

**Aisle** - passageway between seats in an auditorium

**Apron** - the part of the downstage area that extends past the curtain

**Asbestos curtain (fire curtain)** - hangs in front of the main curtain to create a fire barrier between the house and the stage area

**Auditorium (the house)** - the part of the theater where the audience sits

**Backstage** - the stage itself, the dressing rooms, prop rooms, prop storage space - everything between the proscenium arch and the back wall of the stage

**Batten (pipe)** - lengths of pipe suspended from the grid. Scenery and lights are hung (flown) from these moveable pipes.

**Blacks** - duvetene drapes (usually black) used to frame the stage. The blacks hung horizontally are called "borders", the ones hung vertically in pair across the stage from each other are called "legs"

**Blackout** - all stage lights out. Used to end scenes and acts when no curtain is used.

**Borders** - the velvet or duvetene drapes that run horizontally

**Box Office** - the place where tickets are sold

**Bunker** - area backstage, lined with gondolas, where performers change costumes or rest between scenes. Some companies will use another term for this, such as Wardrobe Village, the Compound, or Gondola Alley.

**Business Agent** - an elected Union official in charge of negotiating contracts, labor disputes, protecting our workers, etc.

**Call** - a request for actors or stage crew to appear for work

**Call time** - the time you are expected to be at your job site, ready to start work

**Call board** - bulletin board for announcements and work calls. Often found near the stage or stage door.

**Cast** - list of performers performing in each role in a production

**Clear the stage** - the stage manager's call asking all personnel to leave the stage

**Come down** - in the theatre, a show does not finish; it comes down, i.e. the curtain "comes down" to end the show

**Continuity hour** - usually a 1 hour call immediately before "half hour" and a show call, used to prepare items that will be needed for the upcoming performance. Steaming, pressing, small repairs, and passing out laundry are common tasks. Upon request from the Supervisor, a 2 hour continuity is allowed.

**Cross over** - the area between the last upstage curtain and the backstage wall of the stage area. This is used by performers and crew to get from one side of the stage to the other during a performance.

**Cue** - a signal to execute an action

**Curtain Call** - opening and closing the curtain at the end of the performance, by which the performers acknowledge the audience's applause

**Day work** - wardrobe work performed during the day to prepare the costumes for an evening's performance. Tasks can include steaming, pressing, shining shoes, general repair work, resetting wigs, etc. Also sometimes referred to as a "work call".

**Dead costume** - a costume that does not appear again in the current performance

**Deck** - the continuous floor area including the stage and the wings, where the performance takes place, scenery is moved into position, costume changes occur, and performers wait to enter

**Discard basket** - a laundry basket designated for discarded costumes and accessories

**Ditty bag** - a zippered, mesh bag that holds a performer's laundry. A fresh bag with a clean set of laundry should be used for every performance. Also sometimes refers to the hanging accessory bags hung inside gondolas or over doors.

**Dock (loading dock)** - the raised loading door used for loading and unloading trucks

**Down stage** - the part of the stage nearest the audience

**Dress rehearsal** - a complete performance on stage with all the elements of a show. Usually there is no audience.

**Dresser** - the wardrobe crew who helps the performers get in to and change costumes

**Drop** - an unframed expanse of material hung from a batten, generally used as scenery, and is weighted at the bottom

**Drop cloth** - a clean cloth used to prevent costumes from hitting the bare floor, usually in a quick change.

**Flat** - a flat, two dimensional unit of scenery often covered in fabric

**Fly loft** - the open tower above a proscenium stage. All the hung scenery, drapes, and lights can be flown up here to remove them from the stage area

**Fly rail** - is a system of rope lines, blocks (pulleys), counterweights and related devices within a theater that enables stage crew to fly components such as curtains, lights, scenery, stage effects and, sometimes, people. Usually this is located along the walls behind the wings.

**Front of House (FOH)** - the area of the theater that belongs to the audience, the auditorium, the entrance lobby, box office, etc.

**Ghost light** - a single light bulb on a stand, left onstage when all other stage and work lights are shut off

**Gondola** - the road cases where costumes are stored to work out of and to travel

**Green Room** - the lounge area where performers can wait when not onstage

**Grid** - steel framework near the top of the fly loft that battens are hung from

**Half hour** - one half hour before the beginning of the show. By this time, all prep work (steaming, ironing, delivering laundry, presetting costumes, etc) should be done.

