

# Aa

AB	see stereophonic
Abbey Theatre	Irish theatre founded in Dublin in 1891 - provided opportunity for English speaking actors and writers and preserved intellectual freedom. Established the Irish character and Irish nationalism and revolted from traditional English Theatre.
above	upstage, the area farthest away from the audience.
abstract ideas	ideas you cannot sense (see, smell, hear, touch, taste, feel) - ideas that mean different things to different people.
abstract setting	a stage setting which is stylized rather than imitative or representational; that is, one which does not attempt to present a stage picture realistically.
abstraction	a quality expressed separately from the actual person or thing that expresses it.
absurdism	a form of theatre in which language becomes the unconventional, and in which political and social problems are examined and presented to the audience in unconventional ways.
accent	the manner in which people speak and the way words are pronounced in different regions of the world.
accent lighting	lighting which stresses certain stage areas.
acoustic	pertaining to sound
acoustics	a theater's qualities that determine the audibility and true-ness of sound.
act (noun)	the major divisions of a play
act (verb)	to perform or play a role.
act curtain	the curtain hung just upstage of the proscenium that opens and closes at the end of each scene. see grand drape
acting	playing a part in a drama. Acting is a cumulative and culminating experience, usually geared to an audience.
acting areas	spaces onstage defined by the blocking patterns of actors in a scene.
acting level	an area for acting above the stage floor.
action	that which happens onstage to hold the audience's attention.
active	a piece of circuitry is termed active if it needs a power supply for it to function. see passive
active listening	listening with your whole person, reacting and being involved with the speaker.
actor	a person who performs in a drama, who assumes the role of a character.
actor viewpoint	the way cast members react to the audience and the situation.
Actor's Equity Association	the professional guild for actors in the USA- established in 1913.
adaptation	a change on the spur of the moment due to unforeseen circumstances: also a play written based on a different art form, such as a novel.
adapter or splitter	a means by which two or more electrical devices can be made to share the same power source.
additive lighting	the addition of light of one color to light of another color to produce the final desired color.
adjustable end wrench	see Crescent wrench
adjustable proscenium	an inner proscenium capable of variation in size and position.
ad-lib	to improvise stage business or conversation, especially when an actor has missed or forgotten lines... also see improvise
advance sale	the total ticket sales, either before the opening night or of any single future performance.
aerial	cable or rod used to send and receive radio signals. (connected to transmitter and receiver or

	tuner.
Aeschylus	Greek dramatist - writer of tragedies, including <u>Agamemnon</u> , and <u>Prometheus Bound</u> 523-456 BC
aesthetic appreciation	the ability to recognize, understand, and value that which is pleasing, beautiful, cultured, and tasteful in the arts.
aesthetic discipline	the ability of an artist to focus on the requirements and demands of his/her art form.
aesthetic distance	the maintaining of artistic illusion by sufficient physical or other separation or detachment.
aesthetic growth	development of sensitivity to art and beauty.
aesthetic perception	insight into our world of images, sound, color, patterns, forms, and movements.
afterpiece	in 18th and 19th century theatre: an entertainment staged after the main play.
AGC	automatic gain control – circuitry within recording equipment which compensates for differences in volume in the incoming sound signal by adjusting the gain automatically. Helps to reduce wild swings in volume.
age (verb)	to make a costume, actor, or other item look older.
agent	an intermediary who performs certain business services such as helping actors obtain engagements and helping dramatists find producers for their compositions.
Agon	in Greek Old Comedy, a scene with a debate between two opposing forces in a play, each representing one side of a political or social issue.
aisle	a passage through seating.
Alexander Technique	relaxation/warm up technique using visualization and whole body relaxation.
alienation	an aspect of Brecht's theory of epic theatre: the concept that audiences' emotional involvement should be minimized so that they will instead be involved intellectually with the political message.
allegory	a form of storytelling that teaches moral concepts by using symbolic characters, events, or objects.
allusion	indirect reference to a person, place, or thing.
amateur	someone who cultivates an activity as a pastime rather than as a means to make money.
ambient light	existing surrounding light that may interfere with a projected image.
amperage	the strength of an electrical current flowing through a wire.
ampere	a measurement of the rate of flow or current of an electrical circuit.
amphitheater	an oval or round structure with no roof that has tiers of seats rising from the center. Used for public performances of plays and other productions.
amplifier	an electronic device that provides a power supply to speakers and other audio equipment.
analysis	critique of a production that might include considering, describing, and evaluating various aspects such as theme, plot, dialogue, and characterization.
analyze	to study carefully or examine carefully.
angle perspective	use of two or more vanishing points, frequently at the sides of a painted design. Ferdinando Bibiena is usually credited with introducing angle perspective in the early 18th century.
aniline dye	see unified aniline dye
antagonist	a person, situation, or the protagonist's own inner conflict that is in opposition to the protagonist's goals.
antecedent action	a clearly defined explanation of the events in the lives of the leading characters before the start of a play's action; also called the preliminary situation.
anticipation	a device used in comedy in which the audience is looking forward to something, such as an actor slipping on a banana peel that has been dropped.
anticlimax	a result much less important than what preceded it; often used to provoke laughter by building something up in grand proportions and then plummeting it into a letdown.
antifeedback unit	an inexpensive solution to the problem of feedback.
anti-pros	see front of house lights
approved unit set	the unit set elements approved by UIL for use in the OAP contest.

apron	the acting area of the stage that extends beyond the proscenium arch.
arbor	see cradle (US)
arc spotlight	a very powerful spotlight with carbon rods as electrical conductors, used as a long distance follow spot or for effects; also called a carbon arc spotlight.
arch	an opening in a piece of scenery.
architectural setting	a setting composed of massive structures; a formal or sculptured setting.
area separation	dividing the acting area into suitable units that can be lit independently or together.
arena stage	a performance space in which the audience sits all around the stage, also called in the round.
Aristophanes	Greek dramatist and writer of Comedies, including <u>Lysistrada</u> and <u>Frogs</u> . 448-380 BC
Aristotle	Greek critic - writer of the Poetics - book of dramatic rules known as the unities.
art disciplines	music, drama/theater, dance, and the visual arts.
articulation	the clear and precise pronunciation of words.
articulators	the parts of the body that create consonant sounds.
artistic director	the person who determines the overall "look" of a play by working closely with the director and designers to achieve the desired affect in a production.
artistic discipline	maintaining a balance between group cooperation and individual integrity.
asbestos curtain or drop	the fireproof curtain in front of the stage house-see fire curtain.
aside	a statement by an actor spoken half to himself/herself and half to the audience.
ASM	assistant stage manager
assistant director	the person who assists the director by organizing the rehearsal process, coordinating rehearsal schedules, working with individual actors and taking director's notes.
at rise	who and what are on the stage when the curtain opens.
atmosphere	the environment of the play created by staging and lighting.
attenuate	to reduce the intensity of a sound signal.
A-type	type of segmented audio connector – cheaper and more fragile than B-type jacks
audibility	the ability to be heard.
audience	people watching a theatrical event.
audience commitment	audience responsibility
audience etiquette	appropriate audience behavior at a theatrical event
audience focus	a type of focus in reader's theatre in which the characters focus on the audience.
audience viewpoint	the way an audience sees and responds to cast members.
audition	an interview-like opportunity in which actors are able to demonstrate their talents, meet the person hiring the cast, and leave impressions of themselves.
auditorium	the area of a theater where the audience sits.
auditors	the individuals who conduct the audition, usually the director and the assistant director.
Auguste Clown	a rodeo or circus clown; a clown whose makeup is reddish brown instead of white. Makeup and costume usually consist of exaggerated designs and items.
autobiography	a written account of one's own life.
automated light fixture	a lighting instrument capable of being operated by a computer.
automation	1} facility available on larger sound mixing units allowing channel muting or even fader moves to be taken under control by a computer to ensure accurate and repeatable mixing. 2} describes the method used instead of stage crew for moving bits of set around shows with big budgets.
auxiliary output or send	an additional output from a sound desk which can be used for foldback or monitoring without tying up the main outputs.
auxiliary return	a route back into the sound desk for a signal sent to a piece of outboard equipment via an

	auxiliary send.
avant-garde	work describing new or experimental styles of an art form.

# Bb

baby spotlight	a small spotlight used at a short distance to give a sharp illumination.
back or full back	when an actor faces completely away from the audience, facing the back of the stage house.
back saw	tool used for making accurate cross and angle cuts with a miter box
back up	a section of lighting control board which provides an alternative method of control should the main board fail. (sometimes a separate unit)
back wall	a wall separating the stage house from the backstage area. Doors in the back wall allow large pieces of scenery to be brought onstage.
backdrop	a large piece of cloth, on which scenery is painted, that is fastened to battens and hung - see drop
backflap hinge	a pin hinge capable of being turned back on itself.
backing	flats, draperies, or drops place on the offstage side of openings in the set, such as windows and doors, to block the backstage area from the audience's view.
backlighting	the use of lighting instruments above and behind performers to accent the performers and to set them apart from the background.
backlot	an outdoor soundstage at a film picture studio in which open-air scenes can be constructed and filmed.
backstage	all areas of a stage other than the acting area - these are out of the sight of the audience.
backstitch	a sewing stitch formed by taking one forward stitch and then beginning a short stitch from the back of it.
bad join	an unsatisfactory joining of two flats.
balance	the visual symmetry of the stage- stability created by the careful distribution of forces or weights within a composition.
balcony	upper floor in an auditorium that projects out over the main floor and provides additional seating for the audience.
Ballad Opera	a burlesque form of Italian opera, originating in England in the 1700's, that combined spoken dialogue and songs set to popular tunes.
ballet	dance in which the dancers communicate a story line or mood to an audience; a stylized form of dance originated by the French and perfected by the Russians.
baluster	one of the small pillars which support the railing of a staircase or balcony.
balustrade	a row of balusters surmounted by a rail to form the parapet of a balcony.
bar	see batten
bare stage	a stage without any scenic decoration.
barn door shutter	an accessory for a Fresnel spotlight that controls the light beam with moveable flippers.
base coat	a preliminary coat of paint upon which effects are painted.
basic makeup	cosmetics applied to the face or body using the actor's natural features.
basting	a sewing stitch made by long, widely spaced running stitches, used for temporarily holding hems and seams.
batten	a wood or metal pipe from which stage lights, drops and scenery are hung.
batten clamp	any clamp used to fasten a lighting unit or a scenic piece to a batten, or to fasten two battens together.
beam	a recess in the ceiling of an auditorium used to conceal front lighting.
beam angle	the angle of the cone of light produced by an instrument. Defined as the angle within which the lowest intensity in a beam of light from an instrument is not less than one tenth of the maximum.

beam light	a light with no lens, giving a parallel beam
beamlight	flood lamp which uses a parabolic reflector spotlight to produce an intense, near parallel beam. Also called a beam projector.
beat	a smaller section of a scene, divided where a shift in emotion or topic occurs.
beauty makeup	straight makeup for females, normal street makeup
Beckett, Samuel	Irish playwright, wrote in French, 1906-1989. - Absurdist who wrote <u>Waiting for Godot</u> .
below	downstage
benefit	tradition begun in the 18th century theatre whereby the profits from the evening's performance were given to a performer, a group of performers or a playwright.
bevel cut	see mitre cut
bifocal spot	spotlight with additional shutters to allow hard and soft edges
binder	substance which holds the pigment in paint to the object being painted.
bit part	an acting role with very few lines.
bits	the term used to describe small pieces of action that often do little to advance the plot or play but may enhance character or relationships.
black comedy	humorous drama with tragic elements in it – a bleak, comic view of life.
black light	ultra violet light used to illuminate fluorescent material.
blackout	stage direction to turn off all stage lights suddenly.
blacks (clothes)	a set of all black clothing traditionally worn by backstage technicians.
blacks (curtain)	the set of draperies that make up the basic masking around the stage.
blank verse	unrhymed poetry in which each line has five accented syllables; the verse pattern in which Shakespeare wrote many of his plays.
blanket color	overall wash of unrelieved color of exactly the same tint.
blend (color)	to dry brush freshly painted scenery so that two colors are irregularly smoothed together, avoiding color monotony.
blend (makeup)	to smooth out lines, shadows and highlights in makeup.
blender	the edge of a bald wig that must be made to blend with an actor's skin.
blending	to diminish the intensity of a color from strongest to lightest or to combine colors at their edges to remove the dividing line.
blocked out	a natural facial feature obscured with neutral makeup; also planned or roughly sketched, as the movement in a scene.
blocking	staging of the actual movement of each cast member throughout a play. Blocking is recorded in the production notebook by the stage manager or assistant director.
blocking rehearsal	a phase of rehearsals in which the director and the actors work through the blocking.
blocking yourself	getting behind furniture or other actors so that you cannot be clearly seen by the audience.
blood pack	for use with stage blood, a sealed plastic bag that is taped to an actor's body that will bleed.
blueout	all lights onstage go out except for low level blue lights, used for scene changes.
bobby pin	hair pin used for holding hair back or holding hats on a head.
body language	communication that uses gestures, posture, and facial expressions instead of words.
body positions	the angle of the actor's body onstage in relationship to the audience.
book (noun)	the script or spoken dialogue for a musical.
book (verb)	to hinge two or three flats together so they will stand free or fold up.
boom or boomerang	an aluminum tripod with a cross bar at the top on which lights are hung; also called a lighting tree.

border (curtain)	a short curtain hung across the stage above the acting area to mask the overhead lights from the audience; also refers to the overhead strip lights.
border light	a type of striplight hung from pipe battens across the stage; also called borders.
bosun's chair	a wooden seat slung on a rope which is used when working aloft.
box office	where ticket sales are handled, usually located in the lobby of a theater.
box set	a feature of realistic theatre, a two or three walled set representing the interior of a room.
boxes	the seats on the sides of a theater that may hang over the edge of the audience; they often have separate entrances, and usually seat six to eight people.
brace	to anchor scenery to the stage so it doesn't wobble or move also an adjustable, pole like support for flats.
brace clamp	a clamp which regulates the length of a stage brace.
brace cleat	a metal cleat fastened to the back of the frame of a flat, with an eye into which a brace hook can be locked.
brace hook	a metal hook at the upper end of the stage brace; it locks into a brace cleat.
brace jack	see jack
brace weight	see stage weight
break-away	said of scenery, a scene, a property or a costume which is designed to alter shape while the audience watches. Thus a breakaway door collapses when smashed, but is easily reassembled for another performance.
breaker	an electrical device that cuts off the electrical current when a circuit is overloaded; may be reset once the problem has been corrected.
breaking character	losing concentration or getting out of character. Using dialogue or behavior inconsistent with the part you are creating.
breath control	the amount of force you use in inhaling and exhaling.
breathing	the necessary process of inhaling and exhaling.
bridge	the first electrical pipe just upstage of the proscenium from which spotlights may be hung.
bridging	words the director adds to the script before or after difficult ones to help an actor present lines.
Broadway	New York's principal theatre district
brace weight	see stage weight
B-type	type of segmented audio connector – more sturdy and stands up to use better than A-type jacks.
build (scenic)	to make a costume or a set piece.
building a scene	to use dramatic devices, such as increased tempo, volume, and emphasis to bring a scene to a climax
bump up	to increase light intensity quickly.
Bunraku	traditional Japanese puppet theatre
burlesque	a low form of comedy that mocks a broad topic.
business	any specific action, other than a change of location, performed on the stage - such as picking up a book, pouring tea; used to establish atmosphere, reveal character, or to explain a situation.
business manager	the person who handles fund-raising, publicity, programs, ticket sales, bill payments, and other business details of running a theatre.
butt joint	a wood joint in which two square cut boards are joined end to end, end to face, end to edge, or edge to edge and fastened with nails or glue and screws.

