

Vocabulary

Theatrical Terminology

BLOCKING: All the onstage movement done by the actors in the course of the play.

BOOTH: A small space where the stage manager usually spends each performance (although other techies, like board operators, use it as well) and communicates to the rest of the stage management crew by headset.

CALL A SHOW: To notify, usually via head set, board operators and stage hands of each cue in advance and as it arises during each performance.

IATSE: International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, or IATSE, is the union covering stage hands and other theatre technicians.

MARKING: Going through a scene to run through the actors' movements and the corresponding lighting, sound and set cues.

ON BOOK: A member of the crew is said to "be on book" if they are holding a copy of the script and are in charge of helping the actors if they forget a line or blocking.

PUT-IN REHEARSAL: A rehearsal held for the purpose of having the understudy put into the role for a run through of the play with the rest of the cast.

STANDBY: Unlike an understudy who usually is given advance notice when called upon to perform, a standby is ready to step into the role at a moment's notice if an actor becomes injured or sick during a given performance.

Vocabulary from *The Understudy*:

KAFKAESQUE: The quality of a world that is nightmarish, beyond one's control, and yet somehow also darkly humorous.

SATIRE: Criticism of some element of human nature through wit or humor.

STATUS: The position of an individual in relation to another or others, esp. in regard to social or professional standing.

ANNIHILATED: Destroyed completely

DOCKET: List or calendar of cases to be heard by a court or judge

EXISTENTIAL: Relating to the nature of existence

MAGISTRATE: An official who administers the laws

PARIAH: One who is a complete outcast

WHELP: A young child or young animal

