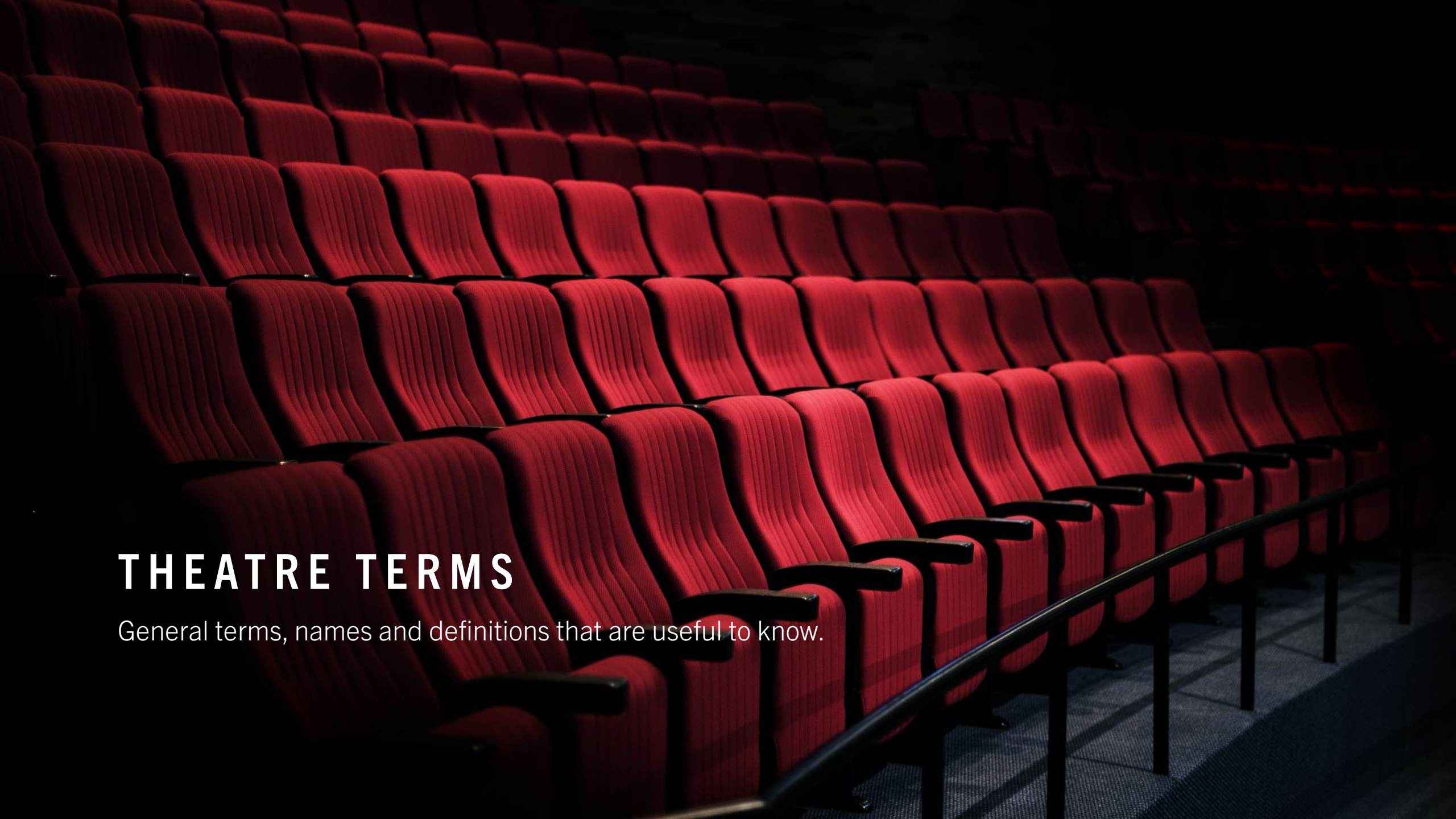
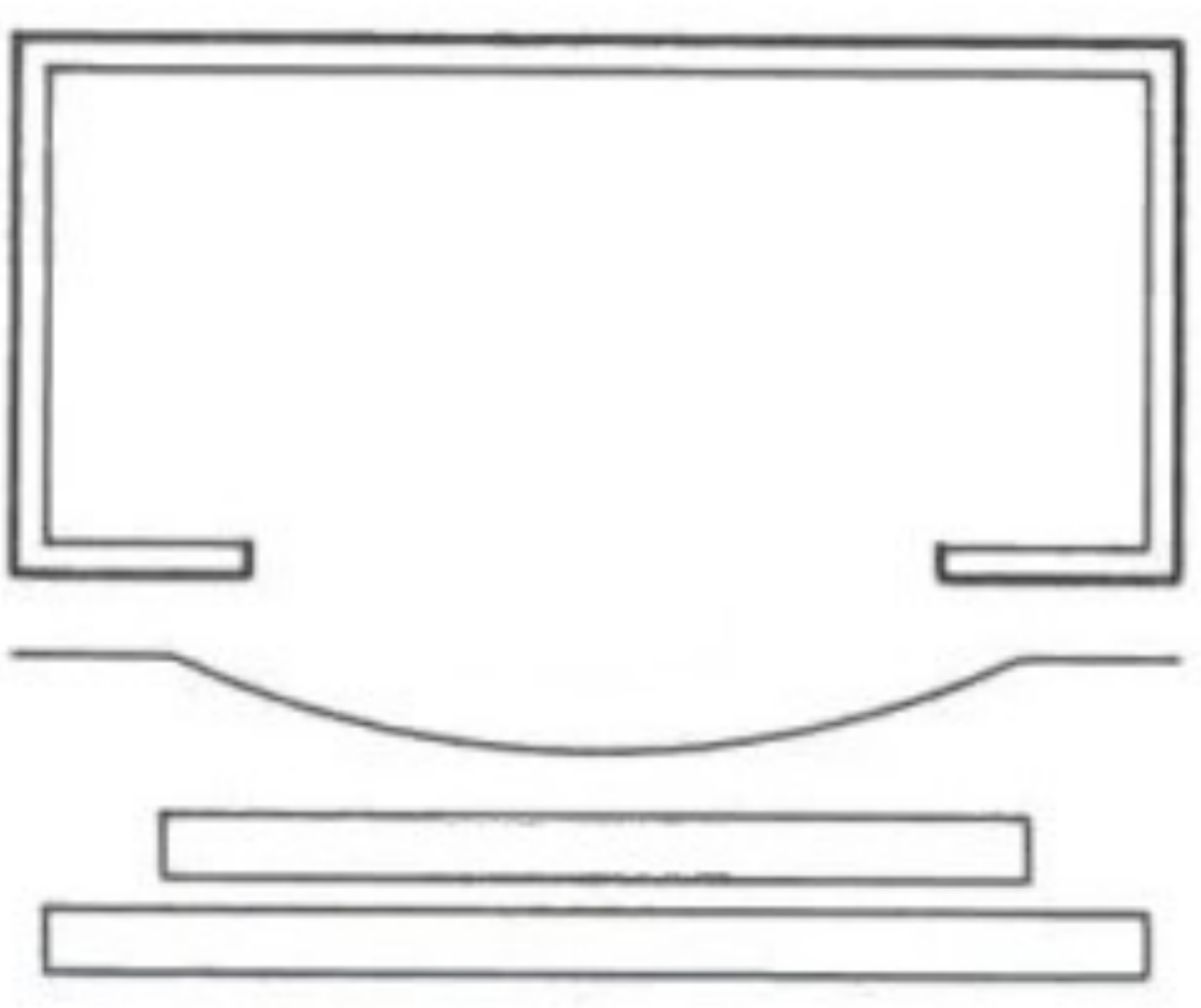


THEATRE TERMS

General terms, names and definitions that are useful to know.

