



NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE  
CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS  
Canada is our stage. Le Canada en scène.

# ENGLISH THEATRE

## Word Search

E	S	A	M	A	R	O	L	C	Y	C	G
P	G	C	A	U	D	I	E	N	C	E	N
R	N	M	R	D	R	E	V	M	O	R	I
O	B	O	G	I	E	G	O	B	D	A	K
S	P	O	R	P	M	O	S	R	V	K	S
W	I	N	G	S	R	U	E	P	O	E	A
C	O	V	K	N	P	S	S	R	A	G	M
Y	G	A	E	S	S	K	S	A	M	R	P
C	R	E	T	E	E	M	C	R	B	A	T
T	R	A	R	V	O	M	I	T	O	R	Y
G	G	B	L	O	C	K	I	N	G	I	B
E	M	U	I	N	E	C	S	O	R	P	W

AUDIENCE  
BLOCKING  
CYCLORAMA  
DRESSER  
GOBO

GREEN ROOM  
MASKING  
PROPS  
PROSCENIUM  
RAKE

SCRIM  
TRAPS  
UPSTAGE  
VOMITORY  
WINGS

# Word Definitions

## **BLOCKING**

The precise moment-by-moment movement and grouping of actors on stage.

## **CYCLORAMA**

Also called a “cyc” (pronounced “sike”).

A large light coloured backdrop, sometimes curved, located at the back of the stage and lit to produce various effects such as sky, fire, coloured washes. Can also be used as a surface for projected scenery and effects.

## **DRESSER**

Member of the wardrobe crew who helps actors in and out of their costumes, launder costumes, distribute them for each performance and assist with any quick changes that may need to happen.

## **GOBO**

A thin metal plate that has had a design cut into its center, which can then be projected by a lighting instrument. (The effect of a leafy forest floor or bars in a jail could be conveyed using a gobo.)

## **GREEN ROOM**

A room backstage used by actors and crew members to wait for their entrances or cues.

## **MASKING**

Any flats or curtains that hide the backstage area from the view of the audience.

## **PROPS**

Short for “properties”. All articles on stage except the scenery are known as props. Furnishings and other large items are known as set props. The objects handled by an actor during his or her performance are called hand props. Props carried on an actor’s person such as pipes, watches or fans are known as personal props.

## **PROSCENIUM**

The arch that forms a frame at the front of a stage.

## **RAKE**

A stage or a riser that is built on an incline or slant. This may be done to help with visibility, or create a scenic effect.

## **SCRIM**

A drop made of a special weave and used to achieve revelations or other scenic effects. When lit from the front, a scrim is opaque; when an actor or object behind a scrim is lit, the scrim becomes transparent revealing the actor or object.

## **TRAPS**

(Trap Doors): A part of the stage floor that can open and close allowing actors (or objects) to appear or disappear.

## **UPSTAGE**

The back of the stage. To “upstage” another actor is to move upstage from him/her so he/she must turn away from the audience to address you, or to move or draw attention away from another actor.

## **VOMITORY**

An auditorium entrance or exit that emerges from the theatre’s seating area to connect a thrust stage with the area below the seating. Dates from ancient Rome where it was a common architectural feature of coliseums.

## **WINGS**

Curtains or flats at the sides of the stage that mask the offstage area from the audience; also, those areas offstage and to the sides that have been masked. The term is used in a general way to describe all areas at the sides of the stage.



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