

OLD TOWN PLAYHOUSE

Production Manual and Volunteer Handbook

Mission Statement

Old Town Playhouse is a volunteer-based organization promoting quality community theatre experiences for the people of Northwest Michigan by providing educational opportunities and entertainment in the theatrical arts.

QUALITY THEATRE IS WHAT WE DO. IMPACTING LIVES IS WHY WE DO IT.

Core Values of OTP

- ✓ Creativity We celebrate new ideas, challenge our audiences and volunteers, and take responsible risks to broaden our impact and test the limits of our artistic horizons.
- ✓ Quality We adhere to the highest standards possible in community theatre and strive for consistency and excellence.
- √ Variety We offer a broad variety of artistic programs for all ages.
- ✓ Inclusiveness We welcome and encourage all and do not tolerate discrimination of any kind.
- ✓ Integrity We conduct ourselves ethically and responsibly at all times.
- ✓ **Community Engagement** We collaborate with other organizations when possible through partnership and outreach.
- ✓ Awareness of Community Theatre We strive to increase awareness of community theatre and its benefits.
- ✓ *Fiscal Responsibility* We are fiscally responsible and strive to be financially sustainable.
- ✓ Volunteers We strive for meaningful engagement and experiences for all our volunteers; Volunteers are our heartbeat.
- ✓ **Education** We offer learning experiences for youth and adults.

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Props - Bernadette Groppuso, Nan Worthington

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Tech & Sound - Gary Bolton

Lighting - Bill Fishburn

Music - Sam Clark

Costumes - Kathy Verstraete

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Version History

Date	Version	Notes
1/23/2023	2023.01	Compiled from previous versions, full job descriptions moved to website, this becomes
		the canonical document as a PDF on the OTP website.
9/28/2023	2023.02	Update staff contacts.
10/5/2023	2023.03	Update staff contacts. Change "Waiver" to "Volunteer Agreement" and add link and
		privacy statement. Separate Props and Set Dresser Production Positions.
2/21/2024	2023.04	Update Acknowledgment of Receipt form language to remove date-specific reference.
7/17/2024	2023.05	Removed Acknowledgment of Receipt form, now included in separate Volunteer
		Agreement form.
8/30/2024	2024.01	Added Concessions Coordinator and Concessions Volunteer positions.
9/27/2024	2024.02	Updated contact information and all procedures to include new Artistic Director.
2/19/2025	2025.01	Updated links to reflect website changes, updated staff contact information.
5/27/2025	2025.02	Updated language in Emergency Planning and Conduct Guidelines sections.

Being a Volunteer at OTP

Participation in the Old Town Playhouse shall be without regard to race, color, religion, weight, height, handicap, sexual orientation, national origin, age, or gender.

The Board of Trustees (BoT) values the participation of children and youth as cast and crew members. To foster a safe environment, all volunteers participating in a production with youth are subject to a background and sex offender registry check.

There is no smoking anywhere in the OTP facility. Any volunteer who is acting in a manner as to jeopardize the safety of others or is negatively impacting the creative process may be removed.

All volunteers are required to have a signed Volunteer Agreement on file with the Box Office before participating in activities at the Playhouse. At a minimum, volunteers are required to complete a new Volunteer Agreement once per season. Current Agreement forms should always be downloaded from the OTP website's Volunteer page: https://www.oldtownplayhouse.com/volunteer/

NOTE: Old Town Playhouse does not sell, disclose, or share contact information gathered on Volunteer Agreements to any third parties.

Finding Volunteers

If you are looking for volunteers to fill a particular area, contact the Box Office Manager or Production Resource Manager to request an email or printed list of volunteers.

Program Information

Cast and select crew members are expected to submit a short (125 word) bio, preferably written in third person.

Cast Parties

OTP does not contribute to cast parties. Cast parties should be held off site. Absolutely NO alcohol is allowed to be brought into the building.

Recordings of Productions

Reproductions of production recordings are **NOT** allowed under our licensing arrangements.