THEATRE DIRECTIONS



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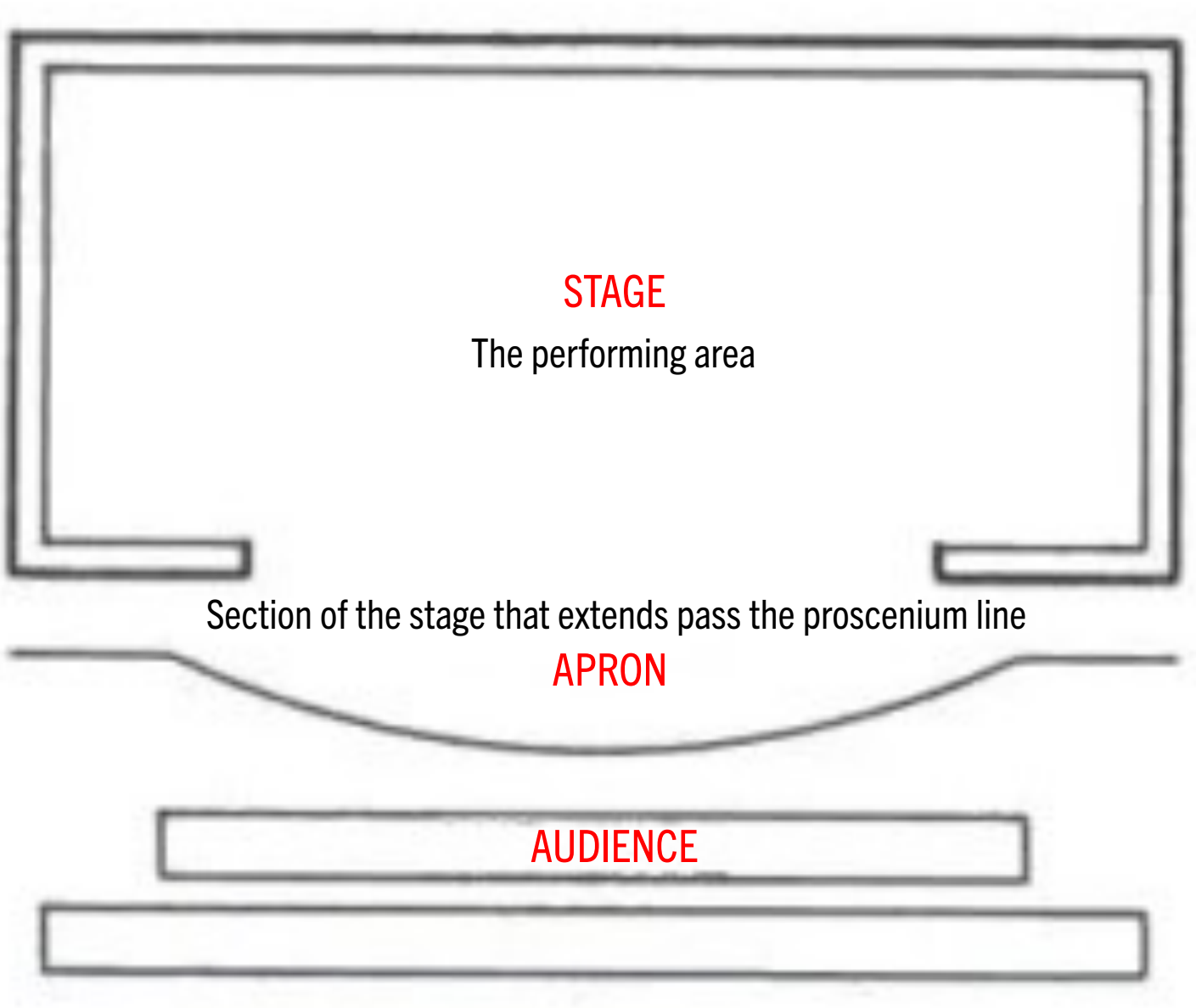

