

## S

**s hook** -- shaped like an 's', it's used to attached stiffeners to the top rail or to the toggle bar on a flat

**sandbag** -- a bag of sand used to counter weight the drops hung from the grid and as a useful weight for a triangular jack supporting a scenic piece

**satire** -- play that ridicules social foibles, beliefs, religious, or human vices, almost always in a light-hearted vein. Example: The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde

**saturation** -- the amount of color in a pigment or lighting filter; high saturation means deep color

**satyr play** -- a short Greek play presented after three tragedies to supply the comic relief, so-called because the chorus disguised themselves as satyrs, half men and half goat creatures

**scale model** -- □ inch cardboard model built from ground plans and elevations so that the set can easily be visualized

**scansion** -- the analysis of a line of verse in metrical terms.

**scenario** -- outline of the play

**scene** -- division of an act, usually denoting a change in time or place; can also be the descriptor for the locale of a play

**scene bay, dock** -- a place just off the stage proper used to store flat scenery and load in other pieces of the set

**scene breakdown** -- a list of scenes showing which characters are in which scenes

**scene-change light** -- a dim light cue designed to allow a scene change crew to work without the audience feeling that a real scene in going on

**scene shop** -- where scenery is constructed

**scene-shop manager** -- the person who maintains the scene shop and, with the TD, decides how the scenery will be built

**scenic artist** -- a person who applies paint and other forms of decoration to scenery

**scenic designer** -- one responsible for designing the set

**schtick** -- a repeated bit of comic business, routine, or gimmick used by a star performer

**scoop** -- a simple lighting instrument composed of a standard bulb and a large reflector

**SCR dimmers** -- the standard form of electronic dimmers

**scrim** -- a net or gauze curtain, drop, or set that appears opaque when lighted from the front but becomes transparent when lighted from behind

**script** -- dialogue, lyrics, and stage directions of a musical or play

**set, setting** -- indicates the place where the action of a play occurs through the arrangement of the scenery, furniture, lighting and props establishing this place of action

**set dressing** -- decorations that have no function on a set, but are merely placed there to look good

**set line** -- the setting for a play outlined on the stage floor

**set props** -- props that are used only as set dressing and are not handled by actors

**sewn-in fullness** -- a technique for draperies where the fabric is gathered into folds and permanently sewn that way

**shared lines** -- where a line is shared between two or more speakers.

**share stage** -- placing actors so all have equal focus and emphasis

**shift** -- the striking of one set and the setting up of scenery for another

**shoestring production** -- a show put together with a bare minimum of financial help

**show drop** -- a front curtain designed especially for a particular production

**shutter lines** -- the hard shadows caused by pushing in a shutter on an ellipsoidal

**shutters** -- the metal tabs on ellipsoidals used to cut off part of the light

**side light** -- light that comes from stage right or left of the performer

**sides** -- half sheets of paper that have one character's speaking lines and lyrics with cues and stage directions

**sight cue** -- a non-verbal cue usually given as stage business

**sight gag** -- visual humor from a funny prop, costume, makeup, hairstyle, or movement

**sight lines** -- imaginary lines from seats at the sides of the house and top of the balcony to the stage to determine what parts of the acting area will be visible to audience members sitting in those seats

**sign-in sheet** -- a list of performers and crew that lives on the callboard; cast and crew should check off their name when they arrive

**silhouette** -- a lighting effect when you light the performer only from upstage, or when you light a drop behind her

**sill iron** -- the thin strip of flat iron running across the bottom opening of a door flat to keep it rigid

**simile** -- a comparison using 'like' or 'as'.

**simultaneous staging** -- stage arrangement in which more than one set appears on the stage at once, often with a neutral playing area (plateau) in front that can be used as part of which ever set is being used at the time

**simple physical action** -- the process of performing a physical activity and knowing the reason why.

**sizing** -- a glue mixture applied to new canvas prior to painting

**sketch** -- a brief farcical bit found in revues

**skin** -- the top of a platform, where the actor stands

**skit** -- a short dramatic sketch, usually humorous

**sky drop** -- a blue drop representing the sky

**slapstick** -- comedy that stresses horseplay and wild physical buffoonery

**slip stage** -- a large platform on wheels that can carry a full setting with properties

**slow burn** -- slow, comic realization that something bad has happened; the disgust and anger builds within the actor until he/she explodes in rage

**slow take** -- actor slowly looks out to the audience as he/she slowly realizes what has been said or done

**smoke machine** -- a machine that produces billowing smoke that hangs in the air

**snap line** -- the line left by a chalked string stretched taut and snapped on a surface

**snap out** -- an instantaneous blackout

**snow bag** -- (or cradle) a long bag strung between two battens and filled with artificial snow; shake it gently and it will "snow" onstage

**social drama** -- plays dealing with the problems of society

**soliloquy** -- inner thoughts of a character spoken alone on stage to explore the character's private thoughts; often lyric in style and highly emotional

**sonnet** -- a poem of fourteen lines written in iambic pentameter.

**sound designer** -- the person who operates the sound system during a performance

**space stage** -- an open stage that features lighting and, perhaps, projected scenery (film, slide or television pictures that are projected from the rear or the front onto a surface that is part of the set)

**splatter** -- throwing paint out of a brush onto a flat to achieve a textured effect

**special** -- a lighting instrument that is used to light a single, isolated person or thing

**special effect** -- technical effect -- usually spectacular -- found in a play, television program, or film. These can vary from the relatively simple gunshot or the flying of a character to a vast flood or thermonuclear war. The more elaborate special effects may be beyond the capacity of the most theatre technicians; in this case, a specialist -- a special effects artist -- may be employed.

