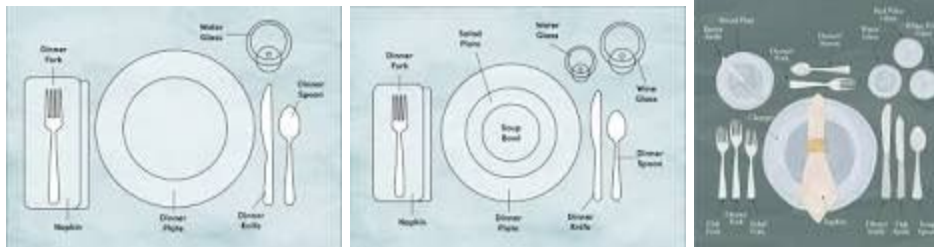
Play: The Dining Room by A.R. Gurney

The play is a comedy of manners, set in a single dining room where 18 scenes from different households overlap and intertwine. Presumably, each story is focused around a different family during different time periods who has in their possession the same dining room furniture set, manufactured in 1898.

Each scene has a different, place setting, also known as plates, silverware and glasses.

Props Challenge:

Find two different place settings for four people from items in your house. Be creative. They can be plastic, paper, draw and cut your own. Here are some examples of a place setting:



Objective: To take props offstage at the end of one scene and dress the set as required for the next scene

Set your table for four people. Using the items you have found. We will call this the “Scene 1” Design.

Designate an “Offstage” area where you will “pre-set” the next table setting for four people and “strike” the table you have currently set. We will call that preset the “scene 2” design.

Instructions: You will execute a scene change as follows:

- Gather at the start/end area. The timer starts when you call blackout.
- Move to the dressed table.
- Remove the props from the dressed table to the offstage props table.
- Set the Scene 2 props in their proper place on the offstage props table.
- Redress the onstage table with the scene 2
- Move back to the designated start/end area. The time ends when you enter the start/end area.
- You have a maximum of 5 minutes for this prop shift.

Rules

- Students cannot drop props during the change.

- b. Students cannot place props in their pockets or in their mouth.
- c. Students must work quietly as if they are doing the change during a show.
- d. Students must set the props in their proper place offstage (on the props table).
- e. Students must place all props properly on stage (the setting cannot be askew).
- f. If students reach the end of their 5minute time limit, they must stop immediately.

Penalties There are a number of penalties that can be incurred during the props shift. For each penalty, additional time will be added.

Penalties include:

- a. Dropping a prop 10 seconds each time
- b. Making noise with a prop 5 seconds
- c. Carrying a prop in the mouth or pockets 5 seconds
- d. Excessive noise during the shift 5 seconds
- e. Wrong prop placed on table 5 seconds per item
- f. Prop not set properly or carefully on stage 5 seconds
- g. Props not set properly offstage 5 seconds
- h. Not finishing the prop shift within 5 minutes 1 minute

Just like a “tech rehearsal” you should practice this several times before you make your video. Make sure you are prepared to present your best “performance”

Submit your video of your best time. Scene changes should be quiet, efficient and focused.

Submit your video to office@dmradventures.com

If the file is too large, you can use wetransfer.com to send!
Please submit no later than 10AM on Tuesday, May 4