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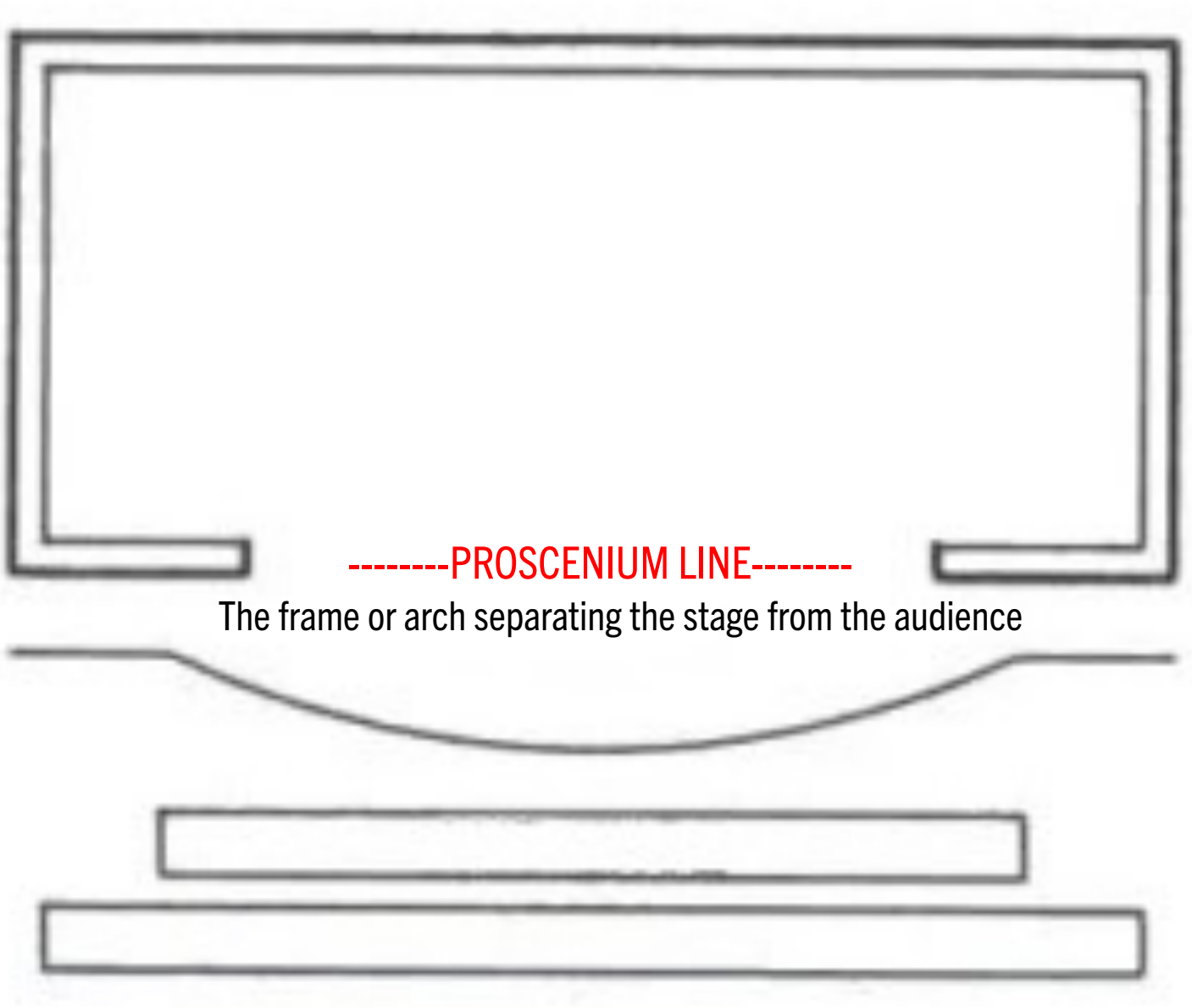
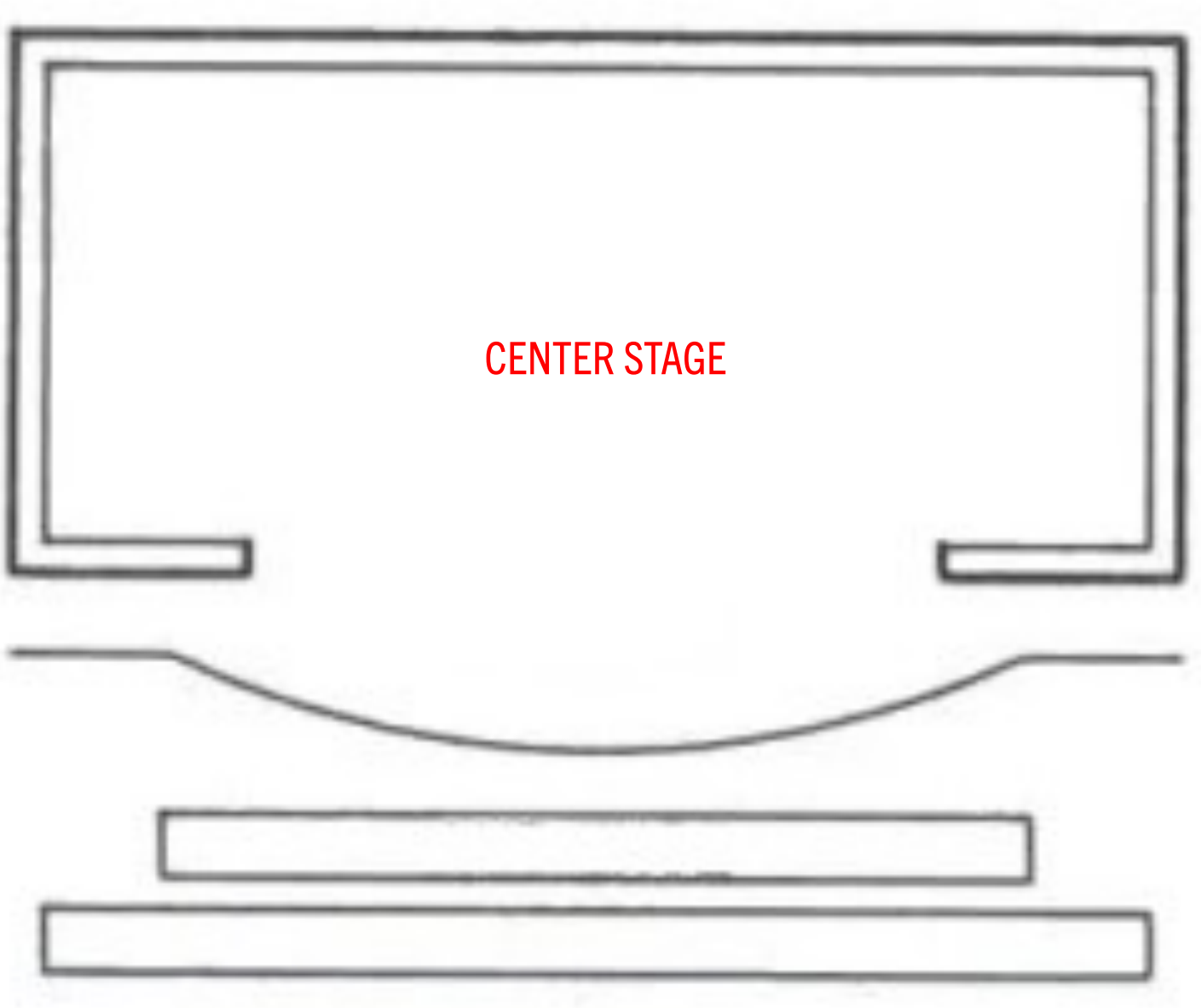


