

APRON

The area of a proscenium stage located downstage of the proscenium wall and upstage of the orchestra pit. If the floor of the orchestra pit is raised to stage level (by machinery or with platforms) then it may form an extension of the apron, called a forestage or stage extension.

AUDITORIUM

The seating area or audience chamber of a performance space; the house.

CONTROL ROOM/BOOTH

A room, usually at the rear of the auditorium, from which lighting, sound, and other control equipment is operated during the performance. Also called the lighting control room/booth, sound control room/booth.

CROSSOVER

A passage, usually at the rear of the stage, used by performers and staff to move from one side of the stage to the other without coming into the view of the audience.

DECK

The stage floor.

FLY, FLY LOFT, FLY TOWER, LOFT, STAGE TOWER

The upper part of the stage house where scenery, drapery, and equipment can be suspended out of the view of the audience.

FOLLOWSPOT BOOTH

A raised area, usually enclosed, from which high intensity spotlights are operated to “follow” performers.

FRONT OF HOUSE (FOH)

The public areas of a theatre.

GRID, GRIDIRON

A floor of structural steel channel or grating which extends over the upper portion of the stage house. Provides mounting positions for theatre equipment and staff access to any point over the stage for rigging and maintenance.

HOUSE

(1.) the seating area or audience chamber of a performance space; auditorium; (2.) the audience

LIGHTING CATWALK

A raised walkway, usually above the auditorium, with operating and mounting positions for stage lights.

MIX POSITION

A location within the auditorium, often temporary, from which a sound mixing console is operated during the performance

ORCHESTRA PIT

A depressed floor area immediately downstage of (or partly under) the apron, where the orchestra plays during performances. The orchestra pit is often equipped with a lift or platforms to raise the floor level to form an extension of the audience seating area or a stage extension.

PLASTER LINE

The finished upstage face of the proscenium wall, fire curtain, or pilasters from which equipment and scenery are dimensioned.

PROSCENIUM, PROSCENIUM ARCH, PROSCENIUM OPENING

The opening in the proscenium wall through which the stage is seen by the audience.

PROSCENIUM WALL

The wall which separates the stage from the auditorium

SOUND AND LIGHT LOCK

A vestibule that separates the auditorium from the lobby or circulation areas, to keep noise and light out of the auditorium; a similar vestibule separating the stage from back of house

STAGE

An area used for the performance of plays or other entertainment. In a proscenium theatre, this area is usually raised above the first row of audience seating and partially enclosed by the stage house.

STAGE HOUSE

The part of a theatre building upstage of the proscenium wall which includes the stage, wings, galleries, gridirons, and associated areas

BACKSTAGE

Areas of the theatre adjacent to the stage accessible only to performers and technicians, including the wings, crossover, and dressing rooms. Typically this refers to areas directly accessible from the stage and does not include spaces such as the control booth or Orchestra pit.

PROMPT CORNER

Area just to one side of the proscenium where the stage manager stands to cue the show and prompt performers.

RAKE

A slope in the performance space (stage), rising away from the audience.

DRESSING ROOMS

Rooms where cast members apply wigs, make-up and change into costumes. attached.

GREEN ROOM

The lounge backstage. This is the room where actors and other performers wait in when they are not needed onstage or in their dressing rooms.

CALL BOARD

A backstage bulletin board which contains information about a theatrical production including contact sheets, schedules, rehearsal time changes, etc.

BACKDROP/DROP

A painted canvas or plain surface upon which light could be shown, it is flown or hung from the grid and, in combination with wings, is used to form a set on stage. Often painted to depict scenery.

BATTEN

A long pipe or strip of wood flown or hung from the grid from which scenery, drops, or lights are hung.

BORDER

A narrow strip of fabric used to mask the flies from the sight of the audience.

CYCLORAMA

A curved wall at the back of the stage upon which light can be thrown to create effects -- many times to simulate the sky. Also called a "cyc".

DOWNSTAGE

Stage direction: the front of the stage, or that portion of the stage closest to the audience.

DROP

A piece of cloth, often painted to depict scenery, which is lowered or hung from the grid to set a scene.

ELECTRIC

Refers to a pipe batten with electrical circuits for hanging lighting instruments. stage.

GRAND DRAPE

The “main” curtain or drape separating the stage from the audience.

LEG

A piece of fabric hung from a batten or the grid used to mask offstage. Often paired with a border to create a masking portal upstage of the proscenium arch.

SCENE SHOP

The backstage area in which scenery is designed and built.

SKY-DROP

A drop designed to be used in the manner of a cyclorama, for the projection of lighting effects.

STAGE DOOR

Usual means of access to the backstage area for use by actors and crew members. Generally located at the back or side of a theatre building.

STAGE LEFT

The left side of the stage when facing the audience.

STAGE RIGHT

The right side of the stage when facing the audience.

TEASER/BORDER

The long, horizontal flat or piece of cloth hung above the stage behind the main curtain and which, in combination with the vertical tormentors/legs, forms a false or inner proscenium.

TRAP

A door in the stage floor through which actors can enter and exit.

TRAVELLER

A curtain or drape that “travels” on a transverse batten by means of pulleys mounted on or in the batten and a line attached to the curtain by means of metal hooks or links.

UPSTAGE

Stage direction referring to the back of the stage, or that part furthest from the audience. Originated from the fact that stages were originally raked at an upward angle from the front to the back of the stage.