

## A Production Needs a Full Cast and Crew

by Gregg Marquardt (copy and photos)

Lights! Camera! *Simulation!*

They don't call Gillette's Surgery Simulation an operating "theater" for nothing. Practicing procedures there is like mounting a full-blown Broadway show. "Planning, running and evaluating—it's a full theatrical production," says **Jennifer Esser**, surgery education specialist and member of the surgical simulation task force. "All the details, from programming the high fidelity mannequins to having the appropriate people participating in the simulation, have to be right."



Jennifer Esser, surgery education specialist

Just as in a play, every scenario needs a script, a cast of players, a set and props. Esser oversees the setup needs for simulation requests.

The area includes a simulated operating room (OR) that is nearly an exact replica of our ORs. The adjacent training room includes an observation window that opens into the simulated OR, plus technology that allows people in the observation room to watch video from the simulated and live ORs.

Esser works things out by relying on her theater "crew." The diverse group includes experts in simulation, education, anesthesiology, technology, and more. Each member brings a unique expertise and accountability to each production. Each member also brings a different educational background and a different work style.

What's *her* style? Well, in theater terms, she's like a stage manager, working behind the scenes to keep the show running smoothly. "I'm a planner," she says.

The simulation area at 200 University lets people practice in a risk-free environment. "Other departments—and now the community—use our area to address their simulation needs," says Esser.