# Cc

c-clamp	see clamp
cabaret	a show produced in a small space with limited seating, such as a restaurant or a nightclub.
cable	there are electric cables powering lights and dimmers, sound cables connecting microphones and communications systems, and steel cables to support scenery and battens.
call	to notify cast and crew of cues, rehearsal times, and the rise and fall of the curtain.
call board	a bulletin board for posting rehearsal times, performance changes and special notices.
callback	an invitation to an actor to return for a second audition.
calling the show	when the stage manager calls each technical cue from the production notebook during a performance
cans	see headset
canvas	heavyweight fabric used to cover platforms and step units, also for making drops.
carbon arc spotlight	a spotlight with two carbon electrodes, giving a brilliant light.
caricature	an exaggeration of a certain feature of a character or literary work.
carpenter's level	for determining true vertical and horizontal.
cast (noun)	the group of actors who take the roles in a play.
cast (verb)	to be chosen to play a specific role in a play.
cast by type	see type cast
casting	the choosing of actors for particular roles in a play.
catharsis	an emotional purification or relief.
catwalk	a narrow bridge above the auditorium or stage, providing access to stage scenery or lighting instruments.
center	the center of the acting area; center stage.
center line	a dividing mark across the middle of the stage from front to rear used to indicate stage positions.
center stage	the exact center of the acting area.
center stage right/left	to the right or left of center.
ceremony	an act or series of acts performed in some regular order.
chalk line	see snap line
chamber	in an Elizabethan playhouse, a recess behind the second level acting area which might have been used by musicians, or as seating members of the audience.
channel	a circuit in the lighting or sound system.
character	a person, animal or entity in a scene or story or play with distinguishing physical, mental, and attitudinal attributes.
character centered approach	an approach to telling a story that focuses on a character or a group of characters who experience different situations.
character clown	a type of clown who uses makeup and clothes to represent a specific person or image. (keystone kop, hobo, tramp, etc.)
character makeup	make up used to create a specific character in a play. see straight makeup.
character mask	a mask representing a specific character.
character role	role in which an actor portrays traits that differ from his/her own to produce a desired character.
characterization	pulling together all facets of a character to make that character a living, convincing human being.
chase	a repeated sequence of changing lighting states.
cheat out	a stage technique in which an actor who is facing sideways pivots the torso and turns the face

	towards the audience.
cheating	pretending to look at someone while really keeping one's face toward the audience.
Chekov, Anton	called the father of modern Russian drama- 1860-1904 - wrote plays in realistic style such as <u>Uncle Vanya</u> and <u>The Cherry Orchard</u> .
chiaroscuro	treatment of light and shadow; the use of makeup to highlight and shadow the face.
chief electrician	the person in charge of all of the electrical preparations and operations of a production.
children's theater	plays performed, either by children, adults, or a combination of the two, for audiences of children.
choral reading	reading or reciting a poem or a piece of dramatic literature in unison with others.
choral speaking	a form of group interpretation in which voices are blended together to produce a group voice.
choregus	Greek- the sponsor of a play.
choreographer	the artist who designs (choreographs) dances for the stage.
choreography	staged dancing: the arrangement of dances for performances.
chorus	a group of actors reciting dialogue or singing in unison, often accompanied by synchronized movement. In Greek theatre the chorus functioned as a commentary on and accompaniment to the action of a play.
cinematographer	the person who designs the way each shot in a film should be lit and filmed.
cinemoid	a color medium or filter
circuit	the complete path of an electrical current.
circumflex inflection	the use of the voice to blend two or three sounds for a vowel that normally has a single sound, allowing the actor to stress or change a word's meaning.
City Dionysia	Greek Festival where plays were performed and playwrighting competitions held.
clamp	a fastening device of metal, used to hold lines or to fasten a light to a batten. Usually named for its shape ("C" clamp)
classical	having to do with the classical period, the Greeks and Romans
claw hammer	for driving or removing nails, has a head and a claw to remove nails.
clear	to remove furniture, props or people from the stage.
cleat	hardware on the back of a flat which allows it to be lashed to another with a cleat line. also a metal fly rail to which ropes are tied.
climax	the turning point in a plot when conflict comes to an emotional crest; the point at which the rising action becomes the falling action.
clock reference	the manner in which an arena stage may be divided, starting with the 12:00 position.
close up	a film shot in which an actor's face and shoulders fill the frame.
closed	a position in which the actor is turned away from the audience.
closed audition	kind of audition at which only people meeting certain criteria may try out for a part.
closet drama	a play meant to be read instead of acted.
cloth	(UK) see drop
clout nail	a malleable, self clinching nail used in flat construction.
clown white	a strong white greasepaint used as a base for most clown and mime makeup.
clowning	the art of entertaining others by providing laughter; requires use of personal resources, an understanding of human nature, effective timing, and comedy techniques.
cold reading	auditioning with a script that you have not had the opportunity to read before the audition.
collaboration	working together to create a whole.
collodion paper	a paper chemically treated to give a flash effect. also called <i>flash paper</i>
color	visual sensation dependent on the reflection or absorption of light from a given source.
color changer	mechanical method of changing color gels . see scroller, magazine, semaphore and wheel
color coding	use of color to indicate relationships in design.
color correction	a means by which colors can be adjusted to give the desired effect; for instance, special filters

	may be needed to achieve a more acceptable white.
color frame	holder for the gel or color medium which fits into a slot on the front of a lighting instrument.
color magazine	a color boomerang, a device which holds color media and enables quick changes to be made to the color of a follow spot, etc.
color medium (gel)	see <i>gel</i>
color palette	the colors used in a particular design or production.
color temperature	a measure of the warmth or coolness of light sources or colors. Measured in degrees Kelvin. Daylight is @5600 K.
color rendering	a drawing of the set in color.
color wheel	a circular representation of all of the colors in the visible spectrum.
combination square	measuring tool for marking 45 degree and 90 degree angles.
combination wrenches	open and closed end, or box end - for loosening and tightening of specific sized nuts in hard to get at places.
combo	a small group of instrumentalists.
comedy	a light and amusing play that typically has a happy ending.
Comedy of Manners	a genre of plays popular in England beginning in the late 1600's characterized by ribald wit and fashionable characters and dealing with the vices and follies of the upper classes.
Commedia D'elle Arte	a professional form of theatrical improvisation developed in Italy in the 1500's. These farces feature standard plot outlines and stock characters.
common flat	an ordinary flat, not a special type such as a door or window flat.
communication	the exchange of ideas through speech or other forms of interchange.
comp	to give a complementary ticket.
company	all persons in a cast or crew.
compass	marking tool for making circles.
complementary (color)	colors that are directly opposite each other on the color wheel.
complementary (ticket)	a free ticket for a play
complication	an incident that complicates the plot; Aristotle's term for the combination of the preliminary situation, the initial incident and the rising action.
composer	a person who writes music.
composite gel	different colored pieces of color gel cut to fit together to fit into one color frame.
compressor	device that sense loud sounds and compress them, inexpensive solution to feedback.
concentration	the ability to focus the mind and body toward a given goal. In drama, concentration is being able to focus attention despite other distractions.
concept musical	a series of loosely connected scenes that focus on a theatrical concept.
concepts	things you cannot see, hear, smell, touch or taste.
concrete	things you can see, hear, smell, touch or taste.
conductor	a person who conducts an orchestra.
conflict	the tension or struggle in a story between two or more characters or between a character and some kind of force or between two opposing ideas.
connector	device for joining cables to each other or for joining cables to lighting instruments.
connotation	emotional, subjective, or implied meaning.
consonants	letters which create sound through some obstruction of breath- all letters except vowels (a, e, i, o, u and sometimes y)
Constitution and Contest Rules	published by the UIL - official rule and policy book of the organization.
constructive criticism	helpful comments and opinions expressed in a positive way.
constructivism	an antirealist artistic movement developed in Russia shortly before World War I in which stage designs were clearly artificial.

contest manager	the person in charge of running a OAP contest.
contrast	to set in opposition for the purpose of comparing.
control console	an electronic light control board, usually with a key pad, programmed memory system and a monitor.
convention	an accepted rule or tradition.
conventional stage	an acting area in which the audience is in front of the actors and some type of backdrop or wall is at the rear of the stage.
cooperation	the act of working together, getting along, and sharing responsibility.
copyright	the registration of ownership of a literary work or musical work.
corner block	a triangular piece of plywood that bridges a corner joint in flat construction, providing extra bracing and support.
corner brace	a cleat nailed across the corner of the flat to strengthen it.
corner iron	an "L" shaped iron plate used to strengthen a corner joint of a flat.
Corral	a courtyard theatre that was a typical performance space in Spain in the 1600's.
costume	any clothing an actor wears onstage for a performance.
costume design	the design or plan for the costumes in a play or production.
costume list	a list for a character in a play that itemizes all his or her costumes and accessories.
costume parade	see dress parade
costume plot	a list, by acts and scenes or a play, of each character in a particular scene itemizing each costume piece and accessory used by that character in that scene.
costume shop	a space where costumes are built, maintained and stored.
costume silhouette	each historic period's own distinctive line and form in dress.
costumer	the person who works with a costume crew to make sure that the costumes are clean, in good repair, and stored properly.
countercross	movement in opposite directions by two or more actors to balance the stage system.
counter-cross	a move by one actor to balance the move of another actor.
counterweight system	a system of ropes, steel cables, pulleys and weights used to raise and lower battens on which are hung lights, scenery or drops.
cover	to obstruct the audience's view of something onstage.
covering	improvising to cover a mistake made by yourself or another actor or technician. "covering" the mistake.
covers	actors or singers who "cover" certain songs, scenes, or small parts. Simpler than understudies, covers may often already be in a scene or number, and when covering, may have to perform additional lines or movements for the absent performer.
cradle	metal frame in which counterweights are carried in a flying system.
crash box	a box offstage into which something can be thrown to create the sound of breakage.
created sound	self created sounds or music played live.
creative choice	the decisions that one makes in the creation of a dramatic work, not only in the story itself, but also in the style and techniques of presenting the story.
creative dramatics	an improvisational, non-exhibitional, process-centered form of theatre in which participants are guided by a leader to imagine, enact, and reflect upon human experiences.
credits	a list, usually at the end of a film or TV program, of all the people involved in the production.
crepe hair	an artificial plaited hair used in making up for the stage: it can be cut, combed, and glued bit by bit to the face to form a beard, mustache, sideburns and eyebrows.
Crescent wrench	tool used for loosening or tightening a variety of nuts, especially in lighting instruments.
crew	committee of technicians who work behind the scenes creating the scenery, costumes, props, etc.
crew head	the chief of the crew staff in any area such as the sound, make up, props, costume.
crisis	the highest point of conflict in a play or scene.

critic	a specialist in evaluating plays.
critic judge	the judge contracted by the contest manager to adjudicate a OAP contest.
criticism	review and analysis of drama.
critique	critical evaluation or judgment of a performance.
cross	to move from one place onstage to another.
cross cut	a basic saw cut in which the wood is cut against the grain.
cross light	to illuminate the stage with two crossing beams of light.
cross plugging	a system whereby several instruments can be made to share the same circuit or dimmer alternately or at different times.
crosscut saw	hand saw for cutting wood
crossfade	the practice of moving to a new lighting or sound effect without intervening darkness or silence: one effect fades in while the other is fading out.
crossover scene	a short scene played in front of a shallow drop or curtain while scenery is being changed.
cue	a signal for something to happen.
cue count	the time it will take, in seconds, to execute a lighting cue.
cue line	a final line that signals an actor to begin the next speech or a change in lights, sounds or other scenic devices.
cue sheet	paper on which cues are marked.
cue to cue rehearsal	rehearsal of technical effects in a production with actors which skips from technical cue to technical cue.
culture	all the traditions, customs, and history of a particular people.
curtain	time at which a play begins, OR a call given to the company to tell them the play has begun.
curtain call	the return of the entire cast to the stage at the end of a performance, when they acknowledge applause.
curtain line	the imaginary line where the curtain closes.
curtain warmer	the lights focused on the closed act curtain and displayed while the audience is entering and exiting the auditorium
curtain, act	see act curtain
curved movement	movement across the stage by an actor or actors in a curved line.
cut	to stop whatever you are doing or to eliminate from the script or the show.
cut-down scenery	scenery that is less than 8' tall, commonly used in front of the drapes.
cut-foliage border	a border simulating foliage, cut out here and there so that netting can replace the canvas to give the effect of spaces between branches and leaves.
cut-off lines	lines interrupted by another speaker and indicated in the script by a series of dots or dashes.
cut-out scenery	shaped pieces of scenery added to the edge of a flat instead of a straight line. also called profile.
cutting	removal of sections of a play which will shorten or condense it, or elimination of words, actions, characters, etc.
cutting table	for cutting patterns out in sewing.
cyc	see cyclorama
Cycle Plays	a series of short plays depicting religious history from creation to doomsday, performed by medieval guilds in the late 14th century.
cyclorama	a background drip or curtain, hung at the rear of the stage and sometimes around the sides of the stage; it masks the backstage area during scene shifts. Usually light blue and many effects can be created using special lighting and the cyc.
cyclorama light	any floodlight used to light the cyc.

# Dd

daisy chaining	connecting items of equipment together by linking them from one to the next in a chain.
dance	an all-inclusive term referring to aesthetics of movement, physical movement with expressive intent.
dB	abbreviation for decibel – see decibel.
dead hang	to fly an item without a counterweight
dead hinge	a hinge used as a right angle bracket
dead zone	an area of the stage lighted by only one bright light.
decibel	relative measurement for the volume (loudness) of sound.
deck	the top of a platform.
decorative props	items on a set, such as curtains, pictures, linens, knick knacks, and magazines, that offer clues about the lifestyle of characters in a play.
deluge system	a fire safety system that provides a fan shaped water curtain between the stage and the audience.
denotation	the direct, specific, dictionary definition of a word.
denouement	the final resolution of the conflict in a plot.
depth	the distance from the front to the rear of the stage.
design	a plan, such as a drawing, or the construction or manufacture of a theater, scenery, costumes, etc.
design team	those who design and coordinate a production's set, props, costumes, light, makeup and sound.
designer	someone who creates the designs for a production.
Deus Ex Machina	a Greek term meaning "god from the machine"-in Greek theatre, an actor playing a god was often lowered onto the stage using a crane to settle worldly affairs. The term is now used to describe any device an author introduces late in the plot to settle plot difficulties.
developing rehearsal	rehearsal in which the actors work under the director's guidance to prepare the show for performance, also called <i>working rehearsal</i> .
diagonal	a stage composition of two actors who are not on the same plane or in a shared position.
diagonal wall	a wall at the back of an interior or box set, not placed at a right angle to the center line.
dialect	language features peculiar to the speech of a particular region.
dialogue	a verbal interaction between two or more characters.
diaphragm	powerful muscle that separates the chest from the stomach area.
diaphragmatic breathing	a breathing technique useful to actors that increases air capacity and improves breath control.
dichroic filter	glass color filters which reflect all light except that which is the color of the filter, which passes through. Normal gels absorb the unwanted colors, turning the light into heat. Dichroic filters run cooler and last a lot longer, but they are also much more expensive.
dichroic lamp	a low voltage display lamp with a reflector that lest heat pass through it, rather than reflecting it. Results in a much cooler light.
diction	language, or meaning, expressed in words: one of the six elements of tragedy set forth by Aristotle.
didaskalos	Greek title given to the playwright - means teacher
diffusion	used like a gel, but to soften and spread the beam of light rather than to color it. also called <i>frost</i>
digital	many electronic devices use digital logic. Information is handled in separate bits rather than continuously variable analog signals.
dim down	to make the lighting less bright.

dim up	to make the lighting more bright
dimmer	an electrical control system which allows you to control the amount of power used in a lighting instrument and thus the amount of light produced by that instrument.
dinner theatre	theatre presented to an audience that is dining at tables around the performance space. Usually dinner is included in the price of the tickets.
Dionysius	Greek god of wine and revelry - theatre festivals were held in his honor.
dip	1] small covered trap at stage level containing electrical outlets. 2] lighting equipment on stands at stage level. 3] low lighting intensity when cross fading between two higher states. 4] transparent lacquer for coloring lamp bulbs.
diphthongs	a speech sound consisting of two vowels pronounced as one syllable.
direct emphasis	a stage picture in which the focus is on one actor.
director	the person who oversees the entire process of staging a production.
director's notes	comments by the director on the performance of each actor and on the production in general, usually given before and/or after rehearsals.
directorial concept	the concept for a specific production as developed by the artistic director.
disperse dye	a dye for synthetic fabrics that results in a deep shade of color.
dissolve (lighting)	in film and TV, the visual effect achieved when one picture is faded in while a previous picture is faded out.
distortion	usually undesirable result of overloading sound equipment. Reducing the level can remedy the situation.
dithyramb	in the theatre of Ancient Greece, a hymn sung and danced by a chorus of 50 men to the Greek god Dionysius at annual Dionysian festivals.
diversified emphasis	a stage picture in which there is a frequent change of focus.
dock	area for storing scenery, often under the stage.
dolby	trade name for a series of noise reduction systems that have become standard on many tape playback machines.
domestic tragedy	a form of British theatre popular in the early 1700's that showed the destruction of a good person who yields to temptation. also see sentimental comedy.
dominant	in a position of power - could be either a person or an area.
donut	a metal plate with a hole in the middle inserted into the color runners of an instrument to sharpen focus or reduce spill.
door unit	a flat with an opening for a door, can have a door hung in it.
dope	a paste of whiting, glue, and water - used to fasten canvas to the frame of a flat or to a step unit or platform.
double	to play two or more characters in the same show.
double casting	using two people to play the part of a single character.
double stitched seam	seam which is sewn twice, following the same lines, about 1/8 " apart.
downlight	a light from directly above the acting area.
downstage	the stage area towards the audience.
downstage center	the area of the stage in the center closest to the audience.
downstage center right/left	the area of the stage to the right/left of downstage center.
downstage left/right	the area to the far right/left of downstage center.
drama	a play, film, or TV show dealing with a serious subject matter, but that does not necessarily have a disastrous ending. also- a term used broadly to mean the reenactment of life situations also - the study of dramatic literature.
dramatic action	the main action in a story that moves the conflict towards the climax and resolution.

dramatic conflict	refers to the conflict in which the main character in a play engages; one of two elements out of which most scripts grow. There are four types of dramatic conflict: 1-person against person; 2-person against self; 3-person against society; 4-person against nature or fate.
dramatic lighting	stage lighting which is meant to intensify dramatic effects rather than to be realistic.
dramatic monologue	selection in which there is a single speaker who addresses other speakers who do not speak.
dramatic play	children's creation of scenes when they play "pretend".
dramatic structure	the special literary style in which plays are written.
dramatist	another name for playwright
dramaturg	a special consultant who provides specific, in-depth knowledge and literary resources to a director, producer, or entire theatre company.
dramaturgy	the art of writing plays and the technical devices used in this art.
drapery set	a set created by the use of draperies.
dress	to add decorative props to the stage.
dress form	a model in adjustable sizes for fitting costumes.
dress parade	an onstage wardrobe check under stage lighting and with actors in makeup, providing the director and costumer with an opportunity to address any last minute changes.
dress rehearsal	the final phase of rehearsals before an opening night performance, run with all technical elements in place and without interruption.
dresser	the wardrobe crew members who actually help actors in and out of their costumes and supervise the cleaning and distribution of the costumes on a regular basis. They also organize and assist all quick changes that happen backstage when there is no time to return to a dressing room.
dressing rooms	area where actors put on makeup and change into and store costumes.
dressing the stage	to place such objects as the furniture, so as to give the spectator a pleasing effect of balance.
drill bit	a tool for drilling holes in various substances, variable composition and sizes
drop	a large canvas or muslin curtain that hangs at the back of the stage setting.
dry brushing	a painting technique in which a brush is dipped in paint, scraped nearly dry, and then streaked across a surface; often used to create wood grain effects.
dry run	a run through of a TV program without tech crews
dry tech	a technical rehearsal without the actors present.
duo emphasis	a stage picture in which there are two equal focuses.
duration	the time something lasts or how well something lasts.
dutchman	a strip of fabric covering the crack between two flats to enhance the illusion that a series of joined flats comprise a wall.
dye	a substance used to color materials, generally applied in a solution or dispersion.
dynamics	the comparative loudness and softness in music or speech.

