



Theatre Terminology 101

- 1. Apron** - Nope it is not the thing that protects your clothes in the kitchen! It is the front of the stage that projects past the curtain.
- 2. The House** - Not the place you call home (unless you are, of course, a mouse that lives on the theatre chairs!)! This term is used to refer to **the main auditorium** or the patrons of a show. You may hear 'the front of the house' when referring to anything happening on the audience side of the curtain.
- 3. Director** - Control central for **developing and plotting every aspect** of the production. Before the show starts!!
- 4. Stage Manager** - Control central for **everything backstage!** Once the production opens, this person directs everything backstage.
- 5. Blocking** - You may think this refers to the planning of your local street party..... But think again! These are the **directions given to the actors for details on stage**, such as where to stand, move to or be when on the stage. This is done during rehearsals.
- 6. Downstage, Upstage, Right Stage, Left Stage**.....Sounds like Dr. Seuss to me! Remember, these left and right sides of the stage are **from the actors viewpoint**. Downstage is towards the audience, upstage is towards the back of the stage.
- 7. Dresser** - Not the location where you keep your socks tidy (or untidy!). Nope, these are the **persons who assist the actors backstage with costumes** before, during and after the show.
- 8. Booth** - Not where you buy your tickets! This is the location at the back of the theatre where **Lighting and Stage Management work from** where they can see the whole show.
- 9. Green Room** - Does not serve green eggs and ham ! It is, however, the **common area** where performers can 'hang out' (when time permits ☺).

10. **Costume tracks** - Not where the costumes run! This is the list of costumes for each performer that helps the actor and the dresser to coordinate costume changes, at the right time in the show.
11. **On Com** - Or, did we mean dot com? Nope, this term means that someone is on the headsets that facilitates communication between various parts of the theatre
12. **Prop Master** - Don't drop your prop! This person in charge of collecting and distributing objects that are used in the show. (And these **PROPERTIES** are used by the actor during the show...these must be left in their specified location for use during the show. Other than the actor who uses them, please do not touch!)
13. **The Grand** - You may think this is the staircase fit for a princess? In the theatre world, this is **front curtain on the stage**, closest to the audience.
14. **The Mid Stage Traveler** - Perhaps, a pre-retirement holiday plan?? I am afraid you have to wait for that! The **mid Stage Traveler** is the **curtain** that can be opened and closed in the middle part of the stage.
15. **Blacks** - Blacks, blue, reds, and hues..... some colouring we' will do? Not during the show! This refers to the **black clothing** worn by stage persons to ensure they are not seen by the audience during the show (or **any black drapery** used to mask the sides of the stage).
16. **Call Time** - A moment in time when a Mom gets to chat with a friend on the phone? Nope, this is **the arrival time at the theatre** for crew and actors.
17. **Off script (Off Book)** - the point in time when the actor no longer needs script in hand for their lines. There are deadlines for this!
18. **Read Through** - a meeting with all cast to read through the script. It is an opportunity to learn the text and meet each other.
19. **Run Through** - Does a 'river run through it'? Only for Meryl Streep! This is the rehearsal of the entire show.
20. **Tech Rehearsal** - Not the time for learning new electronics! This rehearsal includes all the effects of the show such as lights, sounds, and scenery.
21. **Sign in Sheet** - No trick here! This is the place where all cast, crew and volunteers sign in for every show.
22. **Strike** - Definitely not the time for actors and crew to don picket signs!! This term refers to the removal of an item from the stage or to cleaning the theatre of all remnants of the show after the last performance.