

Rules of the Game:

1. **Be on time.** I realize that traffic in the LA area is awful, but if you are going to be late, please call so I can adjust. I try to schedule rehearsals, especially in the beginning, in a staggered manner-- Starting with the largest groups and working down to smaller groups and then individuals. Those who are in the larger groups only will be released early. I will do everything I can to avoid having people stand around for no reason. However, if you have a role and are not being used, rather than stand around, you could be memorizing your lines. To this end, always have your script with you. During tech week and run throughs, everyone is called for the full rehearsal.
2. **Be ready to work.** My directing style can be summed up in 3 words: repetition, repetition, repetition. I get the show on its feet (blocking) and then rehearse it over and over to drill lines, blocking and acting. The sooner each actor learns their lines and blocking, the sooner the acting can be worked on. Also, the more you do something, the more confidence you will have. This goes a long way towards erasing much of the performance nerves that invariably arise.
3. **Be open to new ideas.** In this production, as your director, I will not simply give you a part, give you the blocking and call it finished. I realize this may be different than in shows you may have participated in the past. When I agreed to direct I made a commitment to provide any and all in the cast an opportunity to learn about acting technique, stage movement, stage presence and performance. This will include individual notes and rehearsals, but also, some very simple techniques that anyone can use. These will be posted on the TAP website.
4. **Be flexible.** I will try to set the show as early as possible, but there may have to be changes due to unavoidable circumstances—changes in cast, set, etc. Also, I am make revisions to the script for this version of Fiddler. Some lines will be cut, others will be added, and some reassigned. There will not be any major changes but I am creating this show using elements from the movie as well as the Broadway version.
5. **Be disciplined.** I realize that this cast will be made up of volunteers, but attempting to mount a show without some discipline can be quite frustrating and make the entire experience much less enjoyable. This means: be on time, learn your lines and blocking, keep a positive attitude, and above all, DO NOT direct your colleagues. I assure you, they will not appreciate it. If someone is unsure of what to do, and they ask you, by all means help them out, but do not volunteer the information—let me know and I will fix it. Sometimes I will have asked something that will be challenging and am giving the individual time to work it through.
6. **Be safe.** This is the most important rule. If there is any doubt about whether or not something is safe, let me know right away. I will not ask anyone to do anything they are incapable of. Be aware of your colleagues on stage. Be careful backstage and onstage when there is low lighting. There may be candles used—be careful—there will be no show if we burn the theatre down.
7. **Be healthy.** Stay hydrated. Bring water bottles to rehearsal. Singing well is impossible if you are dehydrated. Eat well. Acting, singing and dancing are hard work and you will perform better and enjoy the experience more if you have some calories on board. Wash your hands frequently and use hand sanitizer. This is the very easiest way to avoiding illness. If you begin to feel a cold coming on use Zicam and/or zinc lozenges at the first symptoms. If you are sick, please stay home and get well. Please do not share it with the rest of the cast.