## Ee

earth spike	see ground spike (UK)
earthing	see ground (UK)
echo	a repeated sound received late enough to be heard as distinct from its source. see reverb.
Educational Theatre Association	national organization of theatre educators, parent organization to the International Thespian Society.
Edwardian	see Victorian

effect	any visual or acoustical effect: short for special effect.
effects disc	a painted glass disc rotating in front of an effects projector with an objective lens to focus the image (i.e. flames, snow, etc.)
effects man	a person who conceives and executes stage effects.
effects projector	instrument used to project the image from a rotating glass effects disc.
effects, lighting	see animation disc, effect disc, flicker flame, gobo rotator, KK wheel, strobe, and tubular wave ripple
elaboration	to fill in with details, to make fuller.
electret mic	a condenser mic where the capacitor plates are given a charge during manufacture that they retain, thereby needing no external power source.
electrical	see electric
electric	pipe that has electrical connections for the plugging of lighting instruments. also called electrical
electric winch system	a mechanical means of raising and lowering battens using an electric motor to turn a winch.
elements of design	line, shape, mass, measure, position, color and texture.
elevation	an eye level view drawing showing the flats arranged in a continuous row to be used in a set, or any front or rear hear on two dimensional drawing.
elevator stage	a stage which can be moved vertically on an elevator so that one set can quickly replace another.
Elizabethan	a period of English drama dominated by the plays of William Shakespeare and others of his style of writing.
ellipsoidal	see <i>ellipsoidal reflector spotlight</i>
ellipsoidal reflector	a reflector with a curved surface based on an ellipse.
ellipsoidal reflector spotlight	a highly efficient lighting instrument with a reflector shaped like an ellipse. also called <i>Leko</i> , <i>ERS</i> or <i>ellipsoidal</i>
emotion	strong feelings, such as joy, fear, hate, and happiness.
emotional acting	the playing of a role in such a way that the actor weeps, suffers, or struggles emotionally; also called <i>subjective acting</i> .
emotional awareness	activities to heighten awareness of feelings - both in oneself and in others.
emotional recall	the technique of calling upon your own memories of emotions to understand a character's emotions.
empathy	emotional identification with some one or something outside oneself; ideally the audience develops empathy with the characters in a play.
emphasis	the stressing of important elements: the point to which the eye is first directed.
Empire Period	see Napoleonic Period
encore	repeated performance (actually, in modern usage, additional performance)
energy	the fuel that drives acting, enlivens performances, creates empathy and makes powerful characters.
English Restoration	intellectual stylish plays concerned with the affectations and manners of the royal court and upper class of England after 1660.
enhancer	sound processing equipment which increases the presence of the vocal track in a mix by adding the treble information to the signal. also called exciter.
ensemble	a group of people working together cooperatively. also - an intangible, but discernible element of the art of acting involving intellectual and emotional unity and balance of style and technique.
entr'acte	a song, dance, or short performance that takes place between the acts, most often in plays of an earlier period, although occasionally seen in children's theatre. also music between the acts in a play.
entrance	the art of coming onto the stage already in character; also, the opening in the set through which the actors come and go.
enunciation	to pronounce clearly
environment	the total setting and feeling in which a particular scene is played.

epic	a long narrative poem, usually in formal style that indicates historical importance, made up of traditional stories about a hero or group of heroes. Epic poems are part of a culture's folklore.
Epic Theatre	a theatrical movement of the 1920's and 1930's characterized by the use of such artificial devices as cartoons, posters, and film sequences in order to distance the audience from the theatrical illusion and allow them to focus on the play's message.
epilogue	a concluding speech to a play that follows the action of the play.
equalization	the process of adjusting the tonal quality of sound. A graphic equalizer provides adjustment for a wide range of frequency bands, and is normally inserted in the signal path after the mixing desk, before the amplifier. see feedback.
equalizer	an electronic device that balances the blended sounds from a mixer.
Equity	short for Actor's Equity Association, the professional guild for actors in the USA - established in 1913.
ERS	see <i>ellipsoidal reflector spotlight</i>
escape stairs	the steps, unseen by the audience, that an actor uses to "escape" after an upper level exit, also used to get into place for entrances.
eulogy	speech that praises a person, generally given at a funeral or memorial service.
Euripides	Greek dramatist - writer of tragedies, including <u>Hecuba</u> and <u>Electra</u> 480-406 BC
evaluation	appraising personal effects as well as reflecting on and making judgment about efforts of others.
exaggeration	an overstatement, an enlargement of the truth.
exciter	see enhancer
exhaling	breathing out.
existentialism	school of philosophy that teaches that we define ourselves through our choices
exit	the art of leaving the stage effectively and in character.
exit sign	usually illuminated sign of standard size which should always be visible, showing the audience and company where the nearest exit is.
exodus	the concluding scene in a Greek play
exposition	the beginning part of a plot that provides important background information.
expressionism	an artistic movement that developed in Europe, especially Germany, around the time of World War I: expressionism presents a subjective view of reality that is often fragmented, exaggerated or distorted.
expressive use of the body	freedom to move so that the body reflects the performer's true feelings.
expressive use of the voice	the ability to speak audibly, clearly, and with color so that it reflects the performer's true feelings and thoughts.
external traits	traits relating to a character's outwardly visible qualities.
externalization	the process by which an actor shows the audience a character's true personality through interpretation, nonverbal expression, voice quality, pitch, rate, and physical action.
eye contact	looking directly at the audience or the people you are talking to.

# Ff

fable	a story that teaches a lesson, especially one in which animals act like people.
facade	a false front or face
face powder	used to set the makeup, powder can be found in translucent or in shades to harmonize with the foundation.
facial expression	any ideas or emotions expressed through the use of facial muscles.
facial mask	those parts of the face that vibrate when a person hums; also a plaster casting taken of the face.
fade in/out	to increase/decrease illumination or sounds.
fade off lines	lines that actors trail off rather than finishing.
fader	a means of controlling the output level of an instrument or an amplifier.
fairy tale	a story about supernatural beings.
falling action	the series of events following the climax of the play.
falling inflection	the use of the voice to signal the end of a statement or to express depression, finality, or firmness.
false proscenium	a framing construction, placed within the proscenium or in front of the proscenium opening, usually to reduce the dimensions of the opening temporarily.
false stage	a special stage floor that is laid for a production. (to allow for tracks, revolve, etc.)
fantasy	the use of imagination to create strange, unusual, or non-realistic characters or settings.
farce	comedy with exaggerated characterizations, abundant physical and/or visual humor, and often, an improbable plot.
FBO	fade to blackout
feather dusting	a method of texturing using a feather duster dipped in paint to create a different pattern each time, such as foliage or marble.
feed	a power supply to a piece of equipment or installation is termed a feed.
feedback (critical)	constructive comments or opinions
feedback (technical)	a problem that occurs with the projection of sound; a loud, ear-piercing scream that happens when the amplified sound is fed back into the microphones that are picking up the original sound.
festoon	1] see swag 2] a length of cable incorporating a number of lamp holders used for outdoor party lighting or Christmas lighting.
FEV	French Enamel Varnish - a stain which is a mixture of shellac and dye, diluted in methylated spirit.
fiber frame	a color frame made from heat resistant fibers which does not get as hot to the touch as a standard metal frame.
fiber optic	a method of directing light down a very thin glass fiber. Fiber optics are used mostly in communication, but find theater applications in star cloths, which are black back drops with the ends of optical fibers poked through to create a mass of pin prick lights.
fiberglass	fine glass fibers used in making lightweight scenic devices
field	the spread of light intensity through an instrument.
fight director	a directing specialist who choreographs both armed and unarmed fight scenes and stunts on stage.
figurative gesture	body gesture that suggests an idea or emotion.
fill light	one or two lights focused on a lighting area that fills in shadows created by the key light.
film	the photographed performance usually shown in a movie theatre. It involves no audience/actor interaction.
film editing	involves choosing and sequencing the various pieces of film so that the story is coherent; done by the editor in conjunction with the director of the film.

filmed	preserved on film as a moving photograph.
final cut	the finished film or videotape.
fire curtain or drop	metal or fireproof fabric across the front of the stage that prevents fire onstage from spreading into the house.
fire effect	the simulation of the noise or appearance of a fire.
fireproof	to apply a chemical solution to a curtain, flat, or other object so that flames cannot spread rapidly in case of fire.
fit up	installation of lighting and technical equipment and scenery onstage when coming into a theater.
fitch	scenic paintbrushes - comes in a variety of sizes and widths.
fitting	a costume session in which an actor tries on a costume and the designer and costume crew access needed alterations.
flash box	a box containing powder to be ignited electrically for a flash effect.
flash paper	see collodion paper.
flat	a set piece consisting of a lightweight frame covered with canvas, muslin or wood.
flexibility	the ability to use the voice in a wide range of volume, pitch, and rate.
flexible staging	any stage not classified as proscenium, arena, or thrust.
flies	area above proscenium arch and back to rear wall.
float a flat	to lower a flat to the ground by positioning one foot along the bottom rail and letting it gently fall.
floodlight	a lighting unit consisting of one or more lamps in a metal hood, with a reflector or inner reflecting surface and a color frame holder, but commonly without a means of focusing, used to illuminate a large area diffusely.
floor block	a small block of wood tacked to the floor on both sides of a flat or at a union between two flats.
floor cloth	canvas used to cover acting area floor.
floor plan	see <i>ground plan</i>
floor plate	a flat metal device which can be placed on the stage floor to receive the lower end of a stage brace, so that a stage screw will not be needed.
floor pocket	a pocket in the floor which holds electrical circuits and/or sound connections.
fluorescence	the property of some materials to glow when subjected to ultra violet lights.
fly	to be raised or lowered on lines in the fly space.
fly area or loft	see <i>fly space</i>
fly curtain	a curtain which is raised or lowered vertically from the flies.
fly floor	the level from which fly system is run.
fly space	the area above the stage where lights, drops, and scenery may be flown, or suspended on wire ropes.
flyman	the person who runs the fly system
focus	the intended point of interest onstage - also - in lighting, to adjust a lighting instrument in terms of beam spread or direction.
focus (lighting)	the session when all the instruments in the rig are angled in the correct direction, with the correct beam size.
focus spot	term for both Fresnel and ERS type instruments with adjustable beams.
focusing (lighting)	the process of adjusting the direction and beam size of an instrument. Does not necessarily result in a sharply focused image.
foil	a character whose personality and physical appearance contrast with those of the protagonist.
foldback	means by which musicians can hear part of the sound mix and how their instruments sound after being mixed.
folk tale	any story about a culture passed on from generation to generation. Myths, fairy tales, fables and legends can also be folk tales.
folklore	customs, beliefs, stories, and sayings of a people handed down from generation to generation.
follow on cue	a cue that is timed to follow an original cue so quickly that it does not need a separate cue

	number.
followspot	a spotlight mounted so it can follow an actor.
footage	a length of exposed film.
footlights	a strip of lights at the downstage edge of the stage, for lighting of the actors. (seldom used in modern theatre)
foreshadowing	a line, action, or idea emphasized early in the play that gives the audience clues to the conclusion.
found sound	sounds found in a different environments such as a zoo, construction sites, and playgrounds.
foundation	makeup applied to the entire face to provide a base of uniform color.
fourth wall	an imaginary wall between the audience and the actors in a representational play.
fragmentary setting	an unrealistic setting using fragments of a full setting to suggest location.
frame (film)	the rectangular shaped area of film onto which is recorded what is seen by the camera in a minute portion of each shot.
framing square	for checking 90 degree joints for accuracy.
freeze	to stand completely still as if for a picture. Also used as a command for students to stop their dramatic enactment.
French brace	support for scenery fixed to the stage.
French door unit	a flat unit with French Doors.
French flat	a scenic flat that is flown into place.
French scene	a scene division within a play marked by the entrance/exit of an actor.
French seam	seam that is enclosed within itself, leaving no rough edges.
frequency	measured in Hertz (Hz) cycles per second. The number of times a sound source vibrates each second. High frequency sounds are high pitched and unidirectional. Low frequency sounds are low pitched and omnidirectional.
Fresnel	a powerful step lens spotlight giving a soft edged illumination. Named for the French physicist Augustin Jean Fresnel (1788-1827)
front elevation	a scale drawing showing the front of the set as if it were flattened out onto a single plane.
front of house	all parts of the auditorium that are not backstage.
front of house lights	see <i>house lights</i> .
front of house staff	members of a production who are involved with non-stage related concerns such as ticket sales, concessions, seating, auditorium maintenance, and opening and closing the theater.
front screen projection	a method of projection in which the slide projector is situated somewhere in front of the projection screen.
frost	see <i>diffusion</i>
full back or back	facing the back of the stage house away from the audience - also <i>back</i>
full body puppet	a puppet worn over the puppeteer's head and body like a costume.
full front	facing the audience fully - also <i>front</i>
full mask	a mask that covers the entire face.
full stage	the whole working portion of the stage.
full up	lighting or sound at it's maximum level.
fuller's earth	hydrous aluminum silicate, used in chemistry as a filter and as a binder when mixing powder paint for use on textiles.
fullness	draperies made up with deep gatherings have fullness - usually requiring not less than 50% more fabric.
funnels	Fresnel spotlight accessory that limits the beam to a circular pattern; also called a top hat.
furniture plot	a list of all of the furniture used onstage in a production.
fuse	a protective device set in an electrical current and destroyed by the passage of excessive current.
fuzz light	an instrument with a revolving mirror and colored plastic dome. Gives a police light effect.

FX	see effect
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# Gg

G clamp	see C clamp and hook clamp
gaffa tape	ubiquitous, sticky cloth tape. Most common widths are .5" and 2". Used for temporarily securing anything. Should not be used on coiled cables or equipment. Comes in a multitude of colors, also called spike tape.
gain	1] the level of amplification given to a signal or a part of a system. 2] a control of the amount of pre-amplification given to a sound signal on its way to the mixer.
Gallery	the area in the Elizabethan theatre where theatre goers sat to watch plays.
gate	aperture between the light source and the lens on a profile spotlight; may have built-in shutters with which the beam may be shaped, as well as runners which allow for the insertion of a gobo.
gauze	painted cloth screen, opaque when lit from the front, that becomes transparent
gel or color medium	a thin piece of colored plastic, available in a wide array of colors, that can be cut and fitted to a light to color the beam directed onto the stage.
gelatin	see <i>gel</i>
general cover	those instruments set aside to purely light the acting areas. see special
general lighting	lighting which is thrown over a fairly extensive portion of the stage.
genre	classification by type; a distinct classification of literature.
gesture	an expressive movement of the body or limbs.
get in	the process of moving into a theater space prior to a fit up.
get out	the process of moving out of a theatre space following a strike.
ghost	a beam of light which inadvertently leaks from a light and falls where it is not wanted.
ghostlight	a light left burning overnight on stage to keep friendly spirits illuminated and to keep unfriendly spirits at bay. Also believed to keep the theatrical "muse" in a dark theatre and to stop people from tripping when they come into the dark theatre.
gibberish	to speak without meaning
give	to throw focus on the important character in a scene.
glass fiber	see fiberglass
glaze	to cover the painted surface of scenery with glazing (a thin wash of size) to soften it's appearance.
glitter	a substance used to add sparkle
Globe	Shakespeare's theatre, built in 1599 by the King's Men. Destroyed by fire in 1613 it was rebuilt in the same year. It was torn down in 1644 and rebuilt according to plans in 1995 - the restored Globe is on the same spot in London as the original Globe.
glottal stop	a complete momentary closing of the glottis.
glottis	the opening between the vocal chords in the throat which controls the modulation of speech sounds.
GLS	general lighting service - lamps used for general every day use.
goal	what a character wants to achieve.
gobo	a thin metal template with a pattern punched out - attached to a lighting instrument to create patterned or textured lighting effects. also called <i>cookie</i>
gobo holder	a metal plate designed to hold a gobo in place in a lighting instrument.
gobo rotator	motorized device inserted into the gate of a profile lantern that can be remotely controlled to rotate a gobo, usually with variable speed and direction.
good house	a responsive, friendly audience, paying patrons

grand drape	front curtain on a stage, usually made of luxurious fabric in deep colors.
grand master	see master
graphic equalizer	see equalizer
greasepaint	stage makeup made with an oil or cream base.
Greek Period	a highly stylized type of drama originating in the worship of Greek Gods.
green	the part of the stage visible to the audience.
green room	the lounge area where actors may wait while not onstage or greet members of the audience after a performance.
grid iron	a steel framework above a stage to which lines are attached to fly scenery: also called <i>grid</i> .
grid plot	a plot or plan made and used by a flyman to indicate his duties in a performance.
gridding	the process used to enlarge a sketch to a drop.
griot	West African oral historian or storyteller
grip	a member of the stage crew who shifts scenery.
grotesque whiteface	a type of whiteface clown whose makeup has exaggerated features.
ground	electrical safety requirement that metal parts of electrical equipment are connected to a common ground point so that in the event of a fault, excess current can be carried away, causing the fuse to blow. (US) see earthing (UK term)
ground cloth	large piece of canvas laid on the stage floor, usually painted to act as a floor for the set.
ground plan	a top view drawing of the floor plan of a set-usually in scale.
groundlings	in Elizabethan theatre- the members of the audience who paid a penny to stand in the pit.
groundrow	raised section of scenery usually depicting bushes, rocks, etc.
ground spike	copper rod inserted into the ground to maintain earth continuity (especially when using generators.)
gun mic	a highly directional condenser microphone

