

Glossary Of Theatre Terms

GENERAL

- THEATRE** A building in which plays and other dramatic performances are given.
- PLAY** A piece of writing performed by actors.
- ACTOR**..... A person whose profession is acting.
- DIRECTOR**..... A person who directs a play.
- MUSICAL** A play in which singing and dancing play an essential part.
- BALLET** An artistic form of dancing performed to music using set steps and gestures.
- OPERA** A dramatic work set to music for singers and musicians.
- AUDIENCE** The people gathered to see a performance.
- FRONT OF HOUSE** The areas of the theatre in front of the stage eg cloakrooms; kiosks; programme sales desk; responsible for the audience's safety.
- FRONT OF HOUSE
MANAGER** Person in charge of Front of House operations.
- CUSTOMER SERVICE
ASSISTANT**..... A person who looks after the needs of an audience. E.g. selling programmes, directing people to their seats etc.
- BOX OFFICE** A place at the theatre where tickets are sold.
- TICKET** A piece of paper or card giving the holder a right to admission to a performance, with their seat number on.
- FOYER**..... A large entrance hall in a theatre. An area where audience members wait before being allowed into the auditorium.
- KIOSK**..... A small open-fronted shop from which programmes and refreshments are sold. E.g. drinks sweets and ice creams.
- PROGRAMME**..... A booklet giving details about a performance.

AUDITORIUM The part of a theatre in which the audience sits.



STALLS The ground floor seats in a theatre.



CIRCLE The upstairs area of a theatre - an upper tier of seats.

BOXES An enclosed - boxed off area in the auditorium, with a separate entrance. Often in theatres there is a 'Royal Box' where royalty can sit.



STAGE..... An area, which can be raised - on which actors and entertainers perform - in front of the audience. Sometimes the audience can sit around the stage.

ORCHESTRA A large group of musicians with string, woodwind, brass and percussion sections.



ORCHESTRA PIT..... The place in front of the stage on a lower level to the audience where the orchestra play.

CURTAIN A piece of material suspended at the top of the stage , to form a screen between the stage and auditorium of a theatre.



CURTAIN UP Indicates the beginning of a performance and / or the beginning of the next act after the interval.

CURTAIN DOWN..... Indicates the end of the act and the beginning of the interval and/or the end of the performance.

SAFETY CURTAIN A rectangular steel frame covered on the stage side with flat steel sheets and a fire resistant cloth on the auditorium side.



The safety curtain protects the auditorium and backstage from each other in the event of a fire in either of these areas. It must by law be lowered and raised in the presence of every audience.

INTERVAL A Period of time between acts of a performance. A time used by audience members to go back into the foyer, buy ice cream etc.

BACKSTAGE



BACKSTAGE..... The area behind the stage in a theatre.



LIGHTING The arrangement of a particular set of lights for effect during a performance.

SOUND..... The arrangement of a particular set of sounds for effect during a performance.



TECHNICIAN A person employed to look after the technical equipment and use them for the technical aspects of the performance. They are usually experts in the techniques of a particular science or craft. E.g Lighting or sound operator.

STAGE MANAGER..... The person responsible for all the technical cues and arrangements during a performance.



DEPUTY STAGE

MANAGER The person responsible for the stage calls to actors. To let them know when it is their cue to be ready to go on stage.

ASSISTANT STAGE



MANAGER A person responsible for dealing with scenery and props during a performance.



SCENERY The painted background used to represent a place on a stage.

PROPS A portable object used on the set of a performance.



DRESSERS A person who assists performers in getting in and out of costumes.



STAGE DOOR..... Actors entrance from the street to the backstage area of a theatre.