Theatre Code of Ethics

- The show must go on! I shall never miss a performance.
- I shall play every performance to the best of my ability, no matter how small the role and regardless of personal problems.
- I shall respect my audience regardless of size or of whom composed.
- I shall never miss an entrance nor cause a curtain to be late by my failure to be ready.
- I shall forego all social activities which interfere with rehearsals and I shall always be on time.
- I shall never leave the theatre building or stage area until I have completed my performance. Curtain Calls are a part of the show.
- I shall remember my business is to create illusion; therefore, I shall not break the illusion by appearing in costume and make-up off-stage or outside the theatre.
- I shall not let the comments of friends, relatives or critics change any phase of my work without proper consultation. I shall not change lines, business, lights, properties, settings, costumes or any phase of the production without consultation with and permission of the director or producer or their agents, and I shall inform all people concerned.
- I shall always accept my director’s and producer’s advice in the spirit in which it is given, for they can see the production as a whole and my work from the front of the house.
- I shall remember a production is a collective effort demanding my utmost cooperation, hence I shall forego the gratification of my ego, for the demands of the play.
- I shall be patient and avoid all temperamental outbursts, as they create tension and serve no useful aim.
- I shall respect the play and the playwright and, remembering that “a work of art is not a work of art until it is finished”, I shall not condemn a play while it is in rehearsal; furthermore, as long as I am a part of the production, I shall never “wash my dirty linen in public”.
- I shall never blame others, who have worked with me on the production, for my own failure.
- I shall never make negative comments of another artist’s work from jealousy or from an urge to increase my own prestige.
- I shall make the public I meet off-stage respect me and my work, and I shall be gracious in accepting praise or censure.
- I shall handle stage properties and costumes with care for I know they are a part of the tools of my business and are a vital part of the physical production.
- I shall observe backstage courtesy and deportment and I shall observe the rules of any specific theatre in which I may work.
- I shall never lose my enthusiasm for “theatre” because of disappointment and failures. They are part of the show business.
- I shall always direct my efforts so that when I leave it, the theatre will be a better institution for my having worked within it.

A part of the great tradition of the theatre is the code of ethics which belong to every worker in the theatre. This code is not a superstition, nor a dogma, nor a ritual which is enforced by tribunals; it is an attitude toward your vocation, your fellow workers, your audiences and yourself. It is a kind of self-discipline which does not rob you of your invaluable individualism.—Circle Players Theatre