# Hh

hack saw	hand saw for cutting metal
half mask	a mask that covers the top half of the face.
half right/left or profile	body positions onstage where an actor faces stage right or left, showing his profile to the audience.
halogen cycle	chemical process occurring in tungsten halogen lamps which makes them possible.
hamartia	an error in judgment or a shortcoming on the part of a protagonist.
Hanamichi	in Kabuki theatre, a raised passageway that extends from downstage right through the audience to the back of the auditorium.
hand drill	tool used for drilling into wood by hand
hand props	items that are handled or carried by an actor in a play, including such things as books, letters and fans.
hand puppet	a puppet that fits over the puppeteer's hand and is manipulated by the puppeteer's fingers inside the body and head of the puppet.
<u>Handbook for One Act Play</u>	published by the UIL - official rule book and policies for the OAP contest.
hang	to attach and position a stage light on a batten.
hanging iron	fitting on a batten to which suspension wire is secured.
hanging plot	1] the lighting designer's hanging plot to show where every lighting instrument is to be hung 2] the master hanging plot that assigns pipes and positions to all lighting instruments and scenic

	devices in a show.
hard palate	the hard, bony, forward part of the palate.
harmony	pleasing grouping of lines, textures, and colors with certain similar characteristics.
header	a small flat that fits over a door or window unit to mask the opening and make it the same height as the rest of the set.
Heads Up	a warning call by a flyman who is moving scenery/lighting overhead.
headset	general theatre term for theatre intercommunication system.
Heavens	in an Elizabethan playhouse, a roof supported by two ornate columns above the stage with the sun, moon, stars and clouds painted on the underside.
hemp set	the simplest flying system consisting of a series of hemp ropes threaded through pulleys on the grid and tied off on the fly floor on a cleat.
hero	the central male character in a play; a man distinguished for valor.
heroine	the central female character in a play.
high comedy	a type of comedy that includes comedy of manners and satire and that is characterized by clever lines, word play, and allusions.
high hat	see hood
highlight	the light color used in makeup and painting to suggest three dimensions.
hinge, backflap	see <i>back flap hinge</i>
hinge, loose pin	see <i>loose pin hinge</i>
hinge, tight pin	see <i>tight pin hinge</i>
hit	to emphasize a word or line with extra force.
hoarse	a rough, scratchy or husky vocal quality.
hold	to sustain or continue, to wait past curtain time
hold for laughs	waiting for an audience to quiet down after a humorous line or bit.
hood	an accessory for a Fresnel spotlight that fits into the color-frame slot and reduces the spill of light to a circular pattern: also called a top hat
hook	an element in a script that grabs the audience's interest.
hook clamp	clamp that holds an instrument onto a bar - also called " <i>C</i> " clamp
hot spot	an area of the stage lighted by more than three bright lights; an intense circle of light created when a projection lens is seen through the screen.
house	the auditorium, or the area where the audience sits.
house crew	the group responsible for printing tickets and programs and managing the box office, audience, and physical theater during a production.
house lights	the lights used to illuminate the audience area; they are dimmed out as the show begins and the stage lights take over.
house manager	the person in charge of all front of house activities - supervises the house crew.
housing	the metal structure that encloses a lighting system.
howlround	see feedback (UK)
Hroswitha	German nun who wrote plays in the late 900's - used Terrence as a model, but adapted the comic form to tell the lives of saintly women and teach lessons about virtue.
hubris	reckless pride; in some Greek tragedies, hubris is the main character's tragic flaw and contributes to the character's downfall.
hue	the purity of color, various colors seen in the spectrum of a beam of light as it passes through a prism.
human machine	moving and connecting bodies in such a way that the shapes create a living machine.
humor	an appeal to the heart, in which the audience feels compassion, amusement, love or pity.
humours	the personality traits explored in Elizabethan times.
hydraulic	a system of controlling machinery or moving scenery using oil or water under pressure to move a piston or "ram". Used in automated scene changes.

I.A.S.E. or I.A.	an abbreviation of International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Motion Picture Operators, a union of stage hands.
identification	taking experiences from the actor's life and, for motivation, relating them to a character.
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
illusion of the first time	making the audience believe the actions on stage within the framework of the play.- that it is the first time this is happening.
illusory walk	a mime convention in which the mime "walks" without moving through space.
imagery	something perceived naturally and spontaneously by the senses.
imagination	the process of visualizing what is not physically present or has never been experienced.
imitate	to follow, as in a pattern, to copy
imitative dialogue	imitating the speech of stereotypical characters, such as a witch, a giant, a baby, etc.
imitative moment	activities in which children imitate the characteristic movements of animals, people, objects and the like.
imitative sound	imitating sounds, such as wind and thunder.
impedance	electrical residue found in a/c circuits, thus affecting the ability of a cable to transmit sound as electrical pulses. measured in OHMS.
impressionism	a type of play that seeks to make the audience react and see as a character does when stirred by intense emotion.
impromptu	unplanned and unrehearsed
improvisation	the act of spontaneously inventing characters, action, dialogue, plot or action during rehearsal, performance or dramatic play.
improvisational audition	a tryout at which the actor is assigned a character and given a brief description of a situation to perform with no preparation.
improvise	to speak or to act without a script
in character	when on stage, performing as a character and never becoming the actor while performing.
in unison	at the same time.
incandescent	light source consisting of a metal filament which glows white hot when current is passed through it.
inciting incident	the event that sets in motion the action of the plot.
inclination	the bending of the body to the front, side, or rear.
incompletion	a line or bit of action that is started and not finished. Used to provoke laughter.
incongruity	that which seems out of place, time, or character.
independent	1] an electrical power supply that is totally separate from the stage lighting control. 2] a channel within the stage lighting control which has been switched to temporarily become independent from the rest of the channels.
indirect emphasis	emphasis that is not directly on the main character.
induction loop	system which amplifies audio frequency currents (from a mic onstage) around a large loop of cable (around the auditorium) to generate a magnetic field which can be picked up by a hearing aid switched to the "T" position.
inflection	variety in speech reflecting changing thoughts and emotions.
infra red	invisible part of the electromagnetic spectrum with a longer wavelength than visible light. Infra red remote controls are used for lighting desks and practicals.
ingenue	a female lead between the ages of 16 and 36.

inhaling	breathing in air
initial incident	the first event in a play from which the rest of the plot develops.
Innamoratae/ Innamorati	stock characters in Commedia; young lovers who speak a refined language.
inner below	see study
inset	a small scene set within a larger one.
instrument	the main equipment for lighting - houses the lamp, reflector and usually a lens. called a lantern in the UK
instrument (lighting)	a unit of lighting equipment on the stage
instrument schedule	a chart listing all the technical information about lighting instruments used in a production.
intelligent light	instrument which is moved and focused remotely by computer.
intensity	how light or dark a color or light is.
intensity (vocal)	the use of vocal variation to produce a feeling of power and control in the voice.
intent	the theme or message in a play or the inner force driving a character's behavior.
interaction	the relating of two or more people on the stage.
interchangeable bit	tool used for drilling holes in wood, plastic, or metal
intercom	system separate from the general amplification system that allows communication between the stage manager and members of the crew.
interior	short for interior setting; the setting for an indoor scene.
intermission	a recess or temporary stopping of action, usually about halfway through a play.
internal traits	inner, personal qualities, invisible to the human eye.
internalization	the process an actor uses to get within a character to find out what he/she is about.
International Thespian Society	theatre honor society for high school students, a subsidiary of the Educational Theatre Association.
interpret	to analyze a piece of literature and to perform it aloud for an audience.
interpretive movement	movement used to depict non-human roles or abstract ideas and concepts.
interval music	music played in the foyer and/or auditorium during intermissions.
in-the-round	see <i>arena stage</i>
intonation	the modulation of the voice.
iris	an adjustable cut off device in a lighting unit, with overlapping leaves that form a variable circle through which the light beam passes.
isolation	the process of separating body parts for individual development and expression.

# Jj

jack	1] an anchoring option using triangular frame units attached to a flat and weighted. 2] segmented audio connector - mono and stereo.
jack, lift	a jack which works by lifting the scenery, moving it and then setting it down.
jack, tip	a jack which works by tipping the scenery so it can be moved, then repositioned.
jackfield	an array of jack sockets, providing connections to various equipment. see patch panel
jackknife stage	a set that is built on a large wagon and pivoted onto the stage from the wings.
jigger	a board used as a spacer in three fold booked flats.
jog	a narrow flat, usually less than 2 feet wide, used to form bay windows and alcoves.
join	to fasten scenic devices together, as with a lash line - also any such fastening.
joint, butt	see butt joint
joint, lap	see lap joint
joint, mitre or miter	see mitre joint
joint, notched	see notched joint
joist	supporting bar in a platform frame.
joists	parallel boards that run perpendicular to two end boards and serve as a support for a platform.
juice	electric current.
jumper	an adapter from one type of electrical current to another. also applies to sound cables.
juvenile	a male lead between the ages of 16-30.

# Kk

Kabuki	one of traditional forms of Japanese theatre, originating in the 1600's, that combines stylized acting, elaborate costumes, and musical accompaniment.
Kabuki drop	method for dropping a cloth from a flying bar. Consists of a bar which attaches to a standard batten and is able to spin around. When the bar is rotated, the cloth drops.
Kalidasa	the greatest playwright in Sanskrit Drama - 375-415 AD
keeper or S hook	a hook used to fasten a door or window or attached to a batten, to stiffen a back wall of flats. (S shaped)
Kelvin	see color temperature
key light	the brighter of two lights focused on an acting area.
keystone	a small piece of plywood that bridges a toggle joint in flat construction, providing extra bracing and support.
keystoning	the distortion that occurs when an image is projected at an angle onto a screen or other projection surface.
kill	to eliminate, suppress, or subdue; as in to remove excess light or remove an excess piece of furniture or setting.
kilowatt	1 kilowatt is equal to 1000 watts (see watt)
Kimono	a floor length robe with long, flowing sleeves.
kinesthesia	sometimes called "muscle memory"; the neuromuscular sense the body has in a particular body position.
King's Men	formerly the Lord Chamberlain's Men - Shakespeare's acting company.
Kiyotsugu, Kanami	famous Noh actor from late 1300's - developed Noh drama with son, Zeami Motokiyo

KK wheel	a type of animation disk which fits into the color runners at the front of an instrument which rotates and breaks up the light beam making it appear to be moving.
klieglight	in popular use, any powerful spotlight unit. Originally a carbon arc spotlight developed by John and Anton Kliegel.
knap	the second sound after landing a blow - a sliding, slapping sound or clap.
KVA	kilo volt amps - unit of electrical power.

# L

lacquer	a hard, glossy varnish derived from shellac, colored, and applied to wood for decoration and protection.
ladder	non-climbing structure in the shape of a ladder from which instruments can be hung in a vertical stack.
lamp	what the uninformed call a light bulb. -- the source of light in a lighting instrument.
lamp housing	casing that holds the lamp socket.
lantern	(UK) see instrument.
lantern	(UK) see instrument
lap joint	a wood joint in which the face of one board is attached to the face of another and fastened with nails or glue and screws. also called overlap joint.
lapped seam	seam which is sewn with fabric wrong side to right side and then trimmed.
larynx	voice box - where your vocal chords are located.
laser	a very high energy beam of light that remains virtually parallel throughout its length.
lash	to pull two flats together, edge to edge, by winding a lash line over lash line cleats.
lash cleat	see cleat
lash line	a rope used for lashing flats together.
lash line eye	a metal eye which can be screwed into the back of the flat frame and to which a lash line can be tied.
lashing	a method of temporarily joining flats in which rope is laced through specialized hardware and tied off.
latex	a rubber or rubber like material used to build flexible, three dimensional makeup pieces which can be glued to the actor's skin and covered with makeup. also can be painted onto the skin for various effects.
lavaliere mic	a small "tie-clip" microphone
lead	see lead role
lead role	the main characters in a play.
leader tape	non-magnetic plastic tape used to begin and end sound tapes and to separate cues on tape.
leading center	the part of a character's body that leads in movements and reflects the nature of the character.
left	the area on stage to the actor's left as he faces the audience. see stage left.
legend	a greatly exaggerated story related to the history of a culture, usually about people who really lived. Legends are embellished by the teller.
legitimate theatre	originally, officially sanctioned plays; now the term is applied to regional and community theatre, movies, and television as well.
legs	drape set as masking piece at the side of the acting area. Usually set up in pairs across the stage and used in conjunction with borders to frame the audiences view. The phrase "break a leg" originated from taking an extra encore from the legs after a successful performance.
Leko	a type of ERS, much used in the US. contraction of the original manufacturers name.
lemo	a small metal multipin connector used for connecting radio microphones into the transmitter

	packs.
lens	the part of the lighting instrument that shapes the light from the lamp.
lens unit	a lighting instrument with a lens, used to illuminate the stage.
level	the height of an actor's head onstage.
librettist	someone who writes a libretto
libretto	text of an opera or other long musical composition. The script of a musical.
life mask	a mask made by taking an impression of a person's face.
lift jack	see jack
light batten	see electrical
light board	see control console
light booth	a booth at the top of the balcony that houses the technician who controls the lights, music, and/or sound effects.
light crew	the technicians responsible for planning, preparing and running the lights in a production.
light cue	the cue for a change in the lights
light curtain	an effect which, when an area is diffused with smoke, produces a wall of light. Usually produced by a batten of low voltage PAR lamps wired in series.
light plot	a scale drawing detailing the location of each instrument used in a production and any other pertinent information. (dimmer #, focus position, and color number) called light plan in UK
light tree	see boomerang
lighting	any illumination of the set and actors during a performance.
lighting areas	areas on the stage floor, 8x12 feet in diameter, where light beams strike.
lighting design	the lighting concept and operation/hanging plan for a production.
lighting designer	the person who develops a lighting concept and design for a production. The lighting designer oversees installation and operation of lighting for the production.
lighting key	a simple plan showing angles and colors for each lighting area.
lighting plot	a plan, usually drawn to scale, showing the placement of lighting instruments.
lighting stencil	plastic stencil containing a range of scale symbols for current lighting equipment. Greatly facilitates the drawing of lighting plots.
limelight	an obsolete source of intensely bright light, most recently used in followspot.
limiter	see compressor
line	the words spoken by one of the characters in a dramatic presentation.
line check	a test run of the show's dialogue to ensure that all lines have been memorized, also called a line rehearsal.
liner	1] a thin stick of color used in makeup. 2] a small brush used in scenic painting to make a fine line. 3] a small brush used to apply lining color. 4] makeup in a variety of colors.
Linnebach projector	lensless system for projecting a shape from a gel or a glass slide placed in front of a floodlight onto a set. Often used for shadow effects.
lip sync	synchronized movement of performers mouth with spoken or sung words.
lipstick	moist rouge, stage lipstick, or brownish rouge used to delineate the lips.
live	hot - has electrical current running through it - also - not recorded, as in sound effects.
load	1] the electrical power rating, in Watts, of the equipment connected to a particular dimmer. 2] the equipment connected to a dimmer.
load in/out	see get in/out
loading bay	the access into a theatrical space for scenery and other equipment. see get in.
lobby	the area of a theatre where the audience gathers before and after performances and during intermission.
locale	the geographical settings of scenes within a play.
location	a real setting where a production may be filmed or videotaped, rather than on a sound stage or a backlot; off the studio lot.

locking pliers	(vise grips) for grasping and locking on various objects
loft	a part of the stage house above the stage floor - sometimes above the grid.
loose pin hinge	hinge designed for joining flats. The pins can be removed to separate flats easily.
Lord Chamberlain's Men	Shakespeare's acting company - later called the King's Men.
lot	the site of a film or TV studio.
loudspeaker	device for converting the electrical signal from an amplifier back into sound waves, most often through paper cones. see tweeter, woofer
low comedy	a type of comedy that is quite physical, sometimes vulgar, and highly exaggerated in style and performance.
low voltage	lower voltage lamps give more intense light than mains voltage lamps of the same wattage.
lumen	a measure of light output from a source.
luminaire	the international term for lighting equipment. not restricted to theatre lighting.
lux	a measure of the illumination on a surface (1 lumen spread over 1 meter)
lycopodium	a powder, of resin, which can be ignited for flash and flame effects.
lyricist	the person who writes the words for the music in a musical.
lyrics	the words to a song.

