**stage@leeds information sheet**

**Theatre Terminology**

**General Theatre Terms.**



**Boards:**  A slang term for the stage.

**Apron:** The bit of stage in front of the proscenium arch.

**Proscenium Arch:** The frame/ arch that the main house curtains are housed in, dividing the FOH and the stage area.

**False Proscenium:** A proscenium arch made from flats to mimic a proscenium arch.

**Iron:** The iron curtain that mechanically comes in if there is a fire. Stage side is metal the front is fabric. Usually it fills with water to make time for the audience to get out.

**Stage Left:** Left hand side from the actors view looking at the Audience.

**Stage Right:** Right hand side from the actors view looking at the Audience.

**Upstage:** Towards the back of the stage, away from the Audience.

**Down Stage:** Towards the front of the stage, towards the audience.

**PS:** (Prompt Side) normally stage left (Britain) (stage right US).

**OP:** (Opposite Prompt) Opposite of above.

**BS:** (Bastard Side) Where the Prompt side is on stage right.

**O.B** (Opposite Bastard) Opposite of above.

**FOH:** (Front of House) Anything in front of the Main House Curtains.



**Vom. (Vomitory):** is a passage situated below or behind a tier of seats in a theatre, an amphitheatre or a stadium, through which big crowds can exit rapidly at the end of a performance. They can also be pathways for actors to enter and leave stage.



**Orchestra Pit:** Usually at the front of the stage housing the orchestra, allowing the conductor to see the stage but keeping the orchestra out of the sight lines of the audience.

**Wings:** The side of the stage that the actors make their entrances from. (Usually masked by legs from the audience).

**Rake:** This is the gradient that the seats or the stage are set at.

**Back Stage:** Everything behind the proscenium arch that the audience cannot see.

**On Stage:** Everything that the audience can see.

**Scene Dock:** Usually a back stage area where set is stored ready to go onto the stage.

**Green Room:** An area back stage where actors and stage crew can relax, have a drink etc.

**Dressing Room:** Where actors get dressed and costumes are stored for the show.

**Crossover:** Allows actors to get from one side of the stage to the other without being seen.

**Sight Lines:** The lines of sight that all the seat positions of the audience can see onto the stage. (Very important if you do not wish them to see something).

**Grid:** Lighting grid, where the lights are hung.

**Gantry:** Metal walkway that you can focus the lights from.**Wardrobe:** Anything to do with costume, where costumes are made and fitted.**On Stage.**

**Tabs:** Curtains.

**House Tabs:** Main Curtains that come in at the end of the show (Usually Red Velvet).



**Border:** Black curtain about 2m in height that frame the stage and help hide the lights above the stage.



**Leg(s):** this has two meanings:-

 1. Curtains that mask off the side of the stage creating Wing space.

 2. Scaffold Bar that goes into Decking to lift it to height.

**Blacks:** Blackout curtains. Usually used for masking. (The legs above are blackout material).



**Slit Drape:** Usually a backdrop like the plastic strips you have in your doorway to keep flies out during the summer.

**Back Drop:** ACloth that is hung at the back of the stage (upstage).



**Gauze:** A fine meshed cloth. When lit from the front it appears solid, but when lit from the back you can see through it.



**Scrim:** Wide mesh cloth usually not that well made. Used in set dressing. Like hessian, sand bag material, but not as tightly woven.



**Swag:** This is done to curtains to put folds into them to make them look swish. It’s like what you do to your domestic curtains when you tie them back.

**Masking:** Either cloths or flats that stop the audience from seeing that which you do not want them to see. (Sight Lines).

**Tech Stuff.**

**LX:** Lighting.

**Going Dark:** A warning to everyone that the theatre is about to have its lights turned off.

**Dim Out:** When you fade out on the lighting board, you don’t quite go to black out.



**Profile:** Tight beam of light.



**Flood:** Wide beam of light. (Flooding the entire area no control). 

**Fresnel:** Half way between a spot and a flood.

**FX:** Sound (today it includes projection).

**Cross Fade:** To fade from one lighting state to another or one sound effect to another

**God Mic:** A mic for the director to use, so that they can talk to everyone on stage.



**Digital Snake:** This is a unit that has multiple inputs and outputs, that plugs into the side on the stage via Ethernet cable and is connected by a receiver to the sound desk.



**Grease Paint:** Special make up in stick form, which is used in theatres.



**Clummet:** A cleat that has a notch in the back that can have a rope attached.



**Cleat:** A metal hook usually double ended so that a rope can be wound round it, tying the rope off without having to tie a knot.



