

The Marvel Spotlight series focuses on the human behind the hero, but there are some heroic action sequences that can benefit from precise blocking. When staging these scenes, it is important to take great care to ensure everyone is safe and the dramatic beats are clear. While you can hire a professional fight choreographer to assist you, below are some tips on devising your own stage combat for your production that are both safe and specific.

- Stage combat is also referred to as fight choreography because it needs to be as specific in movement as a choreographed dance would be. Traffic patterns (or tracks) must be replicable in order to keep your cast safe.
- When blocking, walk through the movements in slow-motion first. This is the time to set very clear parameters using rehearsal props.
- Never use real weapons or props with sharp points in your production.
- Cast members should not change the established fight choreography, and should always ask permission before touching their castmates during rehearsal.
- If underscoring is involved, consider how you can choreograph the fight to align with the music, just like a dance number.
- For larger sequences, start small and add onto the action. For example, begin with two actors hitting only their key beats, then slowly add in more cast members until you are satisfied with the blocking. Finally, layer in details once your actors become comfortable and confident.
- Both parties should be in control at all times, but the reactor, or receiver of an action, should be dictating the movement. The instigator of the action initiates the contact, but the reactor performs the follow through.
- Schedule a fight call before every performance during which your actors can practice their specific fight choreography. Remind them that the adrenaline produced during live performance brings with it the possibility of mistakes, so it is important to work through these moments over and over directly before curtain.

If you are interested in hiring a professional fight director for your production, contact the Society of American Fight Directors. A regional representative will be happy to assist you in finding a fight director. Visit [safd.org](http://safd.org) for more information.