

Hermosa Beach Community Theatre – Theatre 101 Terms and Definitions

Presented Event: An event that has been produced by a third party. A venue operator then pays for it to be performed in their facility, assuming responsibility for ticket sales, marketing, technical services, and so on.

Produced Event: An event that has been developed from the ground up by a creative team (directors, actors, designers, etc.) assembled by the venue/venue operator.

Rental Event: An event is one that has been produced by a third party. That third party then pays a venue/venue operator to use its facilities for the performance or event. In this scenario, the renter is usually responsible for ticket sales, marketing, and most technical services, although this can vary from one venue to the next.

Block Booking: When three or more presenting organizations coordinate to schedule an artist, group, or touring production. The presenting organizations then split the cost of the production's expenses.

House Mix Position: Where the sound engineer controls the sound heard by the audience (often times located within the audience).

Control Room: An area designated for the operation of technical equipment.

Follow Spot: A spotlight that can be moved around by an operator to follow a performer on stage.

House Left / House Right: The side of the auditorium from the spectator's viewpoint facing the stage.

Stage Left / Stage Right: The side of the stage from the performer's viewpoint facing the audience.

Green Room: A lounge backstage where performers wait when they are not needed onstage or in dressing rooms.

Star Dressing: The room where lead roles can apply makeup and change into costumes.

Scene Shop: A specialized workshop for fabricating and assembling flats, platforms, and other scenic pieces required for performance.

Fly Tower: The space above the stage where scenery, drapery, equipment, and sometimes performers can be suspended.

Wing Spaces: Areas offstage where performers prepare to enter and where sets for scenes are stored. Can store technical equipment, such as the fly system.

Sound and Light Locks: A vestibule that separates the auditorium from the lobby or circulation areas, to keep noise and light out of the auditorium.

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

Rigging: A term that describes how equipment on stage is suspended and moved.

Acoustical Absorption: Refers to how a material takes sound energy when sound waves are encountered.