

Theatrical Terms

As in all subjects, Drama has its own specialist terms, words and phrases. Using the correct terms speeds up explanation, clarifies meaning and enables you to be much more specific.

Aside

A speech delivered to the audience, supposedly not heard by the characters on stage.



Backdrop

Scenery hung at the back of the stage.



Cue

A signal prompting an event in a performance, e.g. an actor's speech or entrance, a lighting or sound effect.



Flats

Flat pieces of scenery which can be painted to give the appearance of buildings or setting.



Flies

The space above the stage, where scenery can be hung or stored when not in use.



Gauze

A material which can be see-through when lit from behind, or appear solid when lit from the front.



Iron

A safety curtain separating the stage from the audience in Proscenium Arch theatres.



LX & SFX

LX - Lighting effects. SFX - Sound effects.



Prompt

A person (off stage) who prompts an actor if they forget their lines.



Props (properties)

Items used by an actor during a performance, e.g. cups, books, weapons etc.



Rostra

Wooden stage blocks or small platforms.



Stage Manager

Person in charge of running the show from the wings.



Truck

A platform or rostrum on wheels used to move furniture, set or scenery on or off the stage easily.



Wings

The unseen area on either side of the stage hidden from the audience's view.

