

## **Directing Skills II for Assistant Directors**

### **Solid Conducting Technique**

- Know the basic patterns
- Good posture/stance/core strength
- Move only what is necessary to phrase delivery
- Strength in legato delivery – arm, hands, fingers
- Energized ALWAYS
- Keep your distance – sound stops growing if you're too close
- Face animated and engaged – they'll imitate
- Energized, strong arm from elbow to fingertips (esp. on lounds)
- Fingers naturally together
- “Power Box” used most of the time
  - No higher than your eyes
  - No wider than where your arms naturally hang
  - No lower than elbow bend (forearm parallel to floor)

### **Pitfalls**

- Successive conducting moves that repeat in the same spot – causes singers to “chew” or bounce the sound
- Mouthing the words
- Cueing choreography moves
- “After moves/Aftershocks” – moving body parts distract and confuse
- Constant knee bending
- Lifting heels or feet off floor – loss of strength
- Floppy wrist or limp fingers
- Motion without specific purpose

## **Finesse Technique**

- Softs – smaller area closer to chin using hands and fingers (gentle)
- Louds – Larger area nearer waistline using arms and hands (strong)
- Directing Vocal Production
  - Palate lift
  - Resonance
  - Head tone
  - Crescendo/Decrescendo
  - Textures
  - Conducting breaths or breath style instead of “cut-offs”

\*\*with thanks to Dale Syverson