



NEW SERAPID TRAP LIFT WOWS AUDIENCES
AT FIRST STAGE CHILDREN'S THEATER

The First Stage Children's Theater in Milwaukee - which is a youth theatre program as well as an educational program, was looking for a way to enhance its productions. Not only did they want a new way to transport scenery and props, the theater was looking for a way to move actors from underneath the stage up to stage level.

Keeping safety, reliability and quiet operation in mind, Jared Clarkin, Production Manager at First Stage began searching for possible lift solutions, and came across SERAPID, Inc.

Clarkin was attracted to SERAPID because of their ability to work with him to develop a lift to meet the exact specifications he needs for his theater.

Thus far, Clarkin says, "the SERAPID Trap Lift allows us to do a number of special effects in a safe and efficient manner." The lift gives the group the flexibility to lift a scenic element in one show and a performer during the next.

During the holidays they used it in their Christmas production, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, to raise six young performers from the trap room to stage level.

"The lift performed flawlessly each and every time," said Clarkin. "The use of the lift in this case gave the (performance the) feel of a rock concert with the appearance of the main act coming up through the floor. Each and every time we performed this effect we received oohs and aahs from our audience."

The SERAPID Trap Lift is quiet enough to be used during performances and comes with special safety features (such as a safety switch mounted to the top platform) to allow people to ride on it. The unit is self-contained and self-guided.

The Trap Lift designed for First Stage has a 600 pound capacity, a three foot by four foot platform and travels up to 14 feet, with a speed of 16 in/sec. When retracted, the lift is very compact - it sits approximately four-feet tall.

Since designing this model, SERAPID has designed several off-the shelf models of the Trap Lift. Capacity and speed vary according to the model - from 500 pounds with 12 feet of travel at a speed of 20 feet per minute up to a unit capable of handling 700 pounds with a speed of 150 feet per minute and travelling up to 15 feet.

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