--------PROSCENIUM LINE--------

The frame or arch separating the stage from the audience

THEATRE DIRECTIONS



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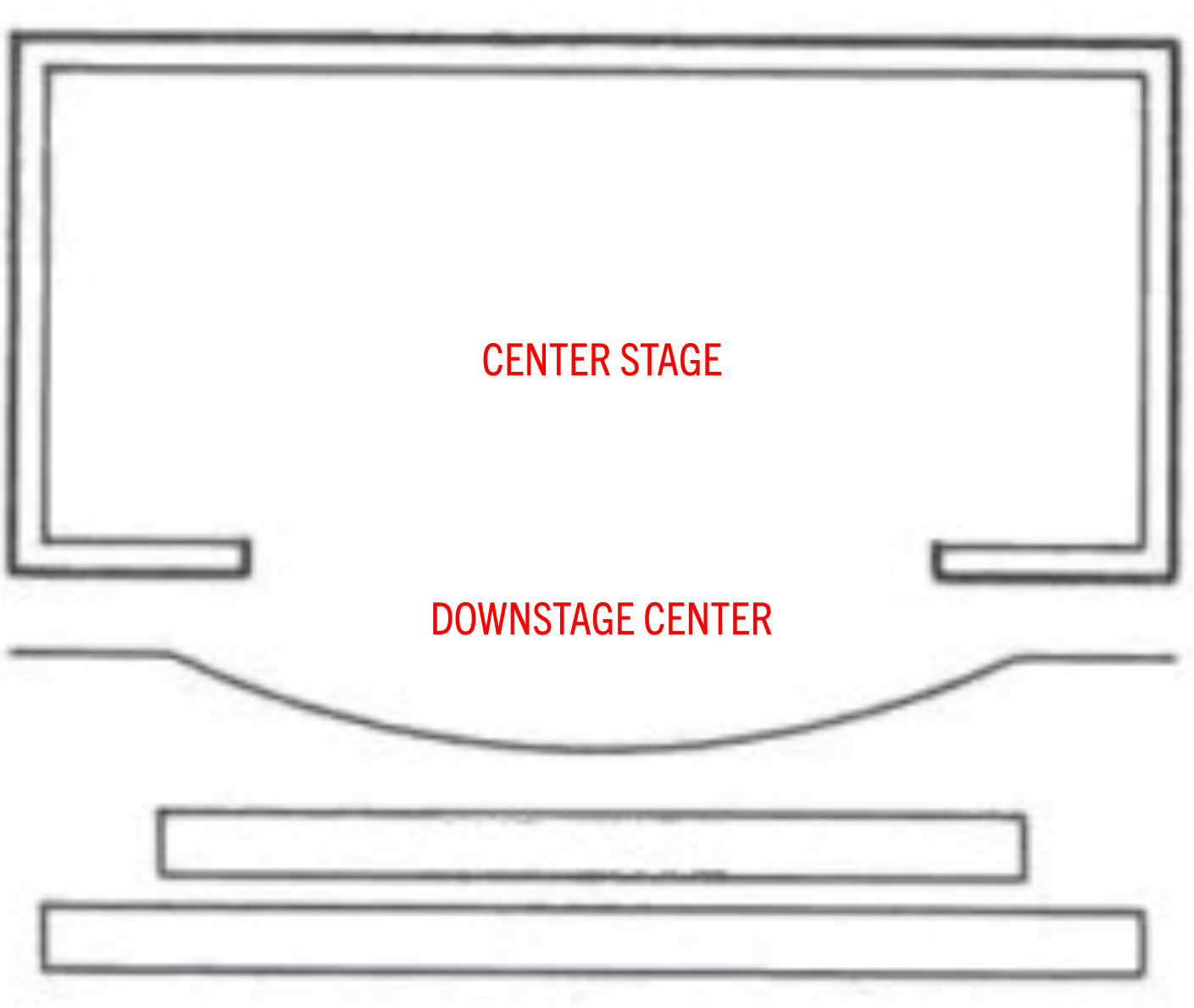