**House lights** - the lights used to illuminate the audience

**House Operations Manager** - a Union member who holds a house staff position at a theater who is in charge of house daily operations

**Legs** - the pairs of drapes hung vertically on either side of the stage used to hide the backstage areas from the audience

**Load in** - the time before the first performance of a show in a new theater where costumes, scenery, props, etc. are unpacked and set up for the next performance, also sometimes referred to as take in

**Load out** - at the end of the run, all of the props, costumes, scenery, etc. from the show are packed up, ready to move from the theatre, also sometimes referred to as pack out

**Locals** - extra technicians hired in each city

**Off stage** - the area that is outside the acting area and not seen by the audience

**Orchestra pit** - a pit (or area) in front of the apron where the orchestra is set to perform

**Pack-out** - at the end of the run, all of the props, costumes, scenery, etc. from the show are packed up, ready to move from the theatre, more commonly referred to as load out

**Pre-set** - costumes or props that are set in a certain place or way so they can be readily accessible later in a performance

**Press cloth** - a cloth placed between the garment and the iron, used to prevent iron marks

**Props** - stage furniture, set dressing, articles used by performers. The general rule is: if you can pick it up, it's a prop; if you can't, it's scenery (unless someone is wearing it).

**Prop table** - tables set in the wings for props to be taken from and brought back to during a performance. It is important not to move objects set on prop tables, nor to put things on them that don't belong there.

**Proscenium arch** - a decorative frame around the front opening of the stage. It separates the stage area from the audience

**Put in rehearsal** - a rehearsal for a specific performer who is new to the role. Often scenes that do not involve the new performer will be skipped, and often only crew members who interact with the performer will be called.

**Quick change** - any costume change completed when a performer has a limited amount of time

**Quick change booth (or area)** - an area close to the stage set aside for a dresser to preset a performer's costume

**Rake** - a slope given to the stage or auditorium floor

**Road (touring as "on the road")** - a road company is a touring company that travels from city to city to perform

**Run** - the duration or total number of performances of a production

**Running time** - the duration of a scene or act, or total length of time of a performance

**Scene** - a subdivision of an act, usually symbolizing a change of time or place. Acts are subdivided by an intermission, scenes are not.

**Scenery** - any drops, flats, props, or set dressing that together create the image of a place or form a background for the action onstage

**Scrim** - a gauze curtain used as a drop for a special effect. When lit from the front it appears solid, but when lit from the back becomes semi-transparent.

**Set** - the group of scenic elements which appear together to create the image of a specific place or form a unique background for the action of the performance

**Split track** - a track normally performed by one actor, now shared by two or more

**Stage** - the platform on which the performance takes place

**Stage door** - the entrance to the theater where backstage employees enter and leave

**Stage left** - the left side of the stage as the performer sees it when standing on stage facing the audience

**Stage right** - the right side of the stage as the performer sees it when standing on stage facing the audience

**Steward** - a member of the crew chosen (usually by seniority) to be responsible for reporting hours, ensuring the contract is enforced, etc.

**Strike** - to remove a show and restore the stage to its original state, usually used in reference to shows that are produced in house (load out is done on road shows)

**Swing** - a performer who is responsible for covering several roles in a production

**Take-in** - the time before the first performance of a show in a new theater where costumes, scenery, props, etc. are unpacked and set up for the next performance, more commonly referred to as load-in

**Tech rehearsal** - usually the first rehearsal on stage where lighting, sound, scenery, etc. are used but no costumes, make-up, or wigs are used

**Track** - your list of tasks and changes in a show

**Trap** - a removable section of the stage floor through which machinery, performers, or effects may be brought onto or removed from the stage

**Underdress** - to wear one costume (or parts of a costume) underneath another that is required first. This is often done to make quick changes go quicker.

**Understudy** - a performer who learns the lines, blocking, and steps of a role so he is prepared to step in to the role should the regular performer be unavailable for a performance

**Upstage** - the area of the stage farthest away from the audience

**Wardrobe supervisor** - the person in charge of all of the costumes once they are completed by the designer. It is the wardrobe supervisor's responsibility to check arrangements with the dressers and to oversee the maintenance of the costumes.

**Wings** - the sides of the stage, out of sight of the audience, where performers stand before making their entrance

**Work Call** - wardrobe work performed during the day to prepare the costumes for an evening's performance. Tasks can include steaming, pressing, shining shoes, general repair work, resetting wigs, etc. Also sometimes referred to as "day work". Stagehands are more likely to use the term "Work Call", while Wardrobe generally prefers "Day Work".