## Mm

magazine	manual semaphore-type color changing device used on the front of a followspot.
magic "if"	drama term referring to "what would happen if...?" releasing the imagination to create a story with limitless possibilities.
mahl stick	a short stick used by scenic painters to steady the hand by resting its padded end against the surface being painted.
make up	cosmetics and hair-styling techniques that an actor uses to emphasize facial features or to add age or other special qualities called for by a character.
make up designer	the person who determines what kind of makeup each actor will wear, designs specialty makeup for actors and supervises the makeup artists and makeup crew.
make up morgue	a collection of pictures of various facial features and physical features to use as a reference for makeup effects.
make up plot	a form on which you can record your makeup design decisions.
mallet	rubber hammer for pounding things without making marks
manipulation	the way a puppeteer moves or works a puppet.
mannerisms	idiosyncrasies that make each person different, whether they be verbal, physical, psychological - they prove very helpful in the development of a character.
mansions	a series of acting stations that represent biblical settings - Saint Plays and Mystery Plays were performed with mansions.
marionette	a puppet manipulated by strings connected to a control rod or paddle above the puppet.
marking out	see spike (UK)
Marlowe, Christopher	English dramatist, one of the "university wits" - wrote Dr. Faustus, a morality play showing elements of medieval theatre but also anticipating Shakespeare in its use of blank verse.
mask (noun)	an artificial covering for all or part of the face.
mask (verb)	to use backing, such as flats, draperies, or drops, to hide backstage areas from the view of the audience.
masking	see backing
masking tape	paper sticky tape used to mark out the boundary of a surface to be painted - has many other

	uses as well.
masque	an expensive, lavish spectacle, popular in the English court of the early 1600's, that combined a huge cast, gorgeous costumes, beautiful scenery, music, and elaborate stagecraft.
mass	an artistic value in staging that takes bulk and weight into consideration.
mass media	communication that can reach extremely large and diverse audiences.
master	an original which should be used only to make a copy from which to work.
Master	the crew head (i.e. Master Carpenter, Master Electrician, Properties Master, etc.)
master control	an overall control on a lighting or sound control board. The Grand Master takes precedence over all other controls. also called master dimmer
master cue sheet	a list of all lighting and sound cues, scenery shifts, prop use and costume changes in a production.
master dimmer	see master control
master gesture	a distinctive action that is repeated and serves as a clue to a character's personality - such as a specific walk or distinctive laugh.
mat knife	a cutting tool with either a razor or a razor-like blade - used for cutting cardboard and stiff paper. see utility knife
matte (film)	in film and TV, a visual effect achieved when a false background or another background replaces the original background of the scene.
matte (makeup)	flat or dull makeup that is achieved by powdering.
measure	ability to estimate size, distance, and amount without using measuring tools.
mechanical dimmer	any device, such as a serrated iris or shutter, which decreases the intensity of a light without materially affecting the beam form.
Medieval	a period in which religious and mystery plays were dominant. The style was formal and stilted, and the plays usually held a moral. see Tudor
medium shot	a film shot in which the face, shoulders, and part of the actor's body fill the frame.
melodrama	a dramatic form popular in the 1800's, originally considered serious plays-now usually plays based on romantic plots that have little regard for convincing motivation or detailed characterization and that have the primary goal of keeping the audience involved and entertained at all costs.
melody	main musical phrase expressing the general feeling of a composition.
memorizing	committing the lines of a script (or anything else) to memory.
memory board	an electronic storage device which enables recording and subsequent play back of lighting sequences.
mending plate	a piece of plywood used to strengthen scenery at cracks or joints.
method acting	a technique used by actors in which the actor tries to become a character in as many ways as possible to facilitate a realistic performance. see Stanislavsky
mezzanine	the balcony closest to the main floor.
mic	short for microphone
mic level signal	low level audio signal produced by circuitry in microphone.
microphone	device for converting sound into electronic pulses which can then be amplified or recorded onto tape/compact disc.
MIDI	musical instrument digital interface - control system for linking musical instruments or electronic equipment and computers together and storing the control signals the equipment produces for subsequent playback.
midrange	type of speaker cone that reproduces sounds occurring in the middle range.
milk a line	to hold a line and add bits to get as much audience response as is possible.
mime	an art form based on pantomime using conventionalized gestures to express ideas rather than to represent actions: a performer of mime.
mimesis	to imitate an activity (Greek)
mind's eye	imagination

Miracle Play	one of the principal types of medieval European drama; a miracle play told the lives of saints and martyrs.
mirror ball	a lighting effect popular in dance halls, usually motorized to rotate.
miter box	tool used for making accurate cross and angle cuts with a back saw
mitre or miter cut	a basic saw cut in which the wood is cut at angle.
mitre or miter joint	a wood joint in which two boards cut at an angle are joined using glue and screw, glue and corrugated fasteners or glue and nails or screws. A type of butt joint.
mixdown	the process during which a multi track recording is balanced and transferred to two tracks (stereo) for playback or reproduction.
mixer	an electronic device that mixes and blends sounds from several different sources.
mock heroic	the form of low comedy in which a character who is not of heroic proportions is humorously elevated, also called an epic.
mock up	see model (UK)
model	a scale model provided by the scenic designer to help all technical departments coordinate and plan a production. Used as a reference when building, painting, dressing and lighting the set.
Moliere	French playwright, followed neoclassical rules in his comedies - inspired by Commedia D'elle Arte. 1622-1673
monitor	1] an onstage speaker which allows a performer to hear the output of the amplification system. 2] a video display screen.
monkey pole	a stick threaded at one end with the line used to cleat two adjacent flats together, enabling them to be quickly and silently joined or separated.
monologue	a story, speech or scene performed by one actor alone.
monotone	an unvaried speaking tone, lack of inflection varied throughout a speech.
mood	the emotional feeling of a play.
moon box	lighting effect - a large shallow circular box with calico on one face and low wattage lamps arranged on the back. Can be flown behind a scrim or cyc to give the effect of the moon rising.
moral	the lesson or the principle contained or taught within a play.
Moral Interlude	a short version of a Morality Play that usually includes more humorous incidents.
Morality Play	one of the principal types of medieval European drama; a morality play presented personified virtues and vices in dramas depicting the moral struggle of the soul.
morgue	a company's collection of press cuttings and production records.
Moscow Art Theatre	Russian theatre founded by Anton Chekov and Konstantin Stanislavsky - birthplace of Method acting.
motivate	to have a specific reason for saying or doing something; to show a character's desires through voice and movement.
motivation	a character's reason for doing or saying things.
Motokiyo, Zeami	see Kanami Kiyotsugu
mounting a production	adding the finishing touches to a theatrical production - producing a play.
movement	the ability to transform ideas into action.
multicore	a flexible electric cable composed of several well-insulated cores covered in a strong PVC or rubber covering. Enables a number of different circuits to be carried down one piece of cable. Both lighting and sound multicores are available.
multimedia	theatrical performances incorporating a variety of artistic and technological media.
multiple setting	a stage setting displaying two or more locales as acting areas.
music	the art discipline using voice and/or instruments for listening and performing pleasure that incorporates melody, tonal quality, rhythm and tempo.
musical	a theatrical production characterized by music, songs, dances, and often spectacular settings and costumes.
musical director	the person who shapes the musical tone of a show.

musical play	a form of musical theatre in which the emphasis is on real people in real situations.
musical revue	a production consisting of a series of independent songs and dances tied loosely together. Often satirical.
musical theatre	a type of entertainment containing music, songs, and usually dance.
muslin	medium to lightweight unbleached cotton fabric used to cover flats.
Mystery Play	one of the principal types of medieval European drama that depicts episodes from the Bible.
myth	a story used to explain the unknown.

## Nn

NAB	national American broadcast - standard for tape recording equalization characteristics.
Napoleonic Period	a transitional period in the 18th century, varying from the extravagant styles of acting and costuming to simpler modes.
narrative	a story
narrative bridge	description of characters, actions, and settings provided by one or more narrators.
narrative pantomime	a creative drama activity in which a leader reads a piece of literature while the entire group plays the action without words.
narrator	someone who tells the story
nasality	the quality of sound produced through the nasal passages.
National Theatre	a theatre subsidized by a national government, or, if privately supported, officially supported by the national government as of national importance.
natural sound	sounds made by things that exist in nature.
naturalism	a literary movement with views based on contemporary scientific theory and the belief that everything in life is determined by heredity and environment.
<i>Natyasastra</i>	literally "the science of dramaturgy" - Indian guide to make up, costumes, acting and dance, published in around 200 AD.
neat whiteface	a type of whiteface clown whose makeup is in proportion and looks normal in size.
needle nosed pliers	tool for reaching small places and gripping tiny objects
neoclassicism	a theatrical movement based on the theories of the Greek philosopher Aristotle and the Roman poet Horace, influential throughout Europe in the 1600's. Neoclassical theory set down rules for playwrighting including the division of plays into five acts; the dramatic unities of time, place, and action; and the purity of genre.
neon	a type of discharge lighting generated by a high voltage across two electrodes at opposite ends of a long, thin, glass tube filled with neon gas.
network	to join together.
neutral density filter	lighting filter which reduces the brightness of a light source without changing its color.
neutral mask	a white, featureless face covering worn to neutralized the actor's face.
neutral stage	a stage which does not visibly designate a locality.
Noh Drama	one of the traditional forms of Japanese theatre. In Noh Drama, masked male actors employ highly stylized dance and poetry to tell stories of ghosts, doomed love, and revenge.
noise	anything that takes attention away from the message or the feedback.
nontraditional casting	casting that ignores the general conventions of casting by type.
nonverbal	without words
nose putty	a soft, pliable substance used to alter the shape of the nose, chin, or forehead.
notched joint	a joint in which the boards are notched to fit together then secured with nails or glue and screws.

notes	after a rehearsal, a director's specific suggestions to actors and crews for the improvement of the performance.
notices	reviews by critics; dramatic criticism

# Oo

OAP	see One Act Play
objective	a character's goal or intention.
objective acting	see technical acting
objectivity	the ability to study a problem without prejudging or making a decision too quickly.
oblique	said of scenery that is not placed at right angles with the center line.
observation	noticing detail in what we see, hear, smell, touch and taste.
obstacle	something that stands between a character and his or her ability to meet an objective or achieve a goal.
off/on book	rehearsing without/with a script.
offstage	the area out of sight of the audience.
offstage focus	a type of focus in readers theatre in which the characters look above the heads of the audience, into an imaginary mirror, focusing on the reflected image of the person to whom they are speaking.
OISTAT	International Organization of Theatrical Stenographers, Technicians, and Architects.
omnidirectional	see pick-up
on the boards	means onstage
One Act Play	in the Texas UIL competition, a 40 minute play which conforms to the rules and policies set forth by the University Interscholastic League.
on-stage	area in the audience's sight lines - the acting area.
onstage focus	a type of focus in readers theater in which the characters focus on each other, as in traditional theatre.
open	to keep your face and the front of your body visible to the audience as much as possible.
open audition	audition at which anyone can try out for a part.
open space	a prescribed area with room for movement that students are to enter with imaginative ideas for theatre activities.
open the house	clearance is given to the front of house staff by the stage management that the stage is set and the audience can begin taking their seats.
open white	lighting with no color filter.
opera	a form of musical theater in which all conversations are sung - about a serious subject matter.
operating crew	all crew members responsible for running a show. also called running crew.
operetta	a form of musical theatre in which the music and subject matter is lighter than in opera.
optimum pitch	the ideal highness or lowness of the voice.
option	the offer of an opportunity to buy the rights to produce a show during a particular time frame.
oral communication	the vocal or verbal sound conveying information.
oral interpretation	the skill of reading aloud to convey an author's message to an audience.
orchestra	Greek - a circular area with an altar in the center that served as the centerpiece of the Greek amphitheater.
orchestra (in house)	the seats in the auditorium that are nearest the stage
orchestra (in music)	a group of musicians who play during a performance.
orchestra pit	the area immediately in front of the stage where the orchestra sits. The orchestra pit may

	extend under the stage floor.
originality	freshness of acting style.
oscilloscope	an instrument that can be used to record voice vibrations and show voice patterns.
out	taken out of the line of sight, flown up into the fly space.
out front	audience area - see house
outcome	result of an action taken by a character or characters to overcome an obstacle and achieve an objective.
overdraw	to outline the lips beyond the natural line to make them appear fuller.
overlap	to move or speak before another actor has finished speaking.
overlap joint	see lap joint
overture	1] the music which begins a performance. 2] a call to the actors and technicians that the performance is about to begin in a musical work.

## Pp

PA system	see Public Address System
pace	the movement or tempo of the play as it progresses.
pacing	the tempo of a performance as it progresses.
pack	a number of flats all stored together
pageant wagons	a stage on wheels, on which the medieval guilds of the late 14th century performed Mystery or Saint plays.
paint frame	large vertical wooden from which drops are hung for painting. The frame is often winchable for easier access.
paint shop	a separate room where scenery is painted after it is built.
painter's elevation	an eye level view drawing showing the flats arranged in a continuous row to be used in a set - specifically those in color for use by the scenic designer.
pair playing	any number of players interacting as two different characters in a scene. All couples play the scene at the same time.
pairing	connecting more than one instrument to one power outlet via an adapter or splitter, or more than one speaker to one amplifier channel.
palette	a thin piece of plywood or masonite that can be used to quickly change sets without having to handle each piece of furniture separately. Often covered by a rug.
pan	1] movement of lighting from side to side. 2] used to describe water based makeup
pancake	type of cake makeup sold in flat compacts.
panorama	a painted cloth which can be wound across the stage to reveal a constantly changing view.
pantomime	to act without words through facial expressions and gestures
pantomimus	Greek- all gestures used in support of a theme.
paper tech	a meeting of the stage crew and the stage manager to run through the cues on paper and create a master cue sheet.
paper the house	marketing technique - giving away tickets to a performance to make a show seem to sell better than it actually has.
papier mache	a technique for building props and set pieces using torn strips of newspaper and a paste-like mixture of wheat paste or flour and water molded onto a wire frame.
PAR	see parabolic reflector spotlight
par lamp	see parabolic reflector spotlight
parabolic reflector spotlight	a lamp containing a filament, reflector, and lens in one sealed unit. Used in Parcans to produce a high intensity, narrow beam of light. also called par lamp

parados	the entrance of the chorus in a Greek play
parallel (electrical)	the opposite of series when referring to wiring two loads into one outlet.
parallel (platform)	a folding frame of a readily portable platform.
paraphrasing	restating lines in one's own words.
parcan	type of instrument which holds a par lamp
parody	type of low comedy that mocks a certain work by imitating the author's style for comic effect.
participation play	a play which involves the audience as participants in the drama, often used for very young child audiences.
Passion Play	a play concerned with the last week in the life of Christ.
passive	a piece of circuitry is termed passive if it uses the electrical sound signal itself to operate the components. (passive circuitry does not amplify sound)
paste	a mixture of glue, whiting, and cold water - used to fasten canvas or muslin to the frame of a flat.
patch (lighting)	1] to cross connect lighting circuits around the stage area to a chosen dimmer. 2] using a cross connect panel which enables any stage lighting channels to the control desk to control any dimmer or group of dimmers.
patch panel	an interconnecting device for a lighting system that makes it possible to group lights together on circuits devoted to special acting or lighting areas.
pathos	an element in drama that arouses feelings of pity and compassion in an audience.
pause	a lull or stop in dialogue or action in order to sustain emotion.
Peking Opera	a tradition established by acting companies in the Chinese capital in the 1800's characterized by an emphasis on the actor's performances, minimal sets and props, elaborate costumes, and stylized movements and songs.
percent	dimmer levels are expressed as a percentage of the supply voltage.
perception	the process, act, or faculty of using the senses (sight, hearing, touch, taste, smell) to gain information about a physical environment.
perches	lighting positions (often on platforms) at each side of the stage, immediately behind the proscenium.
performance	an individual playing of a dramatic event.
performance art	a nontraditional theatrical genre that incorporates a variety of art forms, including music, dance, and multimedia, and may be performed in traditional and nontraditional spaces.
performance evaluation	an evaluation of a performance given before an audience.
performance space	an area set aside for a performance. see acting area
performer	an actor or presenter of any kind of theatrical material or entertainment.
periacti	plural for periaktoi
periaktoi	Greek term for three sided flats mounted on a rotating base. Used in rows to produce easily changed backings.
period	a specific time - Elizabethan, Jacobean, Restoration, etc.; also a regular amount of time such as a class period.
permanent cyclorama	a fixed cyclorama made of a rigid material, such as plaster, rather than fabric.
permanent set	a set that remains the same throughout a play, regardless of change of locale.
permanent unit setting	a stage setting in which a framework remains fixed in place for an entire production and units of scenery called inset pieces are used to effect minor changes in appearance for different scenes.
persona	the speaker of a poem or other literary work, not necessarily identical to the author.
personal props	see hand props
personal resources	techniques and skills that we use to express ourselves emotionally, physically, intellectually, and psychologically.
perspective sketch	a head on view of the set having the illusion of depth.
Phillips screwdriver	tool for the crossed slot in a Phillips screw.

phonation	vibration of the vocal chords creating sound.
phosphorescence	the property of some materials that can store light energy and glow in the dark.
photo call	the time set aside to take pictures of the production - usually after a performance.
photoflood	a lamp used by photographers which gives a bright white light - has a relatively short life so should not be left on for a long time.
phrasing	grouping words together to create a specific meaning.
phrasing	how you divide your speeches into smaller parts, with pauses added to create emphasis and a rhythmic pattern of sounds and silences.
physical characteristics/traits	the way a character moves and looks physically.
physical characterization	to create the physical characteristics of an specific character by altering movement and physical traits.
piano dress	rehearsal in costume and with all technical facilities but using a piano as a substitute for orchestra so that the director can concentrate on technical problems rather than musical ones (and not pay the orchestra for it)
pick up	1] device which, when attached to an acoustical musical instrument, converts sound vibrations into an electrical signal. 2] a way of describing the directional sensitivity of a microphone.
picking up cues	to quickly begin a speech without allowing a pause between the first words of the speech and the cue.
pigment	a coloring matter used in paints.
pin connector	a special stage connector used for joining cables or instruments. also called a slip pin connector.
pin spot	a lighting instrument focused very tightly on a small area.
pinking shears	for cutting fabric with a zig zag that will not unravel.
pinrail	bar to which rigging ropes are tied.
pinrail system	see counterweight system
pipe wrench	tool for loosening or tightening large nuts or pipe fittings.
Pit	the area in the Elizabethan theatre where the groundlings stood.
pit	see orchestra pit
pitch (vocal)	the relative highness or lowness of the voice.
pitch control	facility on some sound playback devices for changing the speed of playback and therefore the pitch or frequency of the sound.
places	the stage command for actors to take their positions at the opening of an act or a scene.
plan	a scale drawing showing a piece of scenery, lighting layout, etc. from above.
plane	tool used wood rasps or metal - for shaping and smoothing wood
planes	imaginary divisions giving depth to the proscenium stage. An actor moves through stage planes as he moves upstage and downstage.
plano-convex spotlight	an instrument with a condenser lens, the lens having one curved surface and one flat surface - the flat surface is closer to the light source.
PLASA	Professional Lighting and Sound Association (UK)
plaster	a mixture of slaked lime, sand, and water that dries to a hard, smooth surface.

platform	a weight bearing raised structure that may be varied in height by attaching different sets of legs - - an element of the Texas state UIL approved play setting: stage piece 1' high and 4'x4', 1'x1', and 4'x8' - rules allow for the use of 2 of each also see rostrum
platform stage	a stage created by the use of platforms.
Plautus	Roman dramatist- writer of farces and comedies.
play	story in dialogue to be acted out by actors in front of a live audience.
play of ideas	a play that deals with a social problem or ethical issue; sometimes presenting a solution.
play within a play	a simulation of a dramatic performance as a part of a dramatic performance.
play's the thing, the	a proverbial expression, quoted from <u>Hamlet</u> , meaning that the play itself should be the primary focus instead of the technical elements.
playback	the part of a computerized lighting control desk which enables the operator to recall cues from the electronic memory.
player-audience relationship	the special interactive and live relationship that exists between the performers and the audience, connecting and bonding them into a team.
playing area	a cleared space for creative dramatics activities - there is not a designated space for an audience.
playing in role	a technique used by a coach during creative dramatics in which the coach plays a role, appropriate to the situation, for the purpose of advancing and heightening the play.
playing the conditions	interpreting characters with the help of the elements of time, place, weather, objects, and the state of the individual.
playing the moment	responding to each line, action, and character in the permanent present; for example, an actor who gives the illusion of the first time by not responding to a phone before it rings.
playing the object	using objects, such as a phone or a fork, to project character.
playing the objective	using all the methods, including physical or mental acts or objects to reach the goals of characters.
playing the obstacles	facing each crisis or obstacle that stands in the way of an objective of the character.
playmaking	see creative dramatics
playwright	someone who writes plays.
plot (noun)	1] the story line 2] list of actions required of technical crews during the performance. 3] drawing of technical elements/requirements.
plot (verb)	to plan stage business, as to plot the action.
plug	a small flat used to fill in an opening between other scenic pieces.
point of view	a position from which we perceive an object, person, or place.
pointing lines	emphasizing a particular idea through the presentation of lines.
poise	the effective control of all voice elements and body movements.
polishing rehearsal	the final rehearsal at which all parts of the play are brought together so that flaws can be worked out.
pop screen	a thin gauze screen placed between a singer and a microphone to reduce vocal "popping" and other breath noises.
pop shield	a foam shield placed over the end of a microphone to reduce the pick up of vocal "popping" and external wind noise.
portable	said of scenic equipment which is moveable for use wherever needed.
portable striplight	a light used for side-lighting, backing, entrance lighting, or cyc lighting - requires three circuits.
portal	an archway made by combining wings/legs/borders. Also a decorative frame, columns, or other that frames the stage.
position	to place a piece of scenery or an actor correctly.
posture	how we sit or stand.
power amplifier	converts sound signals of line level into tens of volts, with currents of around 1 Amp to drive speakers.