Complimentary Tickets

Production volunteers who participate on a show, and are listed in the program, earn one complimentary ticket to be used by the end of the following season. Contact the Box Office to acquire this ticket.

Volunteer Experience Surveys

Volunteer surveys will be made available during the run of the show to all production team members and performers. We value your feedback. All are encouraged to complete these surveys each time you are involved with a show.

Emergency Planning and Preparedness

In case of emergency, all patrons and volunteers must exit the building and walk away from the OTP property including the parking lot to leave room for emergency vehicles. DO NOT try to exit in cars.

The Front of House (FoH) Manager and Stage Manager for each production will have a meeting prior to the opening of the production and discuss how announcements will be made to the patrons depending on what the emergency entails. Each emergency will be different in how the safety of the audience and backstage personnel will be handled.

Prior to each performance, an announcement will be made on the preshow video regarding the location of emergency exits. The Stage Manager should know where all fire extinguishers are located (list on bulletin board backstage).

In case of an emergency during a performance, both the FoH Manager and the Stage Manager will be immediately notified and the FoH Manager and the Stage Manager will make a 911 call, activate the building alarm, and lead in putting the evacuation plan into place.

The FoH Manager will call the Executive Director (or another staff member if the ED is unreachable).

The Stage Manager will make an evacuation announcement to the patrons from the stage, requesting that they follow the instructions of the House Manager and the Ushers.

All ushers are to have flashlights to guide patrons out of the building. We do have emergency backup lighting.

In general, the FoH Manager is responsible for leading the evacuation of the patrons and volunteers in the balcony, main level, and lower level in the public areas using the following map.

The Stage Manager is responsible for guiding the evacuation of performers, stage crew, orchestra, backstage personnel, and any other volunteers involved in the performance. The Stage Manager will evacuate all backstage personnel down the backstage stairway and meet at the corner of Ninth St and Cass St.

AED

A defibrillator is located in the ticket area at the top of the stairs to the auditorium.

First Aid Kits

They are located:

- On the wall outside the kitchen on the lower level
- On the wall in the Green Room on the main level
- Behind the door of the Costume Shop on the upper level

Fire Extinguisher Locations

If a fire extinguisher is discharged, notify the Business Office at once!

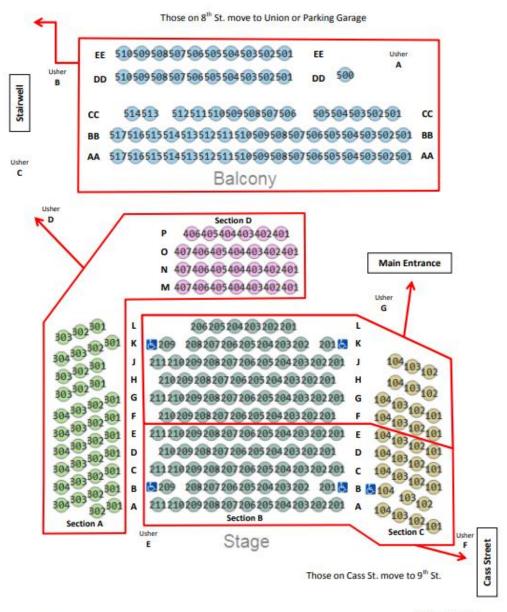
LOWER LEVEL Inside elevator control room Hallway across from Business Office Hallway outside Conference Room Outside the Kitchen door Side wall of Multipurpose room stairs Just inside boiler room door	MAIN LEVEL Just inside Main Auditorium entrance door Next to Lighting storage closet Hallway across from elevator door Paint room next to hallway door Hallway next to rear stairway exit door Backstage left on Stage Manager's Desk Backstage right next to Emergency Exit door	 UPPER LEVEL Hallway next to rear stairway exit door Dressing room next to door separating rooms Inside door from costume shop to orchestra pit Hallway across from 3rd floor prop room door Control Booth near entrance door
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Fire Exits

Refer to the following map or use this guide.

