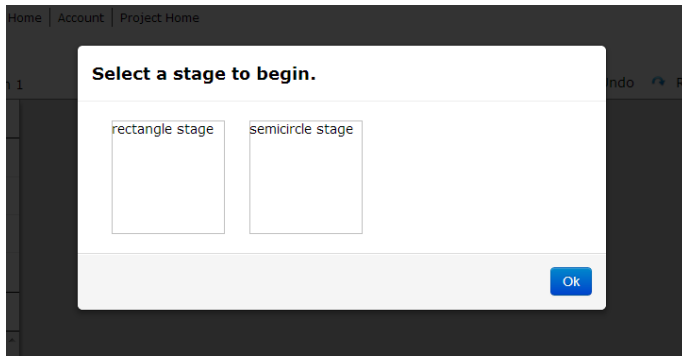Divya Bajekal
6.813 HW2
Collaborators: none

Heuristic Evaluation of StageIt

1. Major: **User has to choose stage type before being able to see anything else** (User control and freedom)
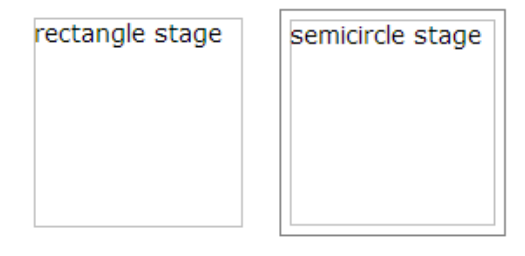
   The pop-up requires me to make a decision before I know anything about what the website does or how I want to use the website. Since I can change the stage type later, it doesn't seem necessary that I have to choose this parameter right away before being able to see anything else.

   Recommendation: Choose a default stage type to display and remove the pop-up window.

2. Good: **A border is drawn around the stage the user selects**(Feedback/visibility of system status)

   The border gave me feedback that the system recognized the stage I had selected. It changed appropriately as I switched my selection.
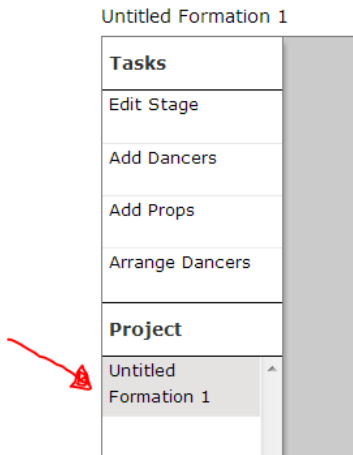

3. Minor: **May want to make the stage selection affordance more externally consistent** (Consistency and standards)

   A border is not necessarily the most externally consistent feedback for selection. Most external programs use buttons or checkboxes for selections.

Recommendation: Make the selections buttons that look pressed when selected and that "un-press" when the selection is changed.

4. Major: **Difficult to figure out how to edit formation name** (Affordances)

It was hard for me to figure out how to change the name of the first formation to "Blues enter". At first I tried to click on it under the Project section (see red arrow in image below). The actual editable text-box looks like a heading. There is no affordance that it is editable until you hover there.

Recommendation: Add an affordance to make formation name look editable. For example, look at Google Docs. They also use a default document name, which is then editable.
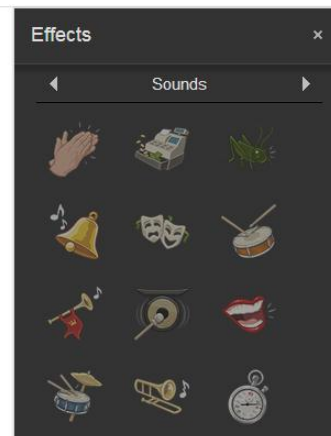
5. Good: **Can add multiple alike dancers at once** (Flexibility and efficiency)

I like that you can add multiple dancers at once as long as they are the name shape and color. I was afraid I would have to add 5 dancers individually.

6. Major: **Drag-and-drop would be more efficient than "Add dancers" form** (Flexibility and efficiency)

The "add dancers" form has a minimalist design, which I appreciate. However, the form still requires users to click on "add dancers", then select answers for the questions on the form, and then click "add" at the end of the form each time. This is not that efficient.

Recommendation: It would be more efficient if there was a panel with different shape/color combinations under "add dancers" that users could drag-and-drop from onto the stage. Perhaps it could be something like the panel of fun effects in Google hangout.

7. Cosmetic: **Dancer shapes change sizes** (Consistency and standards)

    The dancer shapes are slightly larger while users are dragging them, and then they shrink slightly when users drop them. This is distracting and not internally consistent.
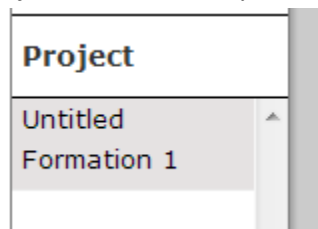
    Recommendation: Make sure dancer shapes don't resize when dropped onto stage.

8. Good: **Arrows can be dragged, dancers and props can be moved via drag-and-drop** (Flexibility and efficiency)

    I like that users can drag arrows into place and that drag-and-drop allows dancers to be moved around. This seems very intuitive and efficient to design formations.

9. Minor: **The "Project" heading is misleading** (Visibility of system status)

    The "Project" heading under the "Tasks" heading was misleading for me. I expected it to list all of my projects, but it actually lists all of the formations for the current project.

    Recommendation: Change the heading to "Formations"

10. Major: **Will "arrange dancers" arrange all dancers or only selected dancers?** (User control and freedom)

    I realize that the "arrange dancers" feature has not been fully implemented. However, when it does, it should allow users to select certain dancers and arrange only them.

    Recommendation: Allows users to select certain dancers for features like "arrange dancers".

11. Good: **There are undo and redo options** (Error recovery)

    Undo and redo are particularly important when dancers and props can be moved via drag-and-drop.

12. Good: The trashcan animates to open when it receives an item (Affordances, feedback)

    The trashcan opening and closing gives good feedback that the item to be deleted was received. I enjoyed the animation and didn't find it distracting.

13. Major: **Arrows cannot be dragged to the trashcan** (User control and freedom, error recovery)

    As far as I could tell, there is no way to be able to delete an arrow, other than clicking "undo" immediately after drawing it. However, users may want to be able to delete an arrow long after it was originally drawn. Arrows should also be draggable, so that users can move them around after drawing them, just as they can with props and dancers.

    Recommendation: Make arrows draggable, especially for deleting purposes.

14. Minor: **Want to be able to drag-and-drop props onto stage** (Flexibility and efficiency)

    The form for props is even simpler than the form for adding dancers. However, users still have to click "add" for each prop.

    Recommendation: Make a panel right on the main screen that displays props, and from which users can drag props directly onto the screen.

15. Good: **Overall display is very clean** (Aesthetic and minimalist design)

    There are no distracting colors. All of the possible actions are clearly organized on the left. Most of screen used for stage. Overall, the website is easy on the eyes.