

# THEATRE GLOSSARY: FOR BEGINNERS

**Act:** Subdivision between section of play/musical. (e.g. one act play, Act 1 & Act 2)

**Apron Stage:** The Apron is a section of the stage floor which projects towards or into the auditorium.

**Backstage:** The parts of the stage that are out of audience view.

**Beginners:** A call made by the Stage Manager to bring those actors who appear in the opening scene to make their way to the stage (e.g. "Beginners to stage for Act 1/2").

**Blackout:** Absence of stage lighting. Used for scene changes and various stage effects.

**Blocking:** The process of setting moves to be made by actors in certain scenes. (E.g. "Romeo skips diagonally downstage right").

**Break a leg:** A term for "Good Luck" (though cannot always guarantee that's what they mean...)

**Bump In/Out:** The process of transporting sets/props/costumes to the theatre. This is where the set is built onto the stage, and where props and costumes are put in their allocated spots. Bump out....well that's the same process, but in reverse!

**Call:** A notification of a working session/action (e.g. a call for cast to arrive on stage, a rehearsal call)

**Cue:** The command given to technical departments for lighting sounds OR a signal an actor follows to perform the next action/line.

**Curtain Call:** The finale of a performance.

**Cyclorama:** Cyc for short, the cloth that hangs from the back of the stage to fill the back wall. This is where most projections are cast to.

**Dialogue:** The spoken text of a play/musical.

**Director:** The person responsible for the artistic vision of the play/musical.

**Downstage:** The part of the stage nearest to the audience.

**Dress rehearsal:** A full rehearsal that includes all creative and technical elements. It is a rehearsal that you act as if you are performing “on the night” of the actual productions.

**Flat/s:** A lightweight timber frame decorated with a scenic canvas. Aka: a piece of the set.

**Green Room:** Room closest to the stage, a room for actors to relax before performing.

**House:** The audience.

**Interval:** A break between acts.

**Matinee:** Afternoon performance of a play/musical.

**Prompt corner:** The area which the Stage Manager controls the performance.

**Props:** (Properties) Furnishings, set dressings, and all large or small items that are handled by actors.

**Run:** A rehearsal of the whole/sections of the play/musical.

**Set:** The completed stage setting for the show (e.g. the buildings).

**Stage Left/Right:** The sides of the stage seen from the actors point of view.

**Stage Left:** Also called PROMPT SIDE

**Stage Right:** Also called OPPOSITE PROMPT

**Tab/s:** (Tableaux curtains) Stage curtains, either used for the sides, vertical fly ins, or horizontal fly ins.

**Tech Rehearsal:** A rehearsal run in the performance space using ONLY lighting/sound/scenery (depends what the directing/backstage team want to use).

**Treads:** Another name for stairs used to access some parts of the set (Usually contains 3 – 4 steps).

**Upstage:** The part of the stage further away from the audience.

**Visual cue:** A cue taken from action on stage rather from the Stage Manager

**Wings:** The out of view areas of the stage. Multiple wings are present side of stage. (e.g. “the second wing from the left” “the wing downstage right”).