If you are in	Exit via
Control Booth	Front stairwell to Lower Level Old Town Parking Deck
Balcony	Front stairwell out to Lower Level Old Town Parking Deck
Orchestra Pit	Front stairwell out to Lower Level Old Town Parking Deck
Costume Shop	Backstage Right stairwell to Emergency Exit out to Cass St &
	Ninth St
Dressing Rooms	Back stairwell out to Cass St & Ninth St
Prop Room	Front stairwell out to Lower Level Old Town Parking Deck
Section D	Front stairwell out to Lower Level Old Town Parking Deck
Section A	Front stairwell out to Lower Level Old Town Parking Deck
Section B (Rows F-L)	Main stairwell out to Lower Level Old Town Parking Deck
Section C (Rows F-L)	Main stairwell out to Lower Level Old Town Parking Deck
Section B (Rows A-E)	Emergency exit out to Cass St & Ninth St
Section C (Rows A-E)	Emergency exit out to Cass St & Ninth St
Stage	Backstage Right emergency exit out to Cass St & Ninth St
Production Room	Back stairwell out to Cass St & Ninth St
Green Room	Back stairwell out to Cass St & Ninth St
Wood Room/Workshop	Front stairwell out to Lower Level Old Town Parking Deck
Offices/Conference Room	Nearest entrance out to Lower Level Old Town Parking Deck
Multi-Purpose Room	Back stairwell out to Cass St & Ninth St
Schmuckal Theatre &	Main entrance or Business entrance out to Lower Level Old
Kitchen	Town Parking Deck

Evacuation Plan Old Town Playhouse MainStage Theatre



Z'(Box Office)(Seating Charts'(Seating Chart Evacuation September 2017 docx

Revised: 9/1/17

Building Use and Maintenance

Parking

Parking is permitted for all volunteers through the rehearsal process until Dress Rehearsal. Beginning with dress rehearsal ALL volunteers must park offsite – exceptions are made for the Stage Manager as they are the first in/last out volunteer of the production.

There is no parking in the alley behind the theatre.

Scheduling the Building

With all that is happening in our facilities, we are scheduled tightly. When you need to schedule a production meeting and, once you have your rehearsal schedule set, please send that information ASAP to the Production Manager <u>and</u> Artistic Director (email/number under staff contacts).

On the occasion where there are back-to-back rehearsals, performances or events in the same building, there must be no disturbances of the activity in process. Traffic through the building and warm-up locations may be altered so that all functions can occur without disturbance.

The OTP Young Company Theatre has priority access to the Schmuckal Theatre and MainStage Theatre from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM each day when in session. OTP rehearsals may begin on those stages as early as 6:45 PM.

The most current building calendar is available online at: https://www.oldtownplayhouse.com/building-calendar

Be respectful of other groups using the shared spaces and do not gather or begin early if another group is using the space.

OTP has limited resources and an ever-expanding schedule. All volunteers are asked to consider the needs of other productions as they will often be asked to share resources. Allocation of resources – lighting instruments, costumes, set and prop pieces – will be decided based on which production has the most immediate need and closest performance date(s) by staff. The Production Manager oversees all building activity and is the communications link.

Our evening performances for MainStage shows begin at 7:30 pm. ALL Matinees begin at 2 pm. Young Company performances begin at 7 pm and 2 pm for matinees. The house opens approximately 30 minutes before each production.

All rehearsal spaces, the Schmuckal Theatre, the Conference Room, and the Multi-Purpose Room must be cleaned up and vacated no later than **one** hour prior to the start of any performance, regardless of whether that performance is being held on the MainStage or in the Schmuckal Theatre.

The stage door entrance is locked 15 minutes prior to performances.

Entry Codes

Entry codes are provided to the Stage Manager and/or the Director by the Production Manager and may not be shared. Anyone in need of an entry code must obtain it from the Production Manager. Entry codes are changed promptly following each strike.