**spike** -- to mark the stage floor with chalk or tape to indicate the position of furniture, properties, or scenery so that they will be placed correctly during scene shifts

**spike tape** -- colored tape that is used to mark (or "spike") scenery positions onstage

**spirit gum** -- a liquid adhesive used to glue on facial hair

**spotlight** -- powerful lights used to light a certain area on the stage from the front of the house or from the balcony

**spotlighting** -- focusing a strong light on one individual or a group, often used for solos or duets in order to attract the audience's attention to the most important people onstage

**spotting** -- the process of moving a Fresnel lamp forward in the instrument, thereby making the beam of lighting narrower; the opposite of "flooding"

**SRO** -- indicates a full house; standing room only

**stadium stage** -- theater space where banks of seating face each other and design elements are simulated on end walls

**stage brace** -- used to prevent flats from shaking

**stage business** -- all visual activity an actor does on stage other than personal business that fills out the details of his character

**stage convention** -- departure from reality that the audience will accept such as a character in a musical suddenly breaking into song and being accompanied by an orchestra

**stage crew** -- the crew that works backstage during the show, shifting the scenery

**stage crew chief** -- the person who decides how the shift will be done and assigns the crew their individual jobs

**stage directions** -- those instructions given to the actor by the director

**stage fright** -- a normal tension felt by performers, amateurs and professionals alike before curtain time

**stage left/right** -- the left/right side of the stage, from the actor's perspective

**stage manager** -- member of the artistic leadership of a theatre company who accepts full responsibility for the integrity of a production once it is open to the public. The stage manager normally □ calls the show □ (i.e., gives commands to execute all cues during performance) and accepts responsibility for maintaining the artistic integrity of the production throughout the duration of its run.

**stage picture** -- arrangement on a stage of performers and the visual production elements

**stage plug** -- (stage pin, three pin) one of two common types of plugs on stage lighting instruments, it has three round pins and a square black plug

**stage screw** -- a large hand screw used to fasten stage braces to the stage

**stage struck** -- an overwhelming desire to break into theatre as a performer, often without regard to experience or ability

**stage whisper** -- a very loud whisper uttered by an actor so that the entire audience can hear it

**stalled cue** -- a pause affected immediately after a cue is picked up

**standby** -- performer who is prepared to substitute for a star in case of an emergency; unlike an understudy, the standby does not appear in the musical at other times

**Stanislavsky method** -- a system of acting created by the Russian director and actor Constantin Stanislavsky, in which the actor finds and expresses the inner truth of the character by defining the character's objectives, developing a subtext for every moment on stage, exploring the character's emotional life through emotional memory and improvisation

**static scene** -- a scene with little movement and no drive; to be avoided at all cost

**steal** -- to move onstage without attracting the audience's attention

**steal a scene** -- to attract attention that should be on another actor

**stichomythia** -- rapidly alternating single lines spoken by two characters.

**stiffener** -- a board of any length attached to a flat for the purpose of making it more rigid

**stile** -- a vertical support on a flat

**still** -- a photograph of a scene from a play usually for promotional purposes

**stitcher** -- the costume shop worker who assembles pieces into finished costumes

**stock character** -- a familiar character who appears in a variety of plays including the villain, the hero, the clever servant, the fool, etc.

**stock company** -- a theatrical company having at its command a number of plays

**stock scenery** -- scenery that is stored and used for many different productions, e.g., flats and platforms

**stooge** -- a performer placed in the audience to act as a tool or butt of the comedian's joke

**stop the show** -- audience response for a character, scene or song which is so great that the action of the play must be literally stopped until the applause subsides

**straight line** -- the line that sets up a punch line so it will get a laugh

**straight man** -- one who delivers straight lines to a comic

**straight run** -- a rolling platform that only rolls forward and back, as opposed to a swivel platform, which can go any direction you want; also describes the castor that makes this possible

**straight-run platform** -- a rolling platform that only moves forward and back, not side to side

**strap hinge** -- a heavy, diamond-shaped hinge used for locking door frames onto flats or hinging especially heavy pieces together

**street theater** -- open-air spaces where acting troupes try to attract audiences, often for the purpose of social activism

**strike** -- in two words, to remove; in rehearsal, perhaps a prop, like a glass or a chair; after a production, the entire set and all the properties from the stage area

**strip light** -- a lighting instrument composed of a string of lamps in a long, metal housing; aka border light

**strong area** -- those areas on the stage that are the strongest in getting and holding the audience's attention

**strut** -- a scenery support

**subtext** -- the thoughts that accompany the line, implied but not spoken in the text. The actors invent the subtext appropriate to their characters and situations to help achieve the sense of immediate truth.

**swag** -- draperies that are looped or sewn in loops

**swan song** -- an actor's final performance, originating from the idea that the swan is supposed to make a final utterance before it dies

**swing** -- singer and/or dancer who is prepared to substitute for chorus members who are unable to perform

**swivel** -- a castor that is able to roll in any direction

**symbolist drama** -- a form of drama in which subjectivity and spirituality is considered a higher form of truth than mere observance of outward appearance

**super, supernumerary** -- a performer without a speaking part who appears in a mob scene

**syntax** -- sentence structure; the way in which words, phrases, and clauses are arranged in a sentence.