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Safety culture and compromising safety in the performing arts

The article examines safety culture with qualitative data on the performing arts in Finland. We focus on why those who work in the performing arts feel that they must compromise their occupational safety and well-being. We investigate safety culture in the field by examining linguistic and narrative characteristics of examples related to compromising safety. Our data consist of responses to an open-ended question included in a larger questionnaire that asked the respondents to give an example of compromising safety because of artistic reasons. Qualitative content analysis and semiotic text analysis of the open-ended responses show that compromising safety for artistic reasons is on the one hand depicted as unique or rare, but on the other hand as common, even inevitable in the field. The power relations of the industry are shown in compromising safety as, for example, hierarchies between professions. The results reveal that safety is compromised not only for artistic reasons; artistic, production, and economic reasons intertwine in compromising safety.

**Keywords:** occupational safety, performing arts, safety culture