

BASIC DIRECTING TIPS

1. Have a vision/concept for the show. Your backstage crew will need to know.
2. What type of director are you? Autocrat? Democrat? Benevolent dictator? How much input will you allow from your cast? How are you going to help your cast with their interpretation? If you tell them how to say lines, then that's your interpretation, not theirs.
3. Read the whole show through several times – there are lots of little things you can miss first time. Know your characters.
4. Think about what you want for each scene.
5. Be prepared for each rehearsal. Know what you want to do and what you want from the cast.
6. Blocking - where, when and why are characters moving? Think about movement and placing of cast. Lack of movement is boring, but characters should move for a reason.
What levels are you going to have? These add interest.
How are you going to group characters on stage? What contrasts will there be?
7. Have a definite date for 'scripts down' but don't make it too early. Cast need to write your directions on their scripts and then follow them. It's very hard to correct wrong interpretations of lines once people have learnt lines.
Once the dialogue is flowing, picking up the cues (coming in quickly after cue lines) is important. Also, waiting for pauses is equally as important.
8. What techniques do you have for learning lines? How can you communicate these to the cast?

Directing is a big responsibility and lots of hard work. If you do a good job, it's very rewarding. Be prepared for every session, and have contingency plans if you're going to be away. Directors need to be present all the time!

Good luck!