practical	any object which appears to do onstage the same job it would do in life.
prefade/postfade	an output from a sound system is said to be preface id it is independent of the crossfader. If it is postfade, the level of output is relative to the channel fader.
prefocus cap	a type of lamp base which ensures that the filament is correctly lined up relative to the reflector and the lens.
preheat	smoother lighting builds from zero are achieved when a lamp filament has been warmed (at approximately 15%) in the previous state.
preliminary situation	a clearly defined explanation of the events in the lives of the leading characters before the start of the play.
prepared audition	a tryout in which an actor uses material that has been memorized and thoroughly worked out.
pre-production	the planning period that takes place before rehearsals begin.
presentational	a play in which the audience is recognized as an audience and the play as a play; consequently the actors may speak directly to the audience.
pre-set	1] anything that is in place before the beginning of the scene or act. 2] an independently controlled part of the lighting control board that allows the setting of a scene before it is needed.
preset dimmer	a type of dimmer board that allows two or more lighting patterns to be set in advance.
preview	a performance before the official opening; often these are rehearsals with an audience, and a time when new material is tried and tested.
primary colors	the primary additive colors of light are red, green and blue and the subtractive are cyan, magenta and yellow. The primary colors of pigment are yellow, blue and red.
primary source	the original source for an object or idea - i.e. diaries, letters, etc.
prime coat	a coat of paint used to prepare a surface for the base coat.
priming	applying a prime coat.
principals	the main characters in a play or a musical.
principles of design	aspects of organization used to create the artistic product.
prisms	see periaktoi
problem	see conflict
producer	the person who finds the financial backing, hires the director and production staff, sets the budget, and pays the bills for a theatrical production.
production	the staging of a dramatic work: collectively - financing, management, direction, acting, costuming, lighting, scenic design and construction, performance.
production book	the copy of the script kept by the stage manager which contains all information pertaining to running a show.
production concept	the main idea expressed in the designs (lighting, sets, costumes) - what the director wants to convey in a production.
production number	a large scale musical number involving many performers in lavish costumes- frequently a dance number.
production schedule	the schedule for technical sessions, rehearsals, performances and all other company meetings for a specific production.
production style	the overall style of a production - representational, presentational, realistic, naturalistic, etc.
profile lighting instrument	a type of instrument with at least one plano/convex lens which projects the outline of any chosen shape placed in its gate.
profile or half right/left	body positions where the actor is facing stage right or left and is showing a profile to the audience.
profile scenery	see cut out scenery
program	printed sheet of paper or booklet that provides information about the production to the audience.
projection	the control of volume and quality of the voice so that it can be heard clearly by everyone in an audience.
prologue	an introduction to a play, usually spoken by one of the actors; it occasionally is employed in plays for children to orient the audience to the piece or engage its attention.
prompt	to give lines to an actor who has forgotten them.

prompt book	master copy of the script or score, containing all of the actor moves and technical cues, used by stage manager to control the performance. also called the book.
prompter	the person who keeps the director's promptbook and makes notes on cues, signals, etc. This job is often filled by the Assistant Director.
pronunciation	the particular way a word or phrase is said.
pronunciation	the manner of saying words using the correct sounds and placing the accents on the properly stressed syllables.
prop crew	stagehands who check properties in and out as they are set and struck.
prop table	table offstage for all props to be kept on.
properties	all the stage furnishings, including furniture and those things brought onstage by the actors; also called props.
property master	the person in charge of the prop crew.
proportion	a principle of stage design that uses the human being as the unit of measurement.
proportional dimming	a feature of some older light boards; allows several instruments to dim simultaneously at different intensities.
props	furnishings, set dressings, and all items large and small which cannot be classified as scenery , electrics or wardrobe. Props handled by actors are known as hand props, props which are kept in an actor's costume are called personal props.
proscenium arch	the opening in the wall which stands between the stage and auditorium in some theatre; the picture frame through which the audience sees the play. The "fourth" wall.
proscenium opening	the opening framed by the proscenium arch.
proscenium stage	a stage with the audience seated on one side, usually directly facing the playing area.
proskenion	Greek word - the framework in front of the skene in a Greek theatre.
prosthetics	see latex
protagonist	the main character in a play.
protection	a situation in which the audience laughs because it knows violent actions are not realistic. (i.e. Roadrunner cartoons)
PSU	power supply unit.
psychological drama	a play that addresses the complexities of the human psyche and personal relationships.
public address system	the venue auditorium sound system - usually shortened to PA.
publicity	the department in the theatre whose job it is to entice the audience into the theatre and to tell them what they need to know in order to get the most from the production.
publicity director	the person in charge of publicity.
pull	the amount of electricity required by a touring show.
puppet	almost anything brought to life by a human in front of an audience.
puppet theater	a type of theatre in which the actors operate puppets.
puppetry	the art of working with and making puppets.
push drill	tool used for making starter holes - a type of hand drill
putty knife	for applying and smoothing wood putty or paste.
PVC tape	plastic insulating tape used for taping cables to bars and for securing coiled cables. Neater and cheaper than gaffa tape.
pylon	an element of the Texas state UIL approved play setting: stage piece 1' square in heights of 4', 6' and 8' - rules allow for the use of 2 of each height.
pyrotechnics	chemical explosive or flammable fireworks effects with a manual detonation. Usually electrically fired with special designed fail safe equipment.

## Qq

quadrants	the four sections into which an arena stage might be divided.
quadraphonic	a sound system which uses four independent speakers (or sets of speakers). see stereophonic.
quality	the individual sound of a particular voice.
quarter	pre-show call given fifteen minutes before curtain time.
quarter right/left	stage position where the actor is facing the audience with his feet turned either to the right or left at about a 45 degree angle.
quartz halogen	see Tungsten Halogen
quieting activity	an activity that physically and mentally calms down the players after a creative dramatics exercise.

## Rr

rack	a cabinet of standard width into which various components can be bolted. Racks are ideal for touring equipment, are neat, and they allow easy access to rear and front panels.
radio	a public broadcasting medium that is an auditory experience only. There is no audience interaction with the performers.
radio control	system whereby battery operated practical/props on stage can be controlled from offstage with no connecting leads.
radio drama	the performance of a play or story on the radio using a script that is read rather than memorized. This type of theatre is either broadcast live or taped for rebroadcast.
radio mic	device consisting of a microphone head, transmitter pack with batteries, aerial and mains receiver unit which allows actors and singers to be amplified with no visible means of connection.
rag rolling	a method of texturing by using a rag or rolled up piece of burlap that is dipped in paint and rolled on flats to give the painted flat the appearance of rough plaster.
rail	the horizontal element of in flat construction.
raise	to lift or fly scenery.
rake	to slant or set at an angle. (auditorium seating and/or stages can be raked) see raked stage.
raked stage	a sloping stage which is raised at the back end. All theaters used to be built with a raked stag as a matter of course.
ramp	a sloping platform connecting the stage floor to the higher level – an element of the Texas state UIL approved play setting: stage piece raked to a height of 1' – 4'x4' – rules allow for the use of 2 of these.
range	the distance in pitch between an actor's highest and lowest tones.
rate (vocal)	the speed at which words are spoken.
ratings	the process used to measure the success of commercial television in which television networks rely on outside firms to access the size of the viewing audience.
reaction	responding to a stimulus – drama is built upon the action and reaction of players.
reactor dimmer	a remote control dimmer operated by the electrical principle of reactance.
readers theatre	form of theatre in which plays are read to an audience from a script and brought to life by the readers voices, facial expressions and controlled movements.
reading rehearsal	a rehearsal at which the play is read by the director or by members of the cast.
read-through	see reading rehearsal
realism	a style of theatre that presents life as it really is.
rear elevation	an elevation drawing of the back of a set. see elevation
rear of house	the backstage and storage areas of the theatre.

rear stage	the area of the stage farthest from the audience, see upstage.
recall	to remember
receipts	the money earned from the ticket sales of a play or movie.
recitative	a singing style that is closer to speaking than melodic singing.
reflector unit	a lighting instrument, consisting of a high powered lamp, a metal reflector, and a fastening device.
regional theaters	theaters that present any type of play for as long s they wish, repeating plays when and if it is profitable to do so.
rehearsal	session in which the actors and technicians prepare to perform a play.
relaxation	freedom from all bodily tensions
relief	an easing of pressure that results in laughter.
Renaissance	literary and scientific revival which began in Italy in the early 1400's and spread throughout Europe for the next two centuries. – literally means rebirth.
rendering	the initial pencil sketch or watercolor for a stage setting.
repertoire	all plays a company has ready to perform at a moments notice – also all monologues/scenes an actor has ready to perform at a moments notice.
repertory theatre	a form of organization, usually with a permanent company of actors, where each production has a run of limited length. At any given time, there is normally one play in performance, another in rehearsal and several others in various degrees of preparation.
replaying	repeating an improvisation exercise to improve upon it.
representational style	a play performed as if the audience is watching the play through an imaginary fourth wall.
resident company	a company of actors who play in a home theatre as opposed to a touring company.
resin box	a shallow box (containing resin) in which an actor may rub resin on his shoes for better footing. Used in dance.
resistance dimmer	a now obsolete method of dimming which decreases the current available to the load by introducing a variable resistance between supply and load. The excess current is converted into heat. Based around a reostat.
resistance dimmer	a dimmer in which a variable resistance in series with a lighting circuit is used to regulate the intensity of light.
resolution	the solution of the climax of a play. Usually comes during the falling action after the climax.
resonance	the vibrant tone produced when sound waves strike the chambers of the mouth, throat, nose and head.
resonating cavities	the mouth, throat, nose and head – produces resonance in the voice.
respiration	the process of breathing
response	something answered – a reaction to stimuli
Restoration	the period immediately following the restoration of Charles II to the throne in England – late 1600's
resume	a short account of a person's career and qualifications prepared by the applicant for a position.
retrofit	a modification that can be made to an existing piece of equipment after a purchase to bring it up to date.
return	a flat or drapery downstage, used to mask the offstage view between the tormentor , which it parallels, and the rest of the set.
reveal	a return which is at right angles to a flat and suggests the thickness of a window, wall, doorway, etc.
reverb	effect which may be added to sound effects during recording or to a voice during performance. Sustains the sound longer than normal, as if the sound was reverberating around a large building.
reversal	an ironic twist in a tragedy in which an action produces an effect opposite to what at first would seem likely; when the tables are turned.
reversible	a costume that is double faced so that by reversing it –the illusion of another costume is created.

reviews	type of criticism with the primary function of recommending or not recommending a movie or television program to an audience.
revolve	see revolving stage
revolving stage	a turntable built into the stage floor onto which scenery can be set and then driven into view. Can also be built on top of an existing stage.
RF	radio frequency
rhyme	the correspondence of sounds in the final syllables of two or more lines.
rhythm	the overall blending of all elements of a production with particular stress on rate, tempo and dialogue.
rhythmic movement	movement that follows a rhythmic pattern: marching, folk dancing, repeated dance movements, etc.
ribbon mic	delicate mic not suitable for high pressure sound levels.
rider	information sent to a venue (theater) by a touring group detailing lighting, sound, staging and dressing room requirements of a company. Ideally arrives before the company.
rifle mic	see gun mic
rig	the lighting construction or arrangement of equipment for a particular production.
rig, to	see hang
rigging	putting up the lighting construction and arrangement of equipment for a particular production.
ring up	to raise the curtain (UK)
ringing	a frequent problem that occurs with projection of sound, usually caused by the mic volume being up too high.
rip cut	cutting a board with the grain, "ripping" it
riser	1] any platform on stage. 2] the vertical portion of a step which gives a set of treads its height. 3] a mic which can be raised through a small trap in the floor to a convenient height for an actor.
rising action	the series of events following the initial incident in a play.
rising inflection	the use of the voice to indicate question, surprise, or shock.
ritual	repeated, unvarying, and symbolic actions of early man – they sought to influence the world around them through this universal human habit. Thought to be one of the origins of theatre.
road manager	a touring technician with one night shows, particularly musical groups.
road shoe	a device consisting of two metal arms at right angles to each other which is fastened to a flat to protect it.
rod puppet	a puppet constructed without shoulders, arms, or legs and manipulated by one or more rods.
role	an actor's character, lines, and actions in a play.
role playing	trying on the role of others, or assuming the part of another person in society.
role scoring	the process of analyzing a character line by line.
roll drop	backdrop on rollers
roller	a system whereby drops can be rolled up/down instead of flying in/out in a theater where there is limited fly-space.
Roman period	a modification of the Greek style of acting, dominated by comedies.
romantic comedy	a play that presents an idealized love affair; written in the style of romanticism.
Romanticism	18th century literary and artistic movement that focused on emotions or ideals.
rostrum	a portable platform, usually in the form of a collapsible hinged framework (gate) with a separate lid (deck).
rouge	reddish make up materials for use on the cheeks usually.
roundel	a transparent color medium placed on striplights to produce different colors.
royalty	the fee paid to the playwright or the holder of the copyright in return for the right to perform the work in public.
ruche	a pleating or gathering of fabric, cloth or drapes.
run	a sequence of performances of the same production.

run through	a rehearsal of a scene, act or play done without a stop for notes or corrections.
runners	1] a pair of curtains parting in the center and running horizontally. 2] persons employed as production assistants to do odd jobs and errands during a production period.
running crew	the crew responsible for running all aspects of a production.
running gag	device of comic anticipation that requires three exposures to provoke laughter – the plant, the establisher and the clincher.
running order	the order in which a show's scenes and songs are performed.

## Ss

safety chain	a chain used as a secondary means of suspension for a piece of lighting equipment.
safety cord	a 2 foot length of wire with a loop at one end and a snap clip at the other to prevent lighting instruments from falling from a batten or tree.
safety curtain	see fire curtain
safety procedures	policies and rules for a specific theatrical space to keep the entire company safe and free from injury.
Saint Play	see miracle play
samisen	a three-stringed instrument used in Kabuki theatre.
sampling	the technique of recording a sound digitally (translating the analogue audio wavelength into a series of electrical ons and offs that can be manipulated by a computer) for subsequent processing, editing, and playback.
sand bag	a canvas bag filled with sand, used to weight down items bracing scenery.
Sanskrit Drama	traditional Indian theatre, based upon episodes from Indian epics, these were never tragedies; good always triumphed over evil.
satire	a style of comedy that presents humorous attacks on accepted conventions of society, holding up human vices and follies to ridicule.
saturation	the brightness or dullness of a color.
saturation rig	a lighting arrangement using the maximum number of instruments allowed in every possible positing.
Satyr Play	argued to be the first type of play, with both tragedy and comedy deriving from it. Comic form of Greek play - there is only one extant script - Euripides <u>Cyclops</u> - provided comic relief from the serious tragedies.
scaffold	see truss
scaffold	an item constructed of pipe with various levels that allow one to stand on it when constructing or painting scenery.
scale	at a fixed ration to the full size.
scatter	the light outside the main spot of a beam.
scenario	a plot outline for a play or story.
scene	a small part of a ply or dramatized story. Scene also refers to the location of the story or play.
scene breakdowns	careful annotations of each scene in a play, with all necessary actors listed and some indication of the action and setting.
scene dock	high ceiling-ed storage are adjacent to the stage, sometimes used for building and storing flats and other scenery.
scene heading	a heading appearing in the left margin of a screenplay that contains information about the setting of the scene. also called a slug line.
scene plot	a list, a diagram, showing the scenery to be used in each scene of a production.
scene shift	a movement of scenery by stagehands to change a stage setting.
scenery	set pieces and backdrops that help the audience visualize the location of the story or play.