Cancellation Policy: Rehearsals

If area schools are closed due to inclement weather, then all Young Company classes and rehearsals are automatically canceled for that day. OTP rehearsals are left to the discretion of the Director and Production Manager to decide whether to hold abbreviated rehearsals, to only call certain cast members for rehearsal, or to cancel rehearsals completely.

Cancellation Policy: Performances

Should inclement weather arise, all OTP and Young Company performances will be held at the discretion of the Artistic Director.

Closing the Building

The Production Manager, Director, or Stage Manager are responsible for ensuring that the following things are done each evening before leaving the building.

Lower Level: Kitchen/Schmuckal Theatre/Offices

- Turn off all lights.
- Ensure concessions appliances are turned off.

Main Level: Auditorium/Backstage

- Lock all exterior doors (Main Entrance, Business Entrance, Back Stage Entrance).
- Turn off all lights, including orchestra stand lights if they are being used.
- Ensure ghost light on stage is in place and on.
- Close all windows.
- Secure emergency exits to Cass St.
- Make sure spotlight fan motors are off.
- Leave magnetic doors into the main floor of the auditorium and the balcony open. Close all other interior doors.
- Turn off appliances in the Green Room.
- Store any food in the Green Room properly.

Upper Level: Dressing Rooms

- Turn off all lights (costume closet has an automatic light).
- Unplug all curlers, curling irons, etc. in makeup rooms.
- Turn off the irons in the sewing room.

All outdoor lighting is automatic.

Nothing may be in the stairwells, halls or blocking exits or signs.

Production Manager

The Production Manager is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the theatre's play production program within the established policies and procedures of the organization. Responsibilities include coordinating and managing each production budget, schedule and personnel, and facilitating the accomplishment of tasks between each production department.

For questions and concerns regarding building use, maintenance and production resources contact the Production Manager (see staff contact list pg. 2).

If you are unable to reach this person, please contact the Business Manager.

Production Positions

The following is a list and job description for positions for MainStage and Studio productions. Not all positions are required. Those listed in bold are required and may be part of the Production Team as defined by the Director. Production Team members should not hold more than one job and should not be cast in the show without approval of both Director and OTP Artistic Director to ensure their full attention is on the needs of the production. We highly encourage assistants to mentor other volunteers interested in learning these positions.

Detailed position descriptions including Duties and Expectations are available on the OldTownPlayhouse.com website. Links are available for each position below. The descriptions on the website are the only official and correct versions.

Director – Selected by Artistic Committee

Assistant Director

Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Manager

Stage Crew

Set Designer

Set Construction Crew

Orchestra/Music Director (reg. if musical)

Music Conductor

Assistant Orchestra Director

Orchestra Pit Instrumentalist

Vocal Director (req. if musical)

Accompanist

Other Leads

Choreographer

Fight/Weapons Choreographer

Intimacy Coach

Actor

Cast Deputy

Costume Designer

Sewing Volunteers

Hair/Makeup

Props Designer

Set Dresser

Lighting Designer

Assistant Lighting Designer

Light Board Operator

Spotlight Operator

Projection Designer

Sound Designer

Sound Operator

Front of House Manager - Selected by House

Manager Chair

Ticket Takers

Ushers

Concessions Sales

Director

Responsible to the OTP Artistic Director for the artistic and aesthetic interpretation of a show and the implementation of that concept. They are chosen by the Artistic Committee through an application and interview process. The Director chooses or delegates those that will fill all other production jobs.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/director.html

Assistant Director (AD)

Responsible for helping the Director with the artistic and aesthetic interpretation of a show and their implementation.

<u>OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/assistant-director.html</u>

Stage Manager

Responsible to the Director and Producer for the management of the stage and backstage areas from auditions through strike.

