

# Technical Theatre 1 – Project #9

*Prop* is an abbreviation of the word *property*. A prop is the “property” of the actor.

Although it is always preferable to use the real thing, most theatre budgets don't allow the purchase of antiques or even replicas of certain items. The props master's job is to create, borrow, purchase, or otherwise dress the set and provide the actors with props. Many things can be made quite easily from wood, carved Styrofoam covered with plaster, or papier-mâché.

Food props in particular can be dangerous. First, actors are always hungry, and if the food is real and is tasty, then the actors are going to be tempted to eat the props back stage. Second, sanitary conditions can't always be guaranteed. Therefore, “fake” food props (as long as no actual eating occurs onstage) are ideal.

Your Project #9 is to create a fake food prop out of papier-mâché only. You may choose whatever food item you want. However, the size of the item can be no smaller than your fist and no larger than your head.

Here is a common recipe for papier-mâché:

Mix one part flour with about 2 parts water until you get a consistency like thick glue. Add more water or flour as necessary. Mix well to get out all the lumps. You can also add a few tablespoons of salt to help prevent mold. Cut a newspaper into strips of approximately six inches long and one inch wide and soak them into the mixture. Once the strips are wet, then you can mold them into whatever shape you want.

If you are having difficulty, you can Google “papier-mâché” and get some helpful tips from various craft websites.

Your food prop must be in the correct shape, have the correct texture, and correct color of the real food item. If necessary, your food prop can be attached to a plate or a bowl.

This project is due on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.

This is the last “outside of class” project for the year!!!! ☺