scenery hut	in an Elizabethan playhouse, what appeared to be a small house above the heavens; housed machinery that lowered and raised actors to and from the stage, often implying these actors were ghosts or supernatural creatures.
scenery wagon	a low platform on wheels, casters, or rollers, used to support heavy scenery in a stage setting, so that it can be shifted quickly.
scene-stealing	calling attention to one's presence onstage and diverting attention away from the main actors.
scenic designer	see scenographer
scenic paint	a mixture of glue size, water, and pigment. Modern practice has also adopted PVA as a bonding medium which can be used when scenery has got to be washed and used again.
scenic unit	a piece of scenery, such as flat
scenographer	designer of scenery
Scheherazade	fictional storyteller of the <i>Thousand and One Arabian Nights</i>
schmaltz	extreme sentimentality
scoop	a lighting instrument without a lens, used to provide flood lighting over a large general area.
score	the music of a show as it is composed.
SCR	silicon controlled rectifier- an electrical device that controls power flow; used in most modern dimmers.
screen	many types of projection screen are available. Some are multi purpose, some only for front projection, some only for back projection. If a screen is not self-supporting, it often has eyelets around the outside edge which are used to "lace" the screen onto a larger frame.
screen scenes	farcical scenes in which some of the actors hide from the other actors onstage, yet are able to hear and comment on the onstage dialogue.
screenplay	the script for a movie or television show.
screens	2 fold and 3 fold flats used either as walls against a drapery background or to cover openings or furnishings when changing scenes.
screenwriter	a person who writes a screenplay.
screw eye	a threaded metal ring screwed to the rear of a flat for securing a stage brace.
scrim	a thin - open weave fabric, used as a drop or as a section of a drop: when lit from the front it is opaque, when lit from behind it is transparent to translucent. see gauze
script	the written form of a dramatic performance; the dialogue, description of settings, and directions for actors written down by the playwright.
script scoring	the marking of a script for one character, indicating interpretation, stress, phrasing, pauses, and so on. also called scripting.
scripting	see script scoring.
scroller	color changing device in which a long string of up to 16 colors is passed horizontally in front of an instrument. Remotely controlled.
scumble	the wet blending of several hues of paint in patterns created with curved or straight brush strokes.
seam	a line of stitches joining two or more pieces of fabric.
seam allowance	the distance between the edge of the fabric and the seam.
seam ripper	for taking stitches out of fabric.
season	the slate of plays produced by a company or theatre program in a calendar year.
secondary characters	characters in the play other than the protagonist and antagonist. see supporting role.
secondary emphasis	a stage picture in which one focus is subordinate to another focus.
secondary lighting	separately powered lighting system for use throughout the building in the event of failure of the primary system. Usually battery powered. Maintained lighting is on all the time, regardless of changes in the stage lighting and is battery backed up.
secondary sources	books that help in development of characterization
seeing	the sensations perceived with the eyes.
segue	musical term for an immediate follow on.

self-concept	see self image
self-confidence	belief in yourself and your worth/abilities as a person.
self-image	the way you see yourself.
self-talk	mental comments and opinions we repeat to ourselves subconsciously.
Selio, Sebastiano	Renaissance scenic designer - used linear perspective. (circa. 1545)
selvage	the edges of a piece of fabric, where it is take off the machine.
semaphore	framed color gels are electronically lowered into place in front of the instrument. Remotely controlled.
Seneca	Roman dramatist- writer of blood thirsty blood and thunder tragedies that were intended to be recited. 5 BC - 65 AD
sensory awareness	heightened perception of the physical sensations of touch, hearing, sight, smell and taste; and of emotional states.
sensory recall	the ability to remember various sensory experiences associated with persons, places or things; the ability to remember, and to almost feel again, the stimuli that accompanied a particular experience.
sensory stimuli	that which stimulates one or more of the senses.
sentimental comedy	a form of British comedy popular in the early 1700's that emphasized triumphant virtue rather than laughter. see domestic comedy.
sequence	the order in which events happen or tasks are performed.
sequencing	recording digitally and manipulating the MIDI information required to remotely play a synthesizer keyboard or similar device.
serger	sewing machine that finishes the edges as it sews.
series splitter	an adapter consisting of a plug and two sockets wired in series. Allows two identical 110 loads to be safely run from a 240 volt supply. (UK)
set (verb)	to prepare the stage for action.
set (noun)	all the scenery, backdrops, set pieces, and props used to create a stage environment for a dramatic presentation; the performing area created by these elements.
set additions	in UIL - scenery such as special drops, curtains, steps, etc. which are not part of the basic set or approved unit set - requires permission.
set back	to reset technical systems to a particular point in the show in order to repeat a sequence during rehearsal.
set designer	someone who designs the set for a production. see scenographer.
set pieces	the freestanding pieces of scenery within the stage environment for a dramatic performance.
set property	a prop which stands on the stage floor
set, box	see box set
set, drapery	see drapery set
set, permanent	see permanent set
set, skeleton	see skeleton set
set, unit	see unit set
set, wing and drop	see wing and drape set
setting	the designing and staging of the locale and background of a dramatic presentation.
setting line	see curtain line
setup	in filming, a new camera position or change in the composition of a scene in a camera frame.
sewing gauge	used to accurately measure hems and seam allowances.
sewing machine	for making straight and zig zag stitches, some machines also make other stitches.
SFX	sound effects
shade	deep or dark colors
shadow play	a drama produced by placing a light source behind actors or puppets so that the audience sees them as shadows on a screen.

shadow puppet	a flat, two dimensional puppet designed to cast a shadow or form a silhouette on a white screen.
shadowing	the term used for applying makeup to bring out or change or correct facial features using shadows.
Shakespeare, William	often called the greatest playwright in the English language, lived 1564-1616. Credited with writing 38 plays, including comedies, tragedies, histories, and romances.
Shamanism	common to all traditional cultures - the Shaman is a priestly figure who communicates directly with the gods through ritual for the benefit of the community.
shape	a two dimensional area or plane that may be organic or inorganic, free form or geometric, open or closed, natural or manufactured. In dance and drama, shape refers to the configuration of the body or the space in which the performers move.
share	to assume a position of equal dramatic importance with another actor.
shared position	a position onstage in which one actor mirrors another's body position.
shears	fabric scissors for cutting fabric with a straight cut.
sheave	the wheel in a pulley which carries a wire or rope
shift	to move scenery as during a scene shift
shift crew	the crew responsible for changing the set in between scenes.
shooting script	a script in which each individual shot is specified by number and type of shot.
shop	a place where scenery or other theatrical materials are made
shot	the actual recording of a scene on film or videotape.
show relay	a network of speakers which carry the sound of the show to the backstage areas.
show tape	a tape of distinct sound segments played at particular points in a performance.
showmanship	a sense of theatre and the ability to present oneself effectively to an audience.
shutter	a device of metal, used in conjunction with a lighting unit, to limit the rays of light to any area desired. see barn doors
side lighting	the placing of lighting instruments behind the tormentor position for facial modeling and costume accent.
side-coaching	a technique used by the coach/director during acting or playmaking in which the director offers suggestions or comments from the side of the playing area to heighten and advance the playing or action.
sidekick	a secondary male lead character, often a comic role and a friend to the lead; counterpart to the soubrette.
sides	used in musicals, gives only the character's cues and his lines, not the entire script.
sight	the sensation of seeing through the stimulation of the optical nerve.
sightlines	a series of lines drawn on a plan or plot to indicate the limits of the audience vision from all seats. Often marked in the wings as a guide for cast and crew.
silicon controlled reflector	see SCR
silk	a special type of diffusion filter which stretches the light in one direction. Especially useful for lighting large cycs with a limited number of instruments or for lighting an elongated object with one instrument. (like a staircase)

sill iron	a bar of steel or iron used as a tie across the bottom of a flat with a door or other opening to give greater rigidity.
simultaneous playing	several players playing the same characters or story at the same time in creative dramatics.
sitcom	see situation comedy
situation	a problem or challenge a character or characters must face.
situation centered approach	an approach to telling a story that takes a single situation or a series of situations and puts characters in them to show how different personalities respond to the same event - in creative dramatics.
situation comedy	recurring TV programs, usually weekly, that explore comic situations with the same basic cast of characters.
situation role playing	improvisations which focus on understanding the viewpoints of others.
sitzprobe	the first rehearsal between the opera singers and the orchestra. No attempt is made to move or act at this rehearsal.
size	a glue/water mixture that seals the pores in the muslin that covers a flat.
sizing	see scenic paint
skeleton set	a set consisting of frames and openings; usually used on an open stage.
skene	in Greek theatre, a permanent building at the back of the orchestra.
skip	a large wicker basket or box, often wheeled, which stores costumes and/or props for touring. (UK)
skit	a short dramatic presentation, usually humorous
skull cap	a latex cap that covers the head like a hairless wig - used to create the illusion of a bald head or with crepe hair, a receding hairline.
sky drop	see cyc
slate	in film and TV production - a record keeping device that provides reference information about the production, date, scene, and take number - allowing film editors to synchronize images and sound.
slip-joint pliers	tool for clamping, gripping, or bending materials
slipstitch	a small, loose sewing stitch looped from the outside of the fabric, under the folded edge and up - used for sewing hems.
slotted screwdriver	tool for use with standard slotted screws.
slug line	see scene heading
SM	stage manager
smell	sensations perceived by the nose that distinguish odor.
smell of the greasepaint, the	phrase indicating the odor of greasepaint - referring to the glamour of theatre life - often concluded with "the roar of the crowd"
smoke machine	electrically powered unit which produces clouds of white non-toxic fog by the vaporization of mineral oil. Specially designed for use in theatre and film. Vital for revealing airborne light beams and lasers.
smoke pocket	vertical steel channel on the upstage edges of the proscenium arch in which the edges of the fire curtain travel.
smoke pot	a container used to hold the chemicals or other substances from which smoke is produced for certain optical effects.
snap	a lighting or sound cue with no fade time - the cue happens instantly.
snap line	chalked piece of string, which, when stretched tight and "snapped" is used for marking straight lines on stage or scenery as a painting aid.
sneaking	moving gradually from one spot to another without motivation or direction. Not acceptable to most directors.
soap opera	began on the radio as a dramatic afternoon show for women, usually sponsored by companies that made soap; made an easy transition to TV; some may now be seen in prime time in the

	evening.
<b>Socialist Realism</b>	constructivism
<b>socket</b>	the base which holds the lamp in an instrument.
<b>soft edge</b>	said of illumination which is not sharply defined.
<b>soft light</b>	asymmetric flood light used as a fill light in TV studios to eliminate shadows and balance the key light.
<b>soliloquy</b>	a monologue usually delivered while the character is alone onstage, thinking aloud.
<b>solo</b>	an act or song done by one person
<b>solo playing</b>	any number of players performing by themselves in their own playing areas at the same time in creative dramatics.
<b>Sophocles</b>	Greek playwright -famous for writing tragedies, including <u>Oedipus, the King,</u> and <u>Antigone.</u> (496 - 406 BC)
<b>soubrette</b>	a secondary female lead, often a comic role and friend to the lead; counterpart to the sidekick.
<b>sound</b>	vibrations in the air that stimulate the auditory nerves and produce the sensation of hearing.
<b>sound check</b>	a thorough test of the sound system before a performance.
<b>sound crew</b>	the group responsible for planning and preparing all sound effects needed for a production.
<b>sound designer</b>	the person who plans and puts into effect the sound for a production.
<b>sound effect</b>	see effect
<b>sound effects</b>	sounds used to enhance a performance or production.
<b>sound plot</b>	the plan of all the sound effects and music needed for a production.
<b>sound reinforcement</b>	amplifying a voice just enough so that it can be heard, without the audience being aware that it is being amplified. (in an ideal situation)
<b>soundstage</b>	the area of a studio building in which a TV or movie is shot.
<b>spatial perception</b>	activities which focus on how the body moves in space and how characters move in relationship to one another.
<b>spattering</b>	a method for applying paint to scenery in which drops of paint are flung onto a painted surface using quick jerks of a paint brush. Spattering requires a minimum of two colors of paint that are different from the base coat - adds texture.
<b>speaker</b>	see loudspeaker
<b>special</b>	an instrument which is required for a specific moment or effect within the performance and is not a part of the general cover lighting.
<b>special effects</b>	any effect out of the ordinary - fire, storms, explosions, etc.
<b>spectacle</b>	a production that uses an abundance of costuming, extra people, and extravagant sets to overwhelm the audience.
<b>speech patterns</b>	the idiosyncrasies in a voice that make it individual and unique.
<b>spike</b>	an indication on the stage floor of the proper position of furniture, scenic pieces or properties, also the verb indicating the marking of these positions.
<b>spill</b>	rays of light which are not useful in stage illumination or that go beyond desired areas.
<b>spin-off</b>	a TV program that features a character from another TV program.
<b>spirit gum</b>	a sticky substance applied to the skin for adhesion of prosthetics or crepe hair.
<b>SPL</b>	a measurement of the loudness of a sound. (sound pressure level)
<b>splicing</b>	the act of cutting and joining pieces of magnetic recording tape.
<b>splitter</b>	see adapter
<b>sponsor</b>	a company that supports a TV show, movie or theatrical production with its advertising and sometimes goods and services.
<b>spot</b>	see spotlight
<b>spotlight</b>	general term for any lighting instrument with a lens system. see Fresnel, ERS, etc.
<b>squelch</b>	control on a radio microphone receiver for fine tuning the reception according to the surroundings.

stage	the area where the players perform: usually a raised platform.
stage area	a portion of the stage , one of six or more sections, into which the acting area is divided; includes center, up center, down center, right, down right, etc.
stage brace	a length of wood or iron, usually extendible, which is used to support a standing flat. It stretches diagonally downward format he back of the flat. see brace, cleat, jack
stage business	see business
stage cable	a flexible electrical conductor, consisting of one or more wires or ribbons sheathed in fiber, rubber or cotton and covered with a heavy outer sheathing.
stage call	a stage conference of directors and actors.
stage combat	any stage fighting, from a slap to a battle
stage crew	the theatrical employees who build and shift scenery, handle properties, prepare lighting and so forth.
stage directions	information provided by the playwright to give the actors instructions on how to feel or what to do when certain lines are spoken. These directions are set apart from the dialogue, either by differing type or parenthesis. [Stage directions can also be added by the first company to perform the play.]
stage door	an outside door at the back or side of the theatre for actors and other theatre people or for the passage of scenery.
stage electrician	member of the electrics staff whose responsibility it is to set or clear electrical equipment during scene changes.
stage environment	see setting.
stage fright	the nervous anticipation some actors feel before going onstage to perform.
stage hand	a person who sets the stage, changes scenery, and performs other duties, usually a member of the stage carpenter's crew.
stage house	the area in a theatre that includes the stage and the fly space above the stage.
stage left	the area of the stage on the actor's left as he stands facing the audience.
stage lighting	illumination of the actors and acting areas.
stage makeup	see makeup
stage manager	the head of the stage management team (with the assistant stage manger or ASM and the deputy stage manger, the DSM)
stage manager's booth	place from which the stage manager calls the show.
stage picture	an appealing and meaningful arrangement of performers on stage - pictures that the audience sees on stage.
stage right	the area of the stage on the actor's right as she stands facing the audience.
stage screw	a large metal hand screw, with a grip or handle, used for fixing a stage brace or a foot iron to the stage floor.
stage technician	see stage crew
stage weight	a slotted cast iron weight. Used in counterweight systems or to anchor scenic pieces.
stagecraft	skill in or the art of, composing for production, producing, or in any way participating in the production of, a dramatic piece.
stagger through	the first attempt to run through the whole show - very rarely runs smoothly, hence the name. (UK)
staging a show	see mounting a production
stakes	the consequences of an outcome.
stand by	1] warning given to technical crews by the stage manager that a cue is imminent. Techies acknowledge this by saying "standing by" 2] a performer who is an understudy but who does not report to the theatre unless called to perform, and may perform one or two shows on a regular basis.
Stanislavsky	Russian director who developed method acting.
Stanislavsky method	see method acting

staple gun	for attaching fabric to wood, used to attach staples of various lengths in a variety of uses.
star cloth	see fiber optics
stasima	choral songs in Greek plays
state	in lighting terms, a lighting picture - each lighting change results in a different or modified state.
State props	the furniture or set pieces needed in a production
state props	the furniture and set pieces needed in a production.
status quo	a character's present circumstances.
stealing the show	taking the focus away from the main theme/character of a scene/play.
step lens	a glass lens with ridges, used in a Fresnel spotlight.
step unit	a scenic unit with more than one step - in UIL approved set there are two 4' step units that have a 1' tread and a 6" rise and two 2' step units that also have a 1' tread and a 6" rise.
stereotypical character	a familiar character identified by an oversimplified pattern of behavior that typically labels the character as being part of a group of people.
stiffener	a wood batten, used to strengthen the back of a piece of scenery.
stiffening batten	see stiffener
stile	a strip of wood used as one of the two vertical outside pieces in the frame of a flat.
stimuli	see sensory stimuli
stipple sponge	a coarse, sponge-like block patted onto makeup to create a textured surface.
stippling	a method of applying paint in dots or short strokes using a sea sponge, wadded up rag or feather duster - also using a stippling sponge on makeup.
stock character	an easily recognizable character. A flat, one dimensional character with predictable actions. (example: young lovers, witch, villain)
stock scenery	standard set pieces that can be adapted and used for various purposes.
stop cleat	a piece of metal or wood attached to the back or corner of a flat to keep the adjacent flat flush.
storage plot	a diagram showing how scenic units are to be stored during a show.
story	the narrative form of a series of events with an identifiable beginning, middle and end (plot)
story board	a series of individual sketches showing a sequence of events of possible shots for scenes in the script.
story dramatization	creative dramatics technique improvising a story based on literature.
story dramatization	a playing/acting process to interpret and share a story by using improvisation rather than scripts in creative dramatics.
storyteller	a person who tells a story and passes on the oral tradition.
storytelling	the art of sharing stories with an audience.
straight make up	makeup that shows the performer as he or she normally appears; used to define features more clearly
straight part	a role in which the actor and the character are similar.
straight stitch	the primary stitch used for putting fabric together
stretch knit seam	seam which is zig zagged twice, following the same line, about 1/8" apart.
stretching a character	making a role unique, individual and interesting.
strike	a removing of scenery to clear the stage; also to dismantle, remove, and store scenery used in a stage setting; a command given to clear the stage of scenery.
striplight	row of low powered lamps mounted in a trough with a reflecting hood and often with color frames or roundels.

strobe	device giving a fast series of very short intense light flashes which have the effect of making action appear intermittent. Because strobe light can trigger an epileptic attack in sufferers, the use of a strobe must be communicated to the audience before the performance begins.
study	in the Elizabethan playhouse, a curtained recess in the center rear of the stage, also known as the inner below.
Sturm and Drang	literally "Storm and Stress" a German Romantic movement of the late 1700's that rejected the tight structure of neoclassicism and embraced the less constrictive dramatic form of William Shakespeare.
style	the manner in which a play was written and the period it relates to.
sub bass	that part of the speaker system designed to extend the low frequency range of the system.
subplot	a secondary story related to the primary plot.
substitution	the use of an actor's experiences to relate to the experience of a character in a play.
subtext	the meaning underlying the dialogue and stage directions in a script.
summer stock	plays presented during the summer by companies that are based in one place - usually of the repertory type.
super	non-speaking actor who is not specifically named in the script.
Superconference	(student activities conference) sponsored by UIL - workshops for students held each fall.
superimposition	in film and TV, a visual effect achieved when one picture is brought on top of another.
supporting role	a character or position that is of less importance than the principle roles.
suspend belief	pretend that what is happening onstage or during playmaking is real.
sustained inflection	the use of the voice to suggest calmness, decisiveness, or steadiness of purpose by staying on the same pitch.
swag	a hanging curve of fabric between two points.
swatch	a fabric sample
swing	a member of the company of a musical who understudies one of the leads and also in the chorus - does not have a name in the chorus.
SWL	safe working load - the maximum weight that should be put on a lifting device or a suspension point.
symbol	that which stands for and represents something else.
symbolism	use of characters, props, and sets to exemplify ideas; for example, a bluebird may symbolize happiness; a late 19th century artistic movement that began as a reaction against realism.
symmetry	a regular balanced pattern, the same on one side as the other; a harmony of design.
synthesis	a combination of elements to form a whole.
synthesizer	an electronic device used to create artificial sounds.

