**RSC Big Directors’ Weekend**

**Template rehearsal schedule for The Tempest**

**Working out time and workload**

Director as organiser. Confidence of having a plan; you can change it, you can go off it, but at least you are making informed decisions and will rehearse Act V!

Determine the number of pages of the play and the hours of rehearsal time available;

The notion of ‘actual workthough time’ – ie time spent working through the play practically, on its feet, sequentially AND all other ‘rehearsal time’.

From the overall time available for your rehearsal period:

deduct time for the readthrough and model showing;

deduct time for the research or language pre-work;

deduct time spent for fights, choreography, other skills;

deduct time for runthoughs and notes and working time between runthroughs

deduct time for coffee breaks;

Divide the remaining hours available – the ‘workthrough time’ - by the number of pages in the play.

Decide how many workthroughs you wish to do; and how long per page you wish to give for each workthrough.

**SO**

You have five weeks’ rehearsal with a maximum of 40 hours per week = **200 hours’ rehearsal time.**

You have to allow for:

 4 hours for a readthrough and model showing;

3 hours at least for preparatory work on verse and the play;

9 hours for fights, choreography, circus skills etc;

6 hours for staggerthroughs;

13 hours for coffee breaks (15 minutes for each 3 hour call, none for a two-hour call);

15 hours – five hours each – for 3 runthoughs followed by notes or work as necessary

**You therefore have 150 hours workthough time.**

The Penguin edition text of The Tempest is 75 pages long;

You therefore have 2 hours per page; how do you decide how many workthroughs to have and how much time to give to each workthrough?

Three workthroughs each of 40 minutes?

Four workthroughs of 30 minutes?

A first workthrough of 30 minutes to introduce the actors to the world and ideas of the play, and then they go off and learn it; a second workthrough of 50 minutes to play and explore with knowledge but without having to make decisions; a third workthrough of 40 minutes to make enough decisions before running it?

Over to you!

WEEK ONE

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  10-1 |  2-5 |  6-8 |
| Monday | No Call | 1-5 Readthrough and model showing |  |
| Tuesday | Text work and research |  |  |
| Wednesday |  |  |  |
| Thursday |  |  |  |
| Friday |  |  | No Call |
| Saturday |  | No Call | No Call |

Total hours 40 Workthrough hours 32

WEEK TWO

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  10-1 |  2-5 |  6-8 |
| Monday |  |  |  |
| Tuesday | Staggerthrough First half |  |  |
| Wednesday |  |  |  |
| Thursday |  |  |  |
| Friday | Fight call | Fight call | No Call |
| Saturday |  | No Call | No Call |

Total hours 40 Workthrough hours 30

WEEK THREE

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  10-1 |  2-5 |  6-8 |
| Monday |  |  |  |
| Tuesday | StaggerthroughSecond half |  |  |
| Wednesday |  |  |  |
| Thursday |  |  |  |
| Friday |  |  | No Call |
| Saturday |  | No Call | No Call |

Total hours 40 Workthrough hours 36

WEEK FOUR

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  10-1 |  2-5 |  6-8 |
| Monday |  |  |  |
| Tuesday |  |  |  |
| Wednesday |  |  |  |
| Thursday |  |  |  |
| Friday |  |  | No Call |
| Saturday |  | No Call | No Call |

Total hours 40 Workthrough hours 37

WEEK FIVE

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  10-1 |  2-5 |  6-8 |
| Monday |  | Fight call |  |
| Tuesday |  |  |  |
| Wednesday |  | Runthrough | Notes |
| Thursday | 11-1 Work as necessary | Runthorugh | Notes |
| Friday | Runthrough | 2-4 Notes | No Call |
| Saturday | Runthrough | No Call | No Call |

Total hours 40 Workthrough hours 15

Using the template rehearsal grid decide how many pre-work sessions; how many skills sessions; and how many runthroughs and note sessions you want. Then decide how many workthroughs and what rates you wish those workthroughs to be.

**Rob Swain**

**1.7.18**