

# **WEEK 3**

## **DRAWING, DIAGRAMS & DOCUMENTATION**

# Drawings, Diagrams & Documentation

The ability to create and read different types of documents and drawings is essential to the production arts professional. Some types of productions are intended to be constructed and performed from a set of written instructions. In fact any production if it is suitably well documented, can be mounted again at a later date from just the documentation.

# Drawings, Diagrams & Documentation

Drawings and documents fall into several categories.

- Text docs
- Spreadsheets
- Graphic representations
- Pictures
- Auto CAD drawings
- Line Drawings
- Blueprints

# Drawings, Diagrams & Documentation

Text documents describe individual elements of the production. One must remember that venues where programs are produced are “blank” in nature. One must designate everything from the schedule and timeline of setup and operation to the physical position of people and equipment. These details have to be precise and easily understandable. Stagecraft has its own Lexicon or specialized language. We’ll look at that language in more detail in a later chapter of this class. Typically MS Word is used to generate text docs.

# Drawings, Diagrams & Documentation

Spreadsheets are necessary for keeping accurate counts of materials, resources and even hours and minutes. It's often important to be able to see information and counts or tallies in separate columns and tabs. Spreadsheets are tables of data and they allow one to insert math functions into individual "cells" of the table. This can be very important for maintaining accurate counts when columns can span multiple pages, making it difficult to see all the data at once. Functions in cells allow you to make very advanced spreadsheets that will calculate a load for instance, by entering known factors in designated cells. Another good example are the spreadsheets used by video projector manufacturers to calculate the proper lens ratio for screen size at a distance. MS Excel is the software most people use to generate spreadsheets.

# Drawings, Diagrams & Documentation

Graphic representations are generally software generated diagrams other than CAD drawings or Blueprints. A good example are Line Drawings. Line Drawings are a typical way to illustrate detail that is embedded in blueprints. Various symbols are connected via individual lines as a means of referencing the path of signals and controls.

# Drawings, Diagrams & Documentation

Pictures are often used to better illustrate qualities of a given element of the production that is non-standard in color, shape or texture. When detailed diagrams aren't available, a picture of a previous production can be very helpful in establishing the physical and temporal space that the program is to fill.

# Drawings, Diagrams & Documentation

CAD drawings are blueprint-like drawing generated by Auto-CAD software. Auto-CAD does much more than draw diagrams. It builds a “virtual” model that includes all the critical distances and volumes. Once you enter the number of connections in each room you want and the position of each connection, it can calculate the length of wire needed, the number of connectors and how much time it will take to install said items.

# Drawings, Diagrams & Documentation

Blueprints are drawings that are produced by hand. Otherwise known as Mechanical Drawing as well. Once the drawings are completed, a photographic process is used to enlarge them and then they are printed in the traditional blue matte to improve the contrast of text and detail.

# Drawings, Diagrams & Documentation

A list of doc types and the associated program used to generate them:

Text descriptions : MS Word (doc)

Line Drawings : MS Vizio (

Stage Plots : MS Paint, Google Docs

Input Lists : MS Excel

Images : Adobe Photoshop

CAD : Any Auto CAD software