### **Risk Assessment for Dogwood Productions - Facing The Waves**

**Production Overview**:
This risk assessment covers a small-scale theatre production with 6 actors and 1 technician, touring to multiple venues. The production uses a portable lighting and sound system, and all equipment and cast members are transported via a van.

### **1. General Risks**

#### **Risk: Injury during load-in and load-out of equipment**

* **Hazard**: Lifting heavy or bulky equipment (lighting, sound gear, set pieces).
* **People at risk**: Cast, technician, venue staff.
* **Control Measures**:
	+ Ensure all personnel involved in load-in/load-out are trained in manual handling techniques.
	+ Use trolleys or lifting aids where possible.
	+ Allocate sufficient time to prevent rushing.
	+ Clear pathways before moving equipment to avoid trips and falls.
* **Likelihood**: Medium
* **Severity**: Medium
* **Risk Level**: Medium

#### **Risk: Traffic accidents during travel**

* **Hazard**: Road traffic accidents while travelling between venues.
* **People at risk**: Cast, technician, van driver.
* **Control Measures**:
	+ Ensure the van is regularly maintained and serviced.
	+ Drivers must be experienced and comply with all road laws, including breaks for long journeys.
	+ Use of seatbelts is mandatory for all passengers.
	+ Plan routes in advance to avoid congested or hazardous areas.
* **Likelihood**: Low
* **Severity**: High
* **Risk Level**: Medium

### **2. Lighting and Electrical Safety**

#### **Risk: Electrical shock or fire**

* **Hazard**: Use of portable lighting and sound equipment with potential for faulty wiring or overloading circuits.
* **People at risk**: Cast, technician, venue staff.
* **Control Measures**:
	+ Ensure all electrical equipment is PAT tested before the tour.
	+ Technicians check venue power supply and ensure it is sufficient for the equipment load.
	+ Do not overload sockets. Technician to monitor loads on all outlets.
	+ Have fire extinguishers and emergency procedures in place in case of fire.
	+ Any equipment found to have faults immediately removed from service.
* **Likelihood**: Low
* **Severity**: High
* **Risk Level**: Medium

#### **Risk: Tripping over cables**

* **Hazard**: Unsecured or poorly routed cables on stage and in backstage areas.
* **People at risk**: Cast, technician, venue staff, audience.
* **Control Measures**:
	+ Use cable covers or gaffer tape to secure cables.
	+ Route cables away from walkways where possible.
	+ Technician to inspect all cable placements before each show.
* **Likelihood**: Medium
* **Severity**: Medium
* **Risk Level**: Medium

### **3. Set Design and Performance Risks**

#### **Risk: Injury due to unstable set pieces or props**

* **Hazard**: Collapsing set pieces or falling props.
* **People at risk**: Cast, technician.
* **Control Measures**:
	+ Ensure all set pieces are properly constructed and secured.
	+ Conduct a safety inspection before each performance.
	+ Avoid the use of heavy or unstable set pieces if venue size or design poses constraints.
	+ No set piece or lighting to be left unstable or unsecured.
* **Likelihood**: Low
* **Severity**: High
* **Risk Level**: Medium

#### **Risk: Slips, trips, and falls on stage**

* **Hazard**: Uneven surfaces, slippery floors, or poorly lit areas on stage.
* **People at risk**: Cast.
* **Control Measures**:
	+ Mark all potential trip hazards with high-visibility tape.
	+ Ensure adequate stage lighting prior to show to make all cast and crew aware of trip hazards.
	+ Sweep the stage before each performance to remove debris.
* **Likelihood**: Medium
* **Severity**: Medium
* **Risk Level**: Medium

### **4. Actor and Crew Well-Being**

#### **Risk: Fatigue leading to accidents or poor performance**

* **Hazard**: Long hours of rehearsal, travel, and performance can lead to exhaustion.
* **People at risk**: Cast, technician.
* **Control Measures**:
	+ Schedule adequate rest periods between performances and travel.
	+ Ensure that accommodation is comfortable and close to performance venues to reduce travel time.
	+ Encourage healthy eating and hydration during the tour.
* **Likelihood**: Medium
* **Severity**: Medium
* **Risk Level**: Medium

### **5. Venue-Specific Risks**

#### **Risk: Unfamiliarity with venue layout or equipment**

* **Hazard**: Performing in unfamiliar spaces may increase the risk of injury due to unforeseen hazards (e.g., fire exits, local equipment).
* **People at risk**: Cast, technician.
* **Control Measures**:
	+ Conduct a venue-specific risk assessment at each new location.
	+ Ensure the technician liaises with venue staff regarding local equipment and safety protocols.
	+ Review venue fire exits and evacuation procedures before each performance.
* **Likelihood**: Low
* **Severity**: High
* **Risk Level**: Medium

### **6. Audience Safety**

#### **Risk: Audience injury due to set pieces or cables in the audience area**

* **Hazard**: Set pieces or cables extending into audience space.
* **People at risk**: Audience members.
* **Control Measures**:
	+ Clearly mark any areas where the audience should not enter.
	+ Ensure no cables or equipment extend into audience pathways or seating areas.
	+ Conduct a pre-show safety check to ensure audience safety measures are in place.
* **Likelihood**: Low
* **Severity**: Medium
* **Risk Level**: Low

#### **Risk: Fire evacuation**

* **Hazard**: Emergency evacuation due to fire or other hazards.
* **People at risk**: Audience, cast, crew.
* **Control Measures**:
	+ Liaise with venue staff to ensure fire evacuation routes are clearly marked.
	+ Announce emergency exits before the show begins.
	+ Ensure fire extinguishers are accessible and check that venue fire safety equipment is in place.
* **Likelihood**: Low
* **Severity**: High
* **Risk Level**: Medium

### **Conclusion**

This risk assessment highlights the potential hazards associated with a small-scale touring theatre production. By implementing control measures and ensuring proper planning and communication, the risks can be effectively managed. The technician is responsible for ensuring that these measures are followed at each venue, and any venue-specific risks should be addressed prior to each performance.