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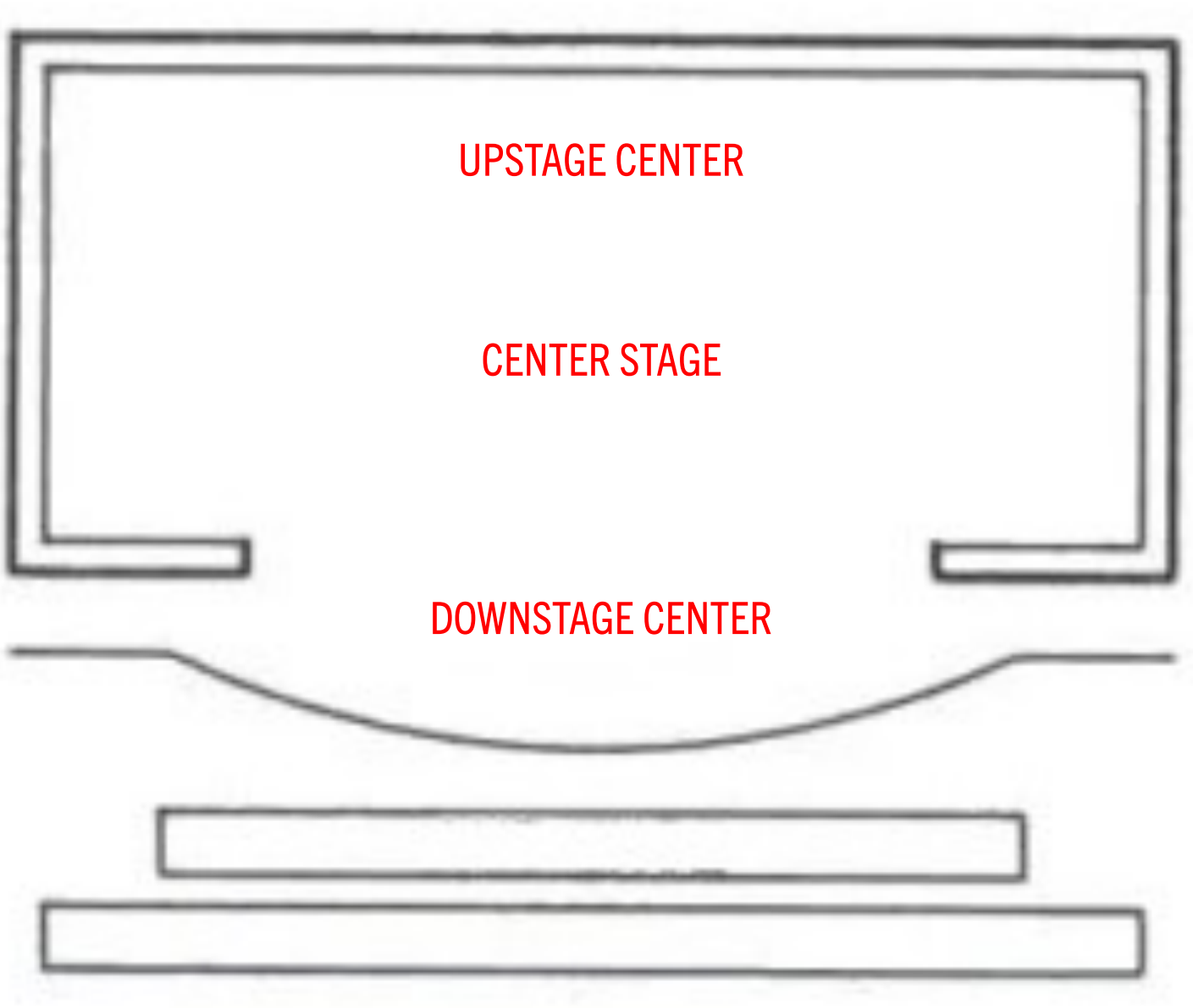

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