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rails -- the top and bottom boards of a flat

rain box, pan -- a shallow meshed receptacle containing dried peas or lead shot which is tilted back and forth to produce the sound of rain

raked stage -- a stage that is slanted, either to increase visibility or to produce false perspective

ramp -- a sloped platform-like runway upon which an actor may walk

raspberry -- a jeer from the audience

rave -- an enthusiastic appreciation of a show by a critic

readers' theatre -- an oral interpretation of prose, sometimes drama, by a group of performers standing or sitting onstage

read-through -- cast reads through the play to clarify meaning and pronunciations and to gain greater insight into character development and interpretation

real -- believable, truthful, genuine.

realism -- a theatre movement concerned with portraying life as it is, as compared to the more romantic acting

recitative -- operatic dialogue that is sung in a style that suggests the inflections of speech

refrain -- main part of a song, often having thirty-two measures

regional theatre -- also called resident theatre. A term applied to permanent nonprofit professional theatre companies that have established roots outside the major theatre centers. Besides bringing first-rate theatre to their region, they often have programs to nurture local talent and to encourage new plays of special regional interest.

rehearsal -- the time for discussion and analysis of the play, a time for the performers to learn their parts and their blocking and to synchronize the playing aspect of the show with the technical aspect of the production

relief -- scene, often comical, to relieve the audience from sustained emotional tension, after which the tension continues

rendering -- perspective drawing of the stage set; colored sketch of the finished set as it will appear, under light, to an audience member seated in the center of the house.

repartee -- short, funny replies in dialogue

repertory -- set group of productions that a theatre company has prepared for performance; also, the practice of alternating performances of different plays of the repertory

representational stage plays -- purports to show life as it is with actors appearing to be living their parts while ignoring the spectators who are allowed to watch the events through the "fourth wall"

reprise -- in musicals, a repetition of a song or dance with some variations

resident company -- a non-touring group using the same core of actors for the majority of its plays

resolution -- the unraveling of the difficulties in a drama so that the solution can be revealed

restoration drama -- 1600 style of theatre which Charles II restored after 18 years of no theatre in England; displayed excellent literary style as well as the irresponsible life of the aristocracy of the period

restore -- bringing the lights up or down to where they were before some event (like a musical number) occurred

return piece -- a flat parallel to the footlights and used to finish off or end the downstage right and left edge of the set

revival -- to bring a show back on stage, usually an old favorite, after a lapse of time

revolving stage set -- features a □revolve□ which is a circular platform that can be turned to show different scenes

revue -- a song and danced spectacular often burlesquing recent events

rhetoric -- the art of persuasion.

rhyme -- matching sounds at the end of verse lines.

rhythm -- refers to the timing and pace in a play

rim light -- light that comes from the back or side of a performer; used to define the edge of the performer and make him distinct from the background

ring down -- close the front curtain

rise -- indicating a curtain is going up

rise and run -- the ratio of stair height (the rise) to the stair width (the run)

risers -- stage platforms

rising action -- that action in a play that occurs before the climax

road company -- a company of performers who travel with a show that they present in essentially the same way it was originally created in a theatre center such as New York

road iron -- angular irons tacked onto the corners of flats so they won't splinter

rock musical -- a musical that features rock music

role -- a part in a play, a character

romantic comedy -- a drama about an imaginative love story

rondel -- a glass color filter clipped to a lighting unit for color variety

royalties - payments made to authors (and their representatives) for permission to reproduce, in text or in performance, their artistic products (plays, designs, etc.)

run -- the number of performances for a particular show

run-on lines -- see enjambement.

running crews -- all the skilled employees who run the show including flyman, production electrician, production soundman, production property manager, wardrobe supervisor, wig master, union stagehands, etc.

running gag -- comic business that is repeated throughout a musical

run-through -- rehearsal in which the actors perform long sections of the play (an act or the entire play) without interruption, usually to improve the sense of continuity and to gain a better understanding of the shape of the whole