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ham -- an inferior or pretentious actor, often one who doesn't know he's bad

hamartia -- a tragic flaw which is the undoing of a particular actor

handbill -- a printed announcement of a forthcoming show

hand props -- any item carried and handled by an actor in a play

hanger iron -- used to support scenery to be flown secured to the frame of a flat through which a line can be attached

hang the show -- to hang all the flying scenery and lights for a play

hard-wired electric -- a hanging pipe that is permanently wired with circuits for lighting instruments

header -- small flat used to fill the space between two flats to create a doorway or window

heads up -- a signal that an object is being lowered from above

heavy -- role of a villain

heightened language -- writing that is rich in imagery and poetic forms and is often metrical.

heroic drama -- period play written in verse. In contrast to tragedy, it is marked by a happy ending, or an ending in which the deaths of the main characters are considered a triumph and not a defeat. Example: *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand

high comedy -- a play using a subtle type of comedy designed for an intellectual audience with characters who are often artificial and display false emotions

hit -- a successful play or performer

hold -- to pause for laughter or applause to die down

hood -- a large metal container on a lighting instrument housing the lamp

hooper -- a dancer

hookup chart -- a list showing which circuit and channel is being used for which lighting instruments

hotspot -- the center of a beam of light; the brightest part of the beam

house -- rows of seats in which the audience sits to watch a performance

house left/right -- the left/right side of the auditorium, from the audience's point of view

housetlights -- lights that illuminate the auditorium of a theater; all the lights in the auditorium except the exit lights. These lights usually dim and are controlled from the light booth

house curtain -- full drapery that separates the stage from the audience. This curtain is rigged to move up and down or open from side to side.

hyperbole -- extravagant and obviously exaggerated language.