

### Guidelines for Theatrical Smoke and Haze

March 19, 2003

LORT and Equity agreed that when creating smoke, haze, and fog effects, all LORT Theatres would use only dry ice, CO<sub>2</sub>, liquid nitrogen, vaporized water, or substances listed in and in accordance with the specified limits set forth in a study commissioned by the Trustees of the Equity-League Pension and Health Trust Funds, entitled *EQUIPMENT-BASED GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF THEATRICAL SMOKE AND HAZE* ("Guidelines"). This document is part of a larger body of work collectively referred to as the "Study." Quantifiable limits have now been placed in the Guidelines on smoke and haze products containing glycol and mineral oil ("Products"). Consequently, LORT Theatres may now use only those Products tested as part of the Study and, further, must use them only within the limits specified in the Guidelines. (To review the complete Guidelines reports, go to [www.actorsEquity.org](http://www.actorsEquity.org), click on "Document Library," and then click on "Smoke and Fog Guidelines.")

The effective date for compliance is April 1, 2003. Accordingly, any production that commences rehearsals on or after April 1, 2003, must be in compliance with the Guidelines.

In order to self-monitor adherence to the Guidelines, LORT Theatres must choose between time-and-distance calculations or the use of a portable air sampling monitor (as outlined in the AIR SAMPLING PROTOCOL-part of the Study and referenced in the Guidelines.)

After the Theatre has undertaken either the applicable calculations or air sampling, as required by the Guidelines, the Theatre must post on the Actors' callboard a Notice that states that the Theatre is in compliance with the Guidelines for the applicable Products. The Notice must be posted no later than the first paid public performance and re-posted, subsequently, if any of the cues and/or Products have been changed, no later than the day of the official opening of the production.

Additionally, to insure that the Guidelines have been implemented properly, each Theatre must provide the following information to Equity:

- 1) At least two weeks prior to the beginning of each season, the Theatre must notify Equity of the manufacturer of the smoke or haze machine, the machine model number, and the Products to be used during the season (if known). Thereafter, the Theatre must notify Equity of any deviations from the original notification not later than two weeks prior to the first use of the change. It is understood that ALL Products used must fall within the Guidelines. It is important to remember that approved Products are only approved for use in machines that have been *expressly* designed for the use of those Products.
- 2) In the event any reasonable concerns are raised with respect to the use of any Products in a production, Equity and the Theatre agree that they will review the issue expeditiously. This review will be undertaken by the Equity Business Representative and the Theatre's authorized representative—most likely the Production Manager and/or General Manager. If the matter cannot be resolved satisfactorily at that level, the Theatre shall provide Equity, at Equity's request, with the following information for the cue(s) in question.
  - (a) name of the manufacturer, name of the machine, fluid name, and setting (e.g., high, medium, or low);
  - (b) a description of the smoke and/or haze cue(s) in question;

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- (c) the Actor's blocking before, during, and after the cue(s) in question;
- (d) the precise location of each machine; and
- (e) all applicable calculations and/or air sampling data that the Theatre had used to insure compliance with the Guidelines.

During the course of this review and, if necessary, Equity's subsequent evaluation of the requested information, performances will continue uninterrupted until the pending matter has been resolved.

In the event the Theatre wishes to use a smoke or haze Product or machine that is not identified in the Study, or wishes to use an approved Product or machine in a manner that falls outside the Guidelines, the Theatre must send a letter to the Equity Business Representative no later than two weeks prior to the first such use. Equity will review the matter and promptly notify the Theatre as to their position on the proposed deviation from the Guidelines. In the event the parties do not agree on the proposed deviation from the Guidelines, the deviation will not be implemented.