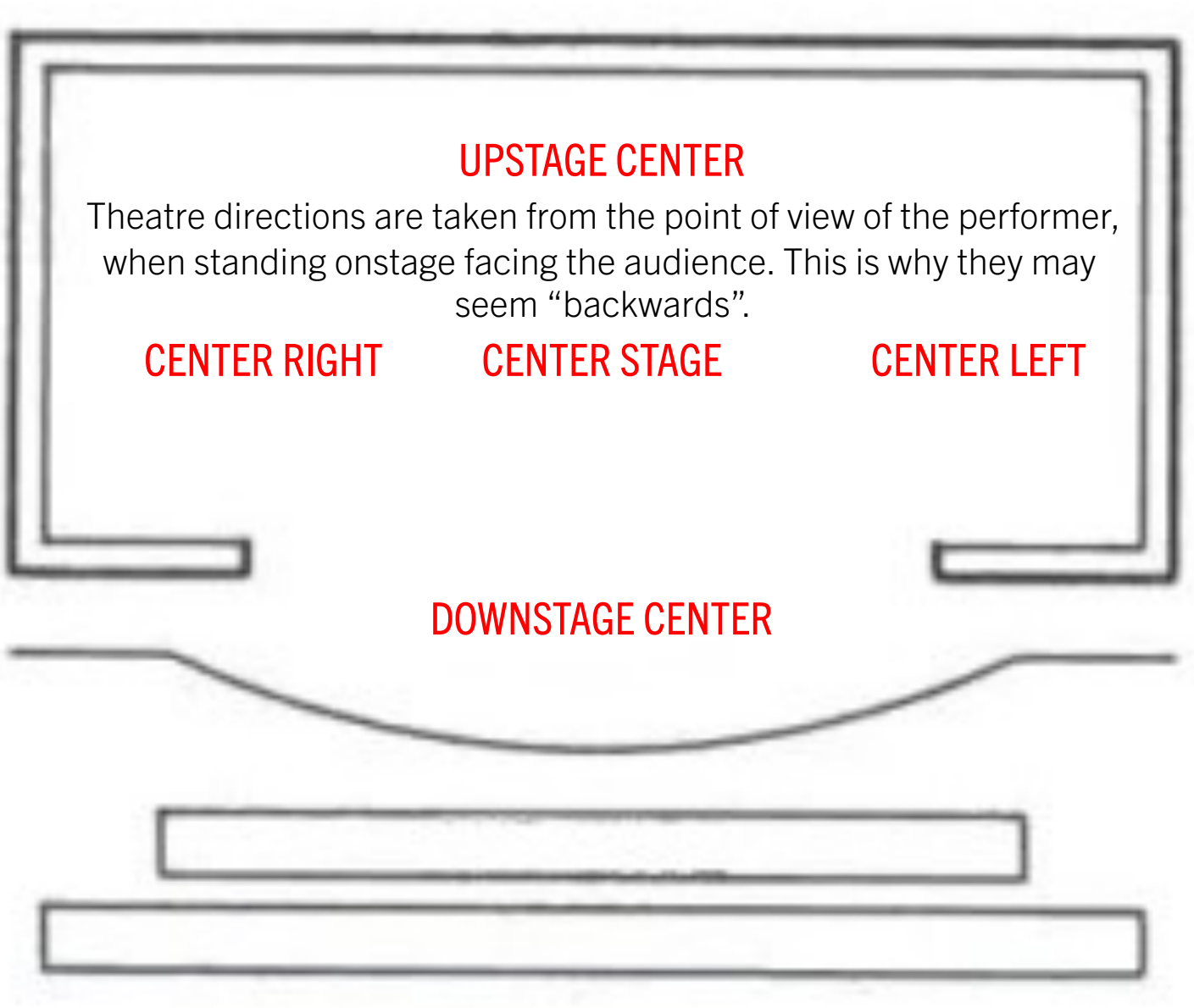

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