<u>OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/stage-manager.html</u>

Assistant Stage Manager

In some larger productions, the Assistant Stage Manager is chosen by the Stage Manager to assist as needed.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/assistant-stage-manager.html

Stage Crew

Responsible to the Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager to set and strike set pieces and other tasks as needed.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/stage-crew.html

Set Designer

Responsible to the Director for designing, installation, and operation of the sets used in the production.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/set-designer.html

Set Construction Crew

Works with the Set Designer to construct sets as needed for the show.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/set-construction-crew.html

Music Team

Works collaboratively with the Director and cast for musical performances and consists of the following positions:

Orchestra Director (Conductor)

Responsible for working with the Director in preparing the musical aspects of a theatre production for public performance.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/on-the-stage/orchestra-director.html

Assistant Orchestra Director

Responsible for working with the Orchestra Director to select and organize the orchestra.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/on-the-stage/assistant-orchestra-director.html

Vocal Director

Responsible for working with the Director and Orchestra Director in preparing the singing aspects of a theatre production for public performance.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/on-the-stage/vocal-director.html

Accompanist

Provides piano accompaniment during rehearsals and perhaps during performances. This is a paid position.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/on-the-stage/accompanist.html

Instrumentalist

Plays during rehearsals and performances under the direction of the Orchestra Director or Assistant Orchestra Director. This position may receive an honorarium.

<u>OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/on-the-stage/instrumentalist.html</u>

Choreographer

Responsible to the Director for creating and teaching dance numbers that fit within the vision and aesthetic of the show.

<u>OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/choreographer.html</u>

Fight and/or Weapons Choreographer

Someone certified in fight choreography that teaches actors how to implement the vision of the Director safely.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/fight-weapons-choreographer.html

Actor

Responsible for working with the Director and fellow castmates to produce a quality show that follows the Director's vision. See the Auditions page on the website for upcoming audition opportunities.

<u>OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/on-the-stage/actors.html</u>

Cast Deputy

Creates a confidential and peer-level reporting channel between participants in the production. Selected from the cast by the cast only, through nomination and secret ballot.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/on-the-stage/cast-deputy.html

Costume Designer

Consults with the director and the lightning designer to determine the style and color palette of the costumes.

<u>OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/costume-designer.html</u>

Sewing Volunteer

Constructs costumes as directed by the Costume Designer.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/sewing-volunteer.html

Hair/Makeup Technician

Responsible for implementing the vision of the Director by creating, replicating and teaching hairstyles and makeup designs to delegated individuals such as actors and other volunteers.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/hair-makeup-technician.html

Props Designer

Responsible for helping the Director create their vision of the show by choosing, preparing and placing objects to be used on the stage.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/props-designer.html

Set Dresser

Responsible for working with the Director, Set Designer, and Props Designer to create a "lived-in" quality for every scene by preparing or acquiring an assortment of props, decor items, materials and smaller furniture for the set.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/set-dresser.html

Lighting Designer

Responsible to the Director for design, installation, and operation of the lighting and special electrical effects used in a production.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/lighting-designer.html

Assistant Lighting Designer

Responsible to the Lighting Designer for tasks as needed.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/assistant-lighting-designer.html

Light Board Operator

Responsible to the Lighting Designer and the Stage Manager to run the light board during performances.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/light-board-operator.html

Spotlight Operator

Responsible to the Lighting Designer and the Stage Manager to run the spotlight during performances.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/spotlight-operator.html

Projection Designer

Responsible to the Director for images and/or videos used in the production.

<u>OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/projection-designer.html</u>

Sound Designer

Responsible for managing all sound equipment used in the production, working closely with the Director and Music Team.

<u>OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/sound-designer.html</u>

Sound Operator

Prepares and runs all necessary sound equipment for use during a performance as directed by the Sound Designer and the Stage Manager.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/sound-operator.html

Front of House Manager

Responsible to the OTP Executive Director for the management of all interactions with patrons.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/front-of-house-manager.html

Ticket Taker

Reads tickets and directs patrons under the direction of the Front of House Manager.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/ticket-taker.html

Usher

Assists patrons with seating, safety, answers to questions, and house cleanup before, during, and after a performance under the direction of the Front of House Manager.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/usher.html

Concessions Coordinator

Recruits and schedules Concessions Volunteers.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/concessions-coordinator.html

Concessions Volunteer

Sells snacks and beverages to patrons from the concessions window at a MainStage performance before the performance and during intermission.