**Spigot:** A shaped tubular piece of metal with a thread at one end to take a bolt that allows a light to be put on a lighting stand.



**Tree:** Lighting stand.



**Hook Clamp:** A clamp that allows a light to be suspended from truss or Scaffolding bar.



**Safety Chain:** Anything flown shouldhave a safety chain on it as a secondary attachment, in case the primary fixing fails. Lights should always have these. They can be chains or steel ropes. They allow some movement for focusing.



**Barn Door:** The metal shutters on the lens end of a light.



**Shutter:** The internal metal shutters half way along the body of a profile.



**Gobo:** A metal disc with a pattern cut out of its middle that fits into a light to make a pattern on the floor.



**Gobo Holder:** Holds a gobo. Makes a gobo fit into a specific light.



**Festoon:** A cable with multiple lamp holders in it, usually used for outside events.



**Tank Trap:** The weighted base of a Boom stand.



**Boom:** An arm at right angles to a bar or stand that allows lights to be hung.



**Truss:** A strong rated structure thatallows set and or lights to be hung safely.



**Flats:** Scenery that can either be solid wood or canvas that can be painted to

Look like solid objects, but are light enough to move on stage.

**French Man:** Flats that are flown.



**Stage Brace:** Temporary bracing that holds flats up.



**Stage Weight:** A weight that fits a stage brace.



**Stage Screw:** A screw that screws into the stage that hold a stage brace up instead of a weight. It has a handle on it so that it is easy to use. (No tools).



**Ground Brace:** A wooden brace that attaches to a set and then can be screwed downor weighted down. (See A below)



**French Brace:** A wooden brace that is attached permanently attached to a flat that is hinged so it can be folded back, to aid scene changes. (C shows the hinges).



**Decking:** Blocks that can be bolted together to make raised areas of stage area.



**Treads:** Steps going up to raised levels on a set.

**Trucks:** Pieces of interactive set on wheels.



**Dollies:** Boards or boxes on wheels.



**Flight Case:** Strong, light weight box for transporting fragile equipment. E.g. Sound desks. Usually they are on wheels.

**Fly:** To fly a piece of set etc. In the air. E.g. on ropes.



**Flies:** Where the controls for flying cloths and set are, usually today counterweight system is operated and the ropes are now steel ropes. 

**Long:** The rope that travels the furthest from the Flies.

**Middle:** The middle rope.

**Short:** The shortest rope.

**Dead:** This is what you set the flying ropes to ensure a cloth are set is level and at the right height on the stage.

**Brail line**: This is a second line that is attached to another rope to pull the rope into the right position. Usually horizontal to the first.

**Spot Line:** This is a line that can help hold up an object on stage, or temporarily lift something into position, prior to permanent fixing.

**Drift:** The rope that goes from a bar to the top of a piece of set, that allows the set to be in position, but allows the bar to still be hidden.



**Hoist:** A mechanical geared device for lifting heavy weights. Can be electrical.



**Sling:** A rated material loop for lifting.



**Steel:** A rated steel rope used for safety and lifting.



**Sash:** Thin rope about 6mm to 8mm thick. Originally used in sash windows.

**Set: “**Setting” Flats, decking, painted cloths, etc. Put onto the stage to create a picture of where the action is supposed to be happening. E.g. House, Office or Railway Station.

**Props:** “Properties” These are smaller items that help set the scene. E.g. Brushes, Umbrellas, Handbags, Briefcases.

**Bible:** Prompt book. It’s the script that runs the show. Everything runs to that, it brings the acting and technical together.

**Barrel:** (Bar) Scaffold Bar.

**Blues:** Back stage (blue) working lights, so that actors can safely move around the set back stage.

**Cleaners:** Auditorium working lights.

**Anti Rake:** When a stage is raked it is sometimes necessary to make the set stand flat or vertical and therefore needs to be anti-raked.



**Drugget:** A stage cloth. It is a cloth that covers the stage.



**Genie:** A mobile platform for working at height.

**House:** This means either the audience or the auditorium.

**In Set:** A small scene set inside a bigger one. Works in acting terms and scenic terms.

**People abbreviations.**

**PM:** Production Manager.

**CSM:** Company Stage Manager.

**SM:** Stage Manager.

**ASM:** Assistant Stage Manager.

**TSM:** Touring Stage Manager. (Person who might call the show, especially if it is only on for one night)

**DSM:** Deputy Stage Manager. (Person who normally calls the show).