

ABOUT THE FOREST THEATRE

The historic Forest Theatre in downtown Chapel Hill is a beautiful outdoor amphitheater with a rich cultural legacy. Stone Soup Theatre Company has performed here twice in the past. We are grateful for the thoughtful feedback we received from previous casts and crews, and we've made meaningful adjustments to our schedule, policies, and overall approach to better meet the unique demands of this space. This document outlines the known challenges of the venue and the proactive steps we've taken to address them.

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE SPACE

The Forest Theatre is an uncovered outdoor venue. October, when we are scheduled to perform, is historically North Carolina's driest month. Light rain will not necessarily impact performances — the orchestra will be partially shielded by scenic elements — but significant precipitation may result in delays or cancellations. Audience members will be encouraged to bring lawn chairs or cushions, as seating is made of stone. Matinees will begin at 2:30 PM. Evening performances will begin shortly after sunset, around 7:00 PM.

POST-SHOW STRIKE PROCEDURES

Because the space is open-air, each performance must end with a brief breakdown (mini-strike) to secure set pieces, lighting, and sound equipment. We recognize that this is an additional demand on our cast, and we are committed to limiting actor participation to no more than 15 minutes of post-show work (not including time to change or greet guests). To support this, mini-strikes will be clearly choreographed, with consistent assignments for each person. We will also designate multiple storage areas to prevent congestion and streamline the process.

FINAL STRIKE POLICY

To make the final strike more manageable, we now close all productions with a Sunday matinee. This allows us to complete a strike during daylight hours, avoiding late-night breakdowns. Additionally, Stone Soup will provide adequate transportation support to reduce the number of trips required to move materials back into storage.

GREEN ROOM FACILITIES

There is a covered, lockable area behind the stage that serves as a backstage space. While functional, it is rustic: the floor is concrete, and the space is not climate-controlled. It consists of one large main room, a smaller side room (reserved as a changing area), and two single-occupancy restrooms. Performers will need to bring their own chairs. If you don't have access to one, let us know — we're happy to provide support.

RESTROOM ACCESS

Actors have access to two private single-toilet restrooms. For audience members, Stone Soup will rent portable toilets, and additional restrooms are available across the street at PlayMakers. While this venue predates ADA requirements, we are committed to making accommodations where possible. In the event that a patron with accessibility needs must use the actor restrooms during intermission, the stage manager will notify the cast before the patron enters the backstage area.

WATER & CONCESSIONS

Stone Soup will provide bottled water at no cost to all cast, crew, and orchestra members. We are also pleased to announce that, for the first time, we've secured permission to offer concessions to the public. Water and snacks will be available for purchase by audience members during performances.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

If you have any questions or concerns you'd like to discuss before deciding to audition, we welcome you to reach out. Please email us at stonesouptheatreco@gmail.com.