OldTownPlayhouse.com/volunteer/beyond-the-stage/concessions-volunteer.html

Conduct Guidelines

Safety

Old Town Playhouse is committed to providing a safe environment for all staff and volunteers, including those participating in OTP productions, events, and activities. All OTP staff and volunteers are expected to conduct all tasks in a safe manner, complying with all applicable safety laws, guidelines, and procedures.

If you have a safety concern, please bring it to the immediate attention of the Stage Manager, Director, Production Manager, Artistic Director, or Executive Director. OTP will not knowingly require anyone to work in a manner that OTP determines to be unsafe.

Any accident or injury should be immediately reported as noted above. If the injury requires emergency care beyond first aid, calling 911 is the first priority – OTP should be notified as soon as possible.

Discrimination, Harassment, and Intimidation

OTP is committed to maintaining an environment which fosters respect among all staff and volunteers. Unlawful discrimination, harassment, and intimidation undermines the integrity of our working relationships and disrupts the operation and management of OTP and our productions, events, and activities.

Accordingly, OTP will not tolerate any form of unlawful discrimination, harassment, or intimidation which is based upon a person's race, religion, disability, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, height, weight, marital status, veteran status, or any other basis protected by applicable law.

OTP expects all of its staff and volunteers (including but not limited to cast and crew members, and members of any production management team) to conduct themselves with dignity and with respect for fellow staff, volunteers, the general public, and others. We each have the right to work and participate in an environment free from discrimination, harassment, and intimidation.

Any staff members or volunteers who witness or are subjected to any form of unlawful discrimination, harassment, or intimidation should immediately report such conduct to the Artistic Director or Executive Director.

All claims of unlawful discrimination, harassment, or intimidation will be promptly investigated and appropriate remedial action will be taken, up to and including dismissal or replacement, when warranted by the circumstances. To the extent feasible, complaints will be handled confidentially.

Concerns can be raised in good faith without fear of reprisal or retaliation. OTP prohibits retaliation against a staff member or volunteer for making a good faith complaint under this policy or assisting in a complaint investigation.

Attitude and Professionalism

Frequently, the first or only person a patron has contact with at Old Town Playhouse is a volunteer. As ambassadors for Old Town Playhouse, it is essential that volunteers are professional, accessible, and welcoming. This is true for not only patrons, but also staff and fellow volunteers.

As a cross-section of the community, we're all coming from different places and beliefs. Once together at OTP we are working toward a common goal.

With this in mind, OTP expects all volunteers to comply with the following and promote a positive OTP environment:

- Treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- Comply with all applicable laws.
- Exhibit a spirit of professionalism.
- Be prepared for rehearsals, if applicable.
- Be open to receiving supportive and constructive feedback.
- Address conflict, if any, in a respectful and professional manner.
- Work together to keep OTP a place where people can learn, grow, and have fun.

Should concerns or conflicts arise within a production there is a Concern Resolution Path (provided below) that we follow at Old Town Playhouse.

Concern Resolution Path (CRP)

The Goal

The goal of the CRP is to provide a documented communication pathway to address issues in a production or within an organization. The CRP seeks to inform participants what to do and who to address with serious issues and dispel the fear of reprisal for reporting issues of safety, harassment, or other serious concerns.

Corrective Action Procedure

Volunteers who do not adhere to the boundaries, procedures, and/or expectations of the Old Town Playhouse may have their ability to volunteer with OTP limited, restricted, and/or ended, at any time.

A volunteer placement may be limited, restricted, and/or ended without warning if OTP believes that there is sufficient cause, in OTP's sole discretion.

Additionally, OTP reserves the right to take other corrective action as appropriate, in OTP's sole discretion, including but not limited to: canceling a rehearsal; canceling or postponing a production; reassigning roles or duties; and dismissing or replacing members of the cast, crew, and/or production management team.