



Online High School Technical Theater Course

Virtual Tour - Glossary

Stage Door - A door at the back or side of a theater, used by performers and theater personnel.

Angel Base - Our “code name” for the main security office at Bass Performance Hall.

Principal Dressing Rooms – Where a star or lead in a show can dress and get ready for their performance.

Company Management – In a travelling company, manages all the travel, accommodation and day-to-day needs of the acting, design and technical company members including meals, medical needs, and transportation. The Company Manager may or may not travel with the production.

Call Board - A bulletin board in a theater on which notices are posted announcing rehearsals, changes in the cast, arrival times, etc. Traveling shows will often post cast changes, restaurant info, important announcement and request forms.

Job Steward - In charge of the local union crew. Keeps track of union crew members and hours worked, assigns crew to departments, handles employer/employee problems, and sees that all work rules and standards are followed.

Stage Manager - Organizes the day to day running of a theater company from rehearsals right through to performances and then post-show. They liaise and communicate with the full company and organize each team to ensure the smooth running of a production. The Stage Manager also calls the production, instructing all board operators and crew members when to trigger lighting, sound, or set cues and all actors when to enter the stage.

Backstage Page – When the Stage Manager uses a microphone to make a call over the show relay to all the dressing rooms and backstage areas.

Infrared Camera - Infrared light waves are outside the visible spectrum but are present, even in total darkness. Infrared cameras pick up infrared light, allowing Stage Managers and other crew members to see what is happening on stage, even when the stage is dark.

Front of House Camera - In this case "front of house" can refer to both the general audience/public area or to the specific small section from where the show is mixed. A camera is placed on a balcony so that a stage manager can watch the show remotely.

Paradigm Lighting Control - A touch screen interface to control basic presets of work lights and house lights.

Amplifiers - A piece of equipment which amplifies or increases the sound captured by a microphone or replayed from record, CD or tape.

P.A. (Public Address) System - An electronic system comprised of microphones, amplifiers, loudspeakers, and related equipment. It increases the apparent volume (loudness) of a human voice, musical instrument, or other acoustic sound source or recorded sound or music.

Stage Pin - Also known as a **grounded stage pin (GSP)** or **grounded pin connector (GPC)**. A standard cable connector for theatrical lighting generally used for conducting dimmed power from a dimmer to stage lighting instruments.

Edison - An ordinary household electrical plug in the United States. Characterized by having two flat blades and a semi-round ground pin.

Main Curtain - Hangs just upstage of the proscenium arch and is used to close the acting area from the audience's view when the acting area is not supposed to be seen.

Mezzanine - First or lowest seated balcony in the theater.

(Lower & Upper) Gallery - A raised area, often having a stepped or sloping floor, in a theater, church, or other public building to accommodate spectators, exhibits, etc. The uppermost of such areas in a theater, usually containing the cheaper seats.

Mix Position - A location within the auditorium, often temporary, from which a sound mixing console is operated during the performance.

Ghost Light - An electric light that is left on the stage of a theater when the theater is unoccupied and would otherwise be completely dark.

ETC Ion - A computer dedicated to the control of theatrical and stage lighting.

Chain Motors - Generic term for an electric chain hoist. A tackle employing an endless chain instead of a rope and operated in workshops from an overhead track for hoisting heavy weights. These are rated specifically to hold weight above peoples' heads.

Center Cluster - An array of speakers hanging front and center to help even coverage between the left and right speakers.

Forestage Reflector - An acoustical panel to act as a reflective sound ceiling for live sound performances.

Pit Lift - A section of the orchestra pit floor that may be raised and lowered by some mechanical (typically motorized) means.

Light Ladders - Steel bards that allow for side lighting, especially important in dance and theater (in order to light the whole body, not just the face). Most theaters that have light ladders have one upstage of each leg, and there are usually 3 or 6 instruments on each ladder.

Acoustic Curtains - Essentially sound absorbers used for control of reverberation or unwanted echo. These curtain panels can be a static element or hung on track for more mobility.

Video Patch Panel - A device or unit featuring several jacks, usually of the same or similar type, for the use of connecting and routing video circuits for monitoring, interconnecting, and testing circuits in a convenient, flexible manner.

Concert Ceiling Control - A computer that controls multiple steel cable winches at a time and has multiple presets for specific configurations for the massive concert ceiling.

Audio Isolated Power - A power system which provides an ungrounded electrical service for various applications that is separated from the rest of the buildings power.

Cyclorama - A background device employed to cover the back and sometimes the sides of the stage and used with special lighting to create the illusion of sky, open space, or great distance at the rear of the stage setting.

Meat Rack - Large rack on wheels for storing lighting instruments and light bars.

"ETC Fixtures" - Electronic Theatre Controls is a top brand for stage lighting.

Line sets - The line set is the fundamental machine of a typical fly system. The function of a typical line set is to fly (raise and lower) a slender beam (typically a steel pipe) known as a batten by hoisting it with lift lines (typically synthetic rope or steel cable). By hanging scenery, lighting, or other equipment on a batten, they in turn may also be flown. A batten is said to be "flying in" when it is being lowered toward the stage, and

"flying out" when it is being raised into the fly space. Battens may be just a few feet in length or may extend from one wing (side) of the stage to the other. A batten is suspended from above by at least two lift lines, but long battens may require six or more lift lines.

