

## STAGE TERMINOLOGY

1. PROSCENIUM STAGE- This type of stage is like our auditorium. There is a proscenium arch or opening(frame) through which the audience views the play.
2. THRUST STAGE- is the oldest type of stage (Shakespeare's Globe theatre was a thrust stage). Audience sits on three sides of the stage.
3. ARENA/THEATRE IN THE ROUND- This is sometimes called a Black Box Theatre because of its flexibility. The audience sits completely around the acting area in either a square pattern or a circular pattern.

---

4. ACTING AREA- The portion of the stage used by the actors during a play.
5. ACT CURTAIN- The curtain (usually the first downstage curtain) closed and opened between each act of the play. FHS act curtain is maroon.
6. APRON- The portion of the stage in front of the act curtain.
7. ARBOR- The metal frame that holds the counterweights. Also called the carriage or cradle.
8. BACKDROP (Drop)- A large piece of cloth with a scene or picture painted on it.
9. BACKING (Masking) - Flats or curtains behind scenery openings to hide the backstage.
10. BACKSTAGE- The part of the theatre left, right, and rear which is not seen by the audience, includes dressing rooms, prop room, etc.
11. BATTEN- A long pipe from which scenery, lights, curtains, are hung from.
12. BOX SET- A three walled set composed of canvas flats representing an interior room. The fourth wall is imaginary.
13. BREAKAWAY- A prop that is specifically made to break at a certain point in the play.
14. CATWALK- An immobile platform above the stage that reaches from one end of the stage to the other, used to gain access to the stage equipment.
15. COUNTERWEIGHT SYSTEM- A system of pulleys and ropes weighted with lead weights to act as a balance for scenery, lights, and curtains hanging from battens.
16. CURTAIN LINE- The imaginary line on the floor that curtain touches when it is closed.
17. SKY CYC/CYCLORAMA- A background curtain light blue in color used as sky.
18. DUTCHMAN- A strip of cloth or tape used to conceal a joint or crack between flats.
19. FALSE PROSCENIUM- A constructed proscenium that fits inside the permanent proscenium.
20. FLAT- A wooden frame covered with cloth or wood used as the basic unit of structure for a box set. Hollywood Flats wooden frame covered with wood (more durable)
21. FLIES (Loft)- The area above the stage where scenery is hung.

22. FLYING (Fly)- Raising or lowering scenery on the counterweight system. Fly in is to lower. Fly out is to raise.
23. FLOOR PLAN- A drawing showing exactly how the scenery will be placed on the stage
24. FOURTH WALL- An imaginary wall between the actors and the audience that disallows interaction between the two groups of people.
25. GLOW TAPE- Tape that glows in the dark.
26. GRIP- A stagehand who moves the scenery.
27. GRAND DRAPE- A curtain hung at the top of the proscenium, usually the same color as the act curtain, used to raise and lower the height of the proscenium opening.
28. GREEN ROOM- a backstage lounge or waiting room for the actors.
29. GROUND ROW- A low profile of scenery which can stand by itself used to mask the bottom of the sky cyc. Usually painted as a wall or greenery.
30. HEADS UP- Command given when something is being flown in. This is only said during rehearsals, and set construction, NOT DURING THE PERFORMANCE.
31. JACK- A triangular-shaped brace used to support scenery.
32. LEGS- Curtains hung in pairs left and right of stage to mask the backstage area. 32. MUSLIN- Cloth cotton material used in the construction of flats.
33. PIT- The part of the auditorium where the orchestra creating music sits.
34. PLATFORM- A structure used to change the height of the stage.
35. PERMANENT SET- A set that does not change throughout the play.
36. PLASTER LINE- An imaginary line that runs across the proscenium along the up stage side of the proscenium wall. The line is used by designers and technicians to position various technical elements in the theater.
37. PRACTICAL- A term applied to parts of the set like doors and windows that must really work. Also props that really work, i.e. lamps, door bells, telephones, radios.
38. PRE-SET- The setting on stage of props and costumes that the audience will see before the play begins.
39. PROPS/PROPERTIES- Items that are hand held on stage.
40. PROP TABLE- The table backstage on which props are laid out usually in a mapped order.
41. PROSCENIUM- The arch or frame enclosing the visible part of the stage. The opening between the stage and the audience.
42. RAKE- To set at an angle or slant.
43. RAMP- A sloping platform connecting the stage floor to a higher level.
44. RETURNS- Flats or curtains behind scenery openings. Example: Another wall behind a door.

45. REVEAL- A thickness piece placed in door, window, and arch openings to give the illusion of the thickness of walls.

46. RIGGING-1)The process of loading in scenery and stage equipment. 2)The way in which mobile scenery is installed ■

47. RUNNING CREW- Backstage technicians who perform all the technical tasks during the show.

48. SCRIM CURTAIN- A large net curtain, which seems opaque when lit from the front and transparent when lit from the back. Ours is Black.

---

49. SET DRESSING-Props that are used to decorate the set and are usually not handled by actors.

50. SET PIECE- Individual pieces of scenery such as trees, rocks, and furniture that stand by themselves.

51. SIGHT LINE- A line for the side wall of the set established by taking a sighting from the front corners of the seats.

52. SPIKE- To place a mark on the stage floor. This is done so set pieces can be placed to the same place each performance.

53. STRIKE- To remove props and scenery from the set or stage.

54. TEASER CURTAIN- A curtain hung just upstage of the act curtain used to hide battens, scenery, and lights. This curtain does not fall to the floor.

55. TRAPS/TRAP DOORS-Removable areas of the stage floor that allow access to the area underneath the stage.

56. TRAVELER CURTAIN- A stage curtain that opens to the right and left rather than up and down.

57. TRIM-The height to which a piece of scenery or stage a equipment will be flown.

58. UNIT SET- Setting that presents multiple scenes during a play. Musicals usually use unit settings.

59. WAGON- A Platform on wheels.

60. WINGS- The offstage areas right and left of the set, or hard pieces of scenery stage left and right used form entrances and exits.