## Tt

tab (curtain)	originally tableaux curtain which drew outwards and upwards, but now generally applied to any stage curtains including a vertically flying front curtain and especially a pair of horizontally moving curtains which overlap at the center and move outwards from that center. (UK) a narrow drop. (US)
tab dressing	see curtain warmers
table vise	clamp for holding wood and other objects in place while working on them.
tableaux	a living picture. also spelled tableau
tableaux curtain	see tab
tack hammer	small two headed hammer for setting and driving tacks.

tactile	perceived by or related to the sense of touch.
tag line	a final line in a play, especially one that serves to clarify a point or create a dramatic effect.
tailor's chalk	used for marking fabric
take	see shot
take in/out	to move scenery into or out of a theatre, to move scenery into or out of position
take yourself out of the scene	the actor's turning away from the audience into a three-quarter or full back position.
taking the stage	using the entire stage - usually during a lengthy speech.
tallescope	a reversible ladder on an adjustable wheeled base. The platform at the top is just large enough for one person. Used for hanging and focusing instruments.
tape	to record on videotape.
tape loop	a continuous loop of tape which produces a continuing sound effect when played. Used for long sound effects such as rain and wind.
tape measure	a measuring tool - either metal in a spring loaded roll in lengths starting at 10' or a sewing measuring tape that is flexible, made of fabric, and 36" to 45" long.
Tarras	a balcony above the stage in the Globe Theatre that served as another acting area.
taste	the sensations perceived by the tongue that distinguish flavor.
tat	(UK) slang - small (but still useful) scraps of wood and cloth.
teaser	a short horizontal curtain (border) or flat, neutral in color, used to mask the flies and to frame the top of the stage opening at any desired height just behind the front curtain.
techie	any technician working on a production.
technical	pertaining to the arts and skills of stage production other than acting.
technical acting	use of learned skills of acting, movement, speech, and interpretation to create roles - no emotional response is used; also called objective acting.
technical director	the person working under the stage manager or director who has charge of all of the technical aspects of a production, such as the construction of scenery and the operation of equipment, both before and during a run.
technical rehearsal	a rehearsal that focuses primarily on the technical aspects of a production.
technique	the physical skills essential to the performer; the integral training of the body.
teleplay	a TV script
television	the electronic public broadcast medium with live or prerecorded shows that is both an auditory and visual experience. There is no actor/audience interaction.
tempo	the rate of speed of a composition or a section of music.
tension	the controlled flow of energy within the body ready to be used for positive action.
Terrence	Roman dramatist- writer of farces and comedies. 195-160 BC
Texas Educational Theatre Association	professional organization founded in 1951 for the purpose of strengthening and increasing the effectiveness of Texas educational theatre at all levels.
text	in theatre, the content of a written script, or the agreed upon structure of the dramatic material.
textual audition	an audition in which an actor uses material from a manuscript or a printed play; may be a monologue or a scene.
texture	the surface quality of materials - either tactile or visual.
texturize	to give texture to a surface - either tactile or visual.
theater	the place where a performance or show is held for an audience to see. It can be an outdoor setting as well as an enclosed building.
theatre	all the collaborative activities needed to produce a dramatic work to an audience, the art of producing plays.
theatre of alienation	see epic theater
theatre of cruelty	a form of theatre employing non-verbal communication, developed by the French avant garde playwright, actor, and director Antonin Artaud in the 1920's and 1930's.

theatre of involvement	theater in which members of the audience participate in the action of the play.
theatre of the absurd	a theatrical movement beginning in the 1950's in which playwright created works representing the universe as knowable and humankind's existence as meaningless.
theatre safety	keeping the casts, crews and audience free from harm, danger or risk of injury.
theatrical agent	see agent
theatrical gauze	a thin open weave linen fabric, semi-transparent used as a drop; when lighted from behind, it gives an effect of dream, mist, haze, etc. It is sometimes confused with scrim. (gauze is the term used for scrim in the UK)
theatrical supply	a business firm which furnishes supplies and equipment for the theatre.
theatricalism	a style of theatre that does not try to imitate reality and presents drama as drama, not as real life.
theme	the central thought, idea, or significance of action with which a story or play deals.
theme song	a melody used throughout a dramatic presentation: a strain of music that establishes a mood through repetition.
thespian	actors
Thespians	see International Thespian Society
Thespis	Greek actor and playwright - believed to be the first actor to step out of the chorus.
three dimensional scenery	scenic pieces such as staircases, rocks, trees, and other sculptural forms.
three fold	a scenic unit made up of three flats hinged together to form a book: also one of the UIL approved set pieces - 8' tall and made up of a one 3' flat and two 18" flats.
three quarter right/left	stage position where the actor faces the back of the stage with her feet pointed in a 45 degree angle right or left.
through line	the major action of a play and one of two elements out of which most scripts grow.
throw	the effective distance to which light beams can be projected.
throw line	(UK) see lash line
thrust stage	a stage with the audience seated on three sides. The stage extends, or thrusts out into the audience space.
thumbnail sketches	preliminary sketches or rough drawings.
thunder sheet	large suspended steel sheet with handles which produces a thunder-like rumble when shaken or beaten.
tie off	to make fast a line.
tight pin hinge	a hinge without a removable pin, opposite of loose pin hinge.
tilt	the vertical movement of a light.
timbre	the quality of the voice that makes it unique and different.
timing	the rate at which lines are said and the time between lines.
tints	light or pastel colors
tip jack	see jack, tip
tiring house	in the Globe Theatre, a permanent structure on the stage that served as a background for all scenes.
toenail	a way to join two boards in which a nail is driven at a 60% angle from the first board into the second.
toggle	a wooden batten used horizontally at the middle of a flat to strengthen it.
tone	speaker's attitude toward a subject.
top	to make the voice heard above and beyond whatever is happening on stage.
top hat	see hood
topstitched seam	seam which is opened after sewing and then stitched on the opposite side, on top of the fabric.
tormentor	one pair of narrow curtains of flats, neutral in color, just behind the front curtain and teaser, used

	to frame the sides of the proscenium opening at any desired width and to mask the off stage space at the sides. (wings)
total theater	theatre in which all the performing arts are fused into one presentation.
touring company	a company of actors who take their show on the road, as opposed to a resident company.
tower	a platform onto which lighting instruments can be hung.
tracing paper	used with a tracing wheel for transferring markings from patterns to fabric.
track	a path along which information is recorded electronically.
tragedy	a play that ends with the defeat or death of the main character; it is based on a serious theme or conflict, as opposed to a comedy.
trailer	a film preview to be shown as coming attractions in movie theaters.
traits	characteristics
transducer	a device that converts energy from one form to another. A microphone is a transducer that converts sound wave energy into electrical pulses.
transformation	an instant scene change, often effected by exploiting the varying transparency of gauze/scrim under different lighting conditions.
transition	movement, gesture, or words that acts as a bridge between beats in a monologue; verbal or visual connection that separates and links scenes.
transverse	form of staging where the audience is seated on either side of the playing area.
trap	an opening for the passage of actor, objects, etc., commonly in the stage floor or in a piece of scenery, concealed by a cover.
trap room	the area directly below the traps - used for accessing the traps.
trapeze	a short single lighting bar
traveler (curtain)	a curtain which will cross the width of the stage.
tread (step)	general name for any stage staircase or set of steps. The step of the staircase is called the tread.
treatment	the second stage in writing for film and television which involves telling the story in narrative form without the use of dialogue.
tree	see boom
triangle	a stage composition utilizing diagonals on each leg.
trilogy	a set of three plays related by theme, story and/or character.
trim	the adjustment of scenery so that it is hung in its proper position; also the decorative woodwork of a setting; or small pieces of furniture that are not intended for any important use but are decorative.
trim props	props that are hung from a part of the set.
trim props	anything that is hung on the set (pictures, drapes, etc.)
troubadours	strolling musicians that set poems to popular melodies during the Gothic era.
truck	see wagon
trunnion arm	see yoke
truss	a framework of ally bars and triangular cross bracing providing a rigid structure. see scaffold
trust	the ability to risk expressing yourself in front of your classmates without fear of being ridiculed.
try-outs	see audition
Tudor	see Medieval
tungsten-halogen (TH)	
turn	techie slang for an actor. (UK)

turning the scene in	focusing audience attention on the actor who is the real center of the dramatic actin by having the other actors shift their bodies and look at this key character.
turntable	a revolving, circular platform, usually part of a revolving stage and either forming part of the stage floor or resting on the stage floor by means of castors.
TV	see television
tweeter	part of the speaker system designed to handle the high frequency part of the signal.
twirlies	techie term for dancer. (UK)
twist	an unexpected event or outcome in a plot
twist-lock connector	a type of electrical stage connector that will not pull apart when properly inserted and twisted.
two dimensional scenery	scenic devices which are flat, such as flats, curtains, etc.
two fold	a pair of flats hinged to fold together face to face, and therefore able to stand without support; also an element of the approved UIL one act play setting; these elements are 8' high and consist of 2 2' flats hinged together.
type cast	identifying and casting an actor in the same kind of role over and over again.

## Uu

UIL	the University Interscholastic League in Texas
ultra violet	short wavelength source of light at the end of the visible light electromagnetic spectrum which causes specifically treated materials to fluoresce on an otherwise blackened stage. Used for technical effects and for lighting onstage technical areas (such as fly floors). Ultraviolet sources designed for the stage are known as Black Light sources and have all harmful radiation filtered out.
underscore	music played to accompany dialogue
understudy	actor who is able to play a given role in a play.
unified aniline dye	a dye for most fabrics that results in a deep shade of color.
union	a labor union, such as the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employers.
union dyes	commercial dyes available in supermarkets and fabric stores. (i.e. RIT)
uniqueness	the actor's ability to shape a character's personality into itself and not make a copy of someone else's portrayal.
uniqueness	an actor's ability to shape a character's personality without making a copy of someone else's portrayal.
unit	a piece of scenery, with it's component parts, if any, which is inserted into a flat; a piece of scenery which forms a part of a unit setting; a piece of lighting equipment.
unit set	a basic stage setting from which several settings can be created. also the UIL approved flexible and modular units described in the <i>supplements</i> of the <u>Handbook for One Act Play</u>
unities	single action, time, and place that lend structure to drama; derived from the Renaissance interpretations of Aristotle's <u>Poetics</u>
unity	when all elements of the set form a perfect whole, centering on the main idea of the play.
universal	including all, present everywhere - can be used with anything.
University Interscholastic League	the state wide organization for public elementary and secondary interschool competition in Texas.
unnatural	machinelike or puppet-like.
unusual stage	UIL term meaning properties not readily available at contest sites

properties	
upstage	the back half of the stage.
upstage center or up center	a stage position that is upstage and center.
upstage center right/left	a stage position that is upstage and just to the right or left of center
upstage left/right	a stage position that is upstage and to the far left or right of center.
upstaging	improperly taking attention from an actor who should be the focus of interest.
USITT	United States Institute of Theatre Technology
utility knife	tool used for cutting cardboard, carpet, and other light duties.

## Vv

vacuum forming	a process of reproducing architectural and textural relief detail on sets by forming a thin plastic sheet into the required shape by a suction process.
valence	a border or similar drapery which is hung above the front curtain to conceal the flies or above a window curtain to conceal a pole. also see teaser.
value	a color's lightness or darkness.
vamp	to repeat music until a singer or scene is ready to begin.
variation	the breaking of any repetition of pattern.
Velcro	strips of material that adhere to each other when pressure is applied.
versatility	the ability to change style or character with ease.
Victorian	drama dealing basically with good and evil. This period was also dominated by the melodrama.
video	type of moving picture film used in TV
video assist	a piece of equipment attached to a film camera that allows the director so see the framing of a scene as it is shot.
villain	a character who functions as the antagonist in a play - the bad guy.
vista shots	far away shots
visual cue	a cue taken by a technician from the action on stage rather than being cued by the stage manger.
visualization	the formation of a mental image or picture; something in the mind's eye.
visualizing	the act of imagining and seeing pictures in your mind.
vocal chords	muscular membranes in the larynx that produce sound. also called vocal folds
vocal folds	see vocal chords
voice over	a recording of a voice that plays over other sounds.
voiced	those consonants, such as "b", "d", and "v" that cause vibration of the vocal folds when sounded.
voiceless	those consonants, such as "f", "p" and "t" that do not cause vibration of the vocal folds when sounded.
volt	a unit measurement of electrical pressure between two points in a single current. see voltage
voltage	see volt
volume	the strength, force, or intensity with which a sound is made.
VU meter	meter which indicates the average level of a signal.

# Ww

wagon	a scenic device, sometimes with guide tracks, sometimes with wheels, used for shifting scenery quickly.
wagon set	set placed on a wheeled platform that can be rolled onto the stage.
waiting in the wings	expression to describe actor's readiness for entry onto the stage.
walk a flat	in scene shifting, to carry a flat upright; to raise a flat to or lower it from a vertical position by hand.
walk through	a rehearsal in which the actors do all of the blocking and business but do not say the lines.
walk-on	a part where the actor walks on and off stage without having any lines to say.
wardrobe	stage costumes assembled for use in stage productions or stored in the theatre; also a room for their storage and repair.
wardrobe manager	the person responsible for creating the costume plot and for caring for the costumes during rehearsal and performance.
warm up	an activity designed to limber up actor's bodies/voices as well as positive mental attitude toward further drama work.
warn cue	to notification of an upcoming action; usually an indication in the promptbook that such things as an entrance, lighting change, or a sound effect will soon take place.
wash	a low level fill light, usually aimed from the balcony rails.
wash out	the drain of color by light that leaves the actor, costume, or scenery lifeless in appearance.
water cracker	device which produces a thin haze in the air by cracking water droplets.
wattage	the measurement of electric power; all lighting instruments, lamps, dimmers, and fuses are given wattage ratings to identify their electrical capabilities.
watts	see wattage
wavelength	the distance from one vibrating wave to the same point on the next wave. The lengths of sound waves we can hear range from one inch to 40 feet. High frequency sounds have short wavelengths and are more directional. Low frequency sounds have long wavelengths and are less directional. In light, blue is the short wavelength, green is medium wavelength and red is long wavelength. see frequency.
weight	see stage weight
well-made plays	European theatre in the late 1800's - plays that featured formulaic, often melodramatic, studies of middle class domestic life; in recent theatre - plays with a traditional plot structure.
wheel	color changing device in which an electronically or manually controlled disc, fitted to the front of an instrument, is turned to change colors – can be remotely controlled.
whiteface	makeup generally worn by clowns, mimes, consisting of white foundation on the face with accentuated eyes and mouth.
whiteface clown	a clown with whiteface makeup -see whiteface
whiting	powdered chalk, used in scenic painting.
whodunit	a crime solving or courtroom drama.
winch	the device by which wagons are moved onto and off of the stage; basically a large drum around which steel cables are wound or unwound by means of a crank.
winch system	see counterweight system
window flat	a flat with an opening for a window unit.
window unit	a scenic piece (a flat) which contains a working window.
wing and drop set	a set made with pairs of wings on both sides of the stage and a matching traveler or backdrop.
wing flat	a flat, usually one of four, usually a 2-fold, and usually painted, which conceals the offstage space at the side of the acting area and helps decorate the stage setting.
wings	offstage to right or left of the acting area - the backstage space on either side of a proscenium stage.

wipe	in film and TV, a visual effect achieved when one shot succeeds a previous shot succeeds a previous shot by wiping it off the screen.
wire rope	fine steel wires woven into a rope to give great strength. A kink or knot in a wire rope greatly reduces the strength.
wood clamp	clamp made of wood for eliminating warping and for holding work together during assembly without leaving a mark.
woofer	type of speaker cone that reproduces low pitched sounds.
work call	the time period during which the crew is called to work on any technical element of a production without actors or rehearsal.
work lights	white lights used solely for rehearsal. In some theatres strip lights double as work lights.
work out	in a dance or movement rehearsal - a vigorous session to prepare the body for work.
work print	a print of a film used for cutting and editing.
working backwards	a technique in which an actor prepares the audience for what a character will do later.
working drawing	a detailed drawing showing how a piece of scenery is to be constructed.
working rehearsal	a rehearsal at which interpretation of the play is developed and words and actions are put together.
workshop	1] a short class on a specific topic 2] any non performing area of a theatre.
wrecking bar	used to pry apart nailed boards.

## Xx

X	abbreviation for cross
xx	abbreviation for countercross

## Yy

yoke	the handle of a lighting instrument - see trunion arm.
yo-yo	a device used for remotely moving a gobo in one plane whilst it is in the lantern. Gives the effect of lateral movement.
yugen	the basic aesthetic element of Japanese Noh drama - defined as "mystery"

## Zz

zero dB	the common reference point when discussing sound levels. Levels above 0db are expressed as positive and below 0db as negative.
zig zag stitch	a sewing stitch that is used for elastic or stretch stitches.
zoom	style of camera shot, using a zoom lens to shoot the subject from a distance that makes the subject appear very close; first used by D. W. Griffith.
zoom profile	a type of lighting instrument with two lenses enabling the adjustment of both size and level of focus (hard or soft).+