Wardrobe Room - A room or place in which to keep clothes or costumes.

Trap Room - A large open space under the stage of many large theatres. The trap room allows the stage floor to be leveled, extra electrical equipment to be attached, and most importantly, the placement of trap doors onto the stage (hence the name). It is usually unfinished and often doubles as a storage area.

Chair Wagon - A framed, rolling platform on which auditorium chairs are permanently mounted. The wagon is stored on a "shelf" below the fixed audience seating or stage apron. To deploy the seating wagon, the empty lift table is lowered to the storage shelf. The wagon is rolled onto the lift, aisle lights are connected, and the wagon is locked in place. Finally, the lift table is raised to auditorium level. The process is reversed to store the wagon. A small lift may hold a single wagon, but more often the lift area is divided into two or three seating wagons.

Marley - In the dance industry, the term "marley" describes just about any roll-out vinyl floor used as a dance floor.

Front Fills - Small speakers placed on the front lip of the stage to cover the area usually in the middle of the first few rows of seats. This is an area that the main PA array does not cover well.

Power Distro - A power distribution box that takes higher voltage power and converts it into usable circuits.

Back Line - Audio amplification equipment for bands behind the stage, such as amplifiers for guitars or synthesizers. Some bands and venues have expanded the meaning of backline to include other instruments for musicians, including bass guitars, keyboards, drum kits, and other percussion instruments.

Audio Snake - A multi-channel audio cable that can carry multiple individual audio signals from point A to point B via a single cord.

Soundcraft VI3000 - A 96 channel 36 fader digital audio console to control and live mix live audio.

Bug Screen - A nickname for a temporary wall panel or privacy screen.

Soft Goods - All legs, borders, and drops made of fabric. Any piece of masking or fabric that runs up and down the stage.

RP – Rear projection Screen.

Gel – A colored piece of plastic that can be affixed to a lighting fixture to change the color to be cast on the stage.

Gobo - A stencil or template placed inside or in front of a light source to control the shape of the emitted light.

Jump - A raised work platform within the stage house for hanging lighting, accessing line sets and raising cables above the stage.

Pin Rail - A rail on a fly gallery, wall, etc., holding two rows of pins or cleats for securing lines attached to scenery.

Dimmer - Racks onstage which power the lighting rig for the show in the theater and allow for lights to be dimmed, rather than only being turned on or off.

Grid or Gridiron - A metal structure high above the stage of a theater, from which ropes or cables are strung to scenery and lights.

Winch Motor - Winches are frequently used as elements of backstage mechanics to move scenery in large theatrical productions

Sheave - A component with a groove around its circumference to support and contain a rope or cable and a bearing at its center to permit rotation about a shaft.

Spanset - A extremely strong webbing covered loop using for rigging and slinging.

Catwalk - An elevated service platform from which many of the technical functions of a theater, such as lighting and sound, may be manipulated.

Source Four - The Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC) Source Four (also known unofficially as Source 4 or S4) is an ellipsoidal reflector spotlight (ERS) used in stage lighting. The Source Four is widely used by professional theaters across the globe.

Loading Bridge – Specific to a stage house using a counterweight system, the loading bridge, or loading gallery, is a catwalk vertically positioned above the fly gallery. The loading bridge is used to add or remove counterweights from arbors.

Batten - (also known as a bar or pipe) is a long metal pipe suspended above the stage or audience from which lighting fixtures, theatrical scenery, and theater drapes and stage curtains may be hung.

Arbor - A carriage or rack that contains weights, usually flame cut steel or cast iron, in sufficient quantity to balance a load.

Biscuit – a speaker with a microphone to talk on a two radio or party line communication.

Spot Booth - An isolated room usually at the highest point in a theater or arena that houses the follow spots.

Follow Spots - Spotlights that are manually operated during a performance to highlight actors or areas of the stage.

Clear Com –A theatrical intercom system called a party line where multiple people can speak at the same time or over each other. Used for communication during shows.

Fly Rail – The area where the ropes of a fly system or counterweight system are located. “The rail” specifically refers to the length of metal railing where the rope locks are affixed.

Pipe Heavy – When the batten is not balanced and there is less counterweight than the weight of the batten itself.

Assisted Listening - Devices that help to amplify the sounds on stage with the use of headphones for audience members who have hearing impairments.

Diana - In Roman mythology, Diana was the goddess of the hunt, mythologically like the Greek goddess Artemis. Often portrayed with bow and arrow and accompanied either by a deer or hounds, Diana was the goddess of both wild and domestic animals. Since the Renaissance, the mythic Diana has often been expressed in the visual and dramatic arts. During the Renaissance, she became a popular figure in art, poetry, and drama.

Digital Signal Processor - Takes real-world signals like voice, audio, video, temperature, pressure, or position that have been digitized and then mathematically manipulates them.

Soundcraft VI6 - this is a 96 channel 36 fader digital audio console to control and live mix live audio.

ETC (Electronic Theater Controls) Gio @ 5 - Lighting Console, computer to create automated presets for lighting.

Links:

[Meet the Ghost Light at Bass Performance Hall](#) – Blog Post

[Ghost Light video from Detroit](#) – Video

[Lion King Load-In Segerstrom](#) – Video

[Diana by Augustus Saint-Gaudens](#) – Web Post
[More Pictures of BPH Spot Booth](#) – Blog Post