

Props Legacy for Peter and the Starcatcher

To be a member of the Props Crew, you must be creative, crafty, and cool. I hope you are, because if not, you may hate the weird things you do as the Props Crew Head. Props is a really great part of the department to be involved in, and I am so grateful that I got to be a crew head for such a fantastic show. To be a successful Props Crew head, follow these steps:

1. Read the script. Read it again. Lose the script and then your mind, find them both, and read it again. Reading the script will be the only way you know EVERYTHING the actors need BEFORE they know they need it. Actors don't know it, but they need techies way more than they admit. It's a symbiotic relationship.
2. Research the show. Every prop, including furniture, must fit the time period and appropriate style. Know what to look for, such as style markers or the socioeconomic situation of the show. It ends up being very important.
3. Make a list of EVERY SINGLE PROP OR PIECE OF FURNITURE mentioned in the show. Go through the script and highlight where these props are mentioned, and the cues lines of when they are needed on stage.
4. Look for the props needed first in the Prop Loft. There's some sketchy stuff hidden up there, and you'll either find what you need or we can make it. Pull any and every prop that you think will work, and get the directors to approve everything before the actors use it. That includes rehearsal props.
5. Find rehearsal props. The actors need to get accustomed to using specific items on stage, and it's your job to help them.
6. Research the items still needed. Try to come up with ideas for how to make the props, but if you can't or the item is too specific, you can usually find it on Amazon. To purchase anything, you'll have to research where you want to purchase from and see if it is on the pre approved vendor list. This can be found on the Conroe ISD website under teacher resources. If you need an item that you absolutely cannot get from a vendor, follow the same process to prove the need to shop elsewhere. Call around to get bids, and if you're buying major pieces of furniture, go look in person before the directors can help you buy it.
7. Submit the purchase forms to the front office. If you bug Prahll enough, he'll help you with the forms to get you to shut up.
8. Go buy everything. Or bug Prahll. Sometimes he may even be nice just for fun and buy you everything you need.
9. Make everything you need to make. Include a design concept for anything you make, and have the directors approve it. Pinterest is your friend. Learn how to paper mache, use a drill, stain furniture, and paint.
10. Once all the props are found, bought, and made, make prop tables for backstage. Get white folding tables from Mrs. Mackenzie in the front office, and white butcher paper from the Library. Label the paper on the table as to where each prop is placed when it's not being used. Make a table for both sides of the stage.

11. Fix everything that's broken. You'll have to fix a lot of things.
12. Go to Sonic and get a milkshake. That's an order from your (past) Commander.
13. Be there before the show to control the chaos and to make sure everything is on the right place. Then make sure to have at least one crew member backstage during the show in case anything goes wrong. Something will go wrong.
14. Stay calm, cool, and collected. Collect all items at the end of the show and at the end of every rehearsal, and lock them up in the Prop Loft. Make sure the Prop Loft lights by the stage manager boards are turned off.
15. During strike, put every prop away in the prop loft. Organize a little bit, and sweep a lot. Throw away anything that's broken or that an actor doesn't claim. They'll live.
16. Start the whole process over again with the next show.

Personally, I love Props with all of my heart and soul. It's where I feel at home and where I belong. However, I know that Props might not be your first choice. It's almost never anyone's first choice. But, please, be respectful of our work and respect everyone that helps you. Our department doesn't function without a little love and a good Props Crew Head.

Lots of love,
Tristen O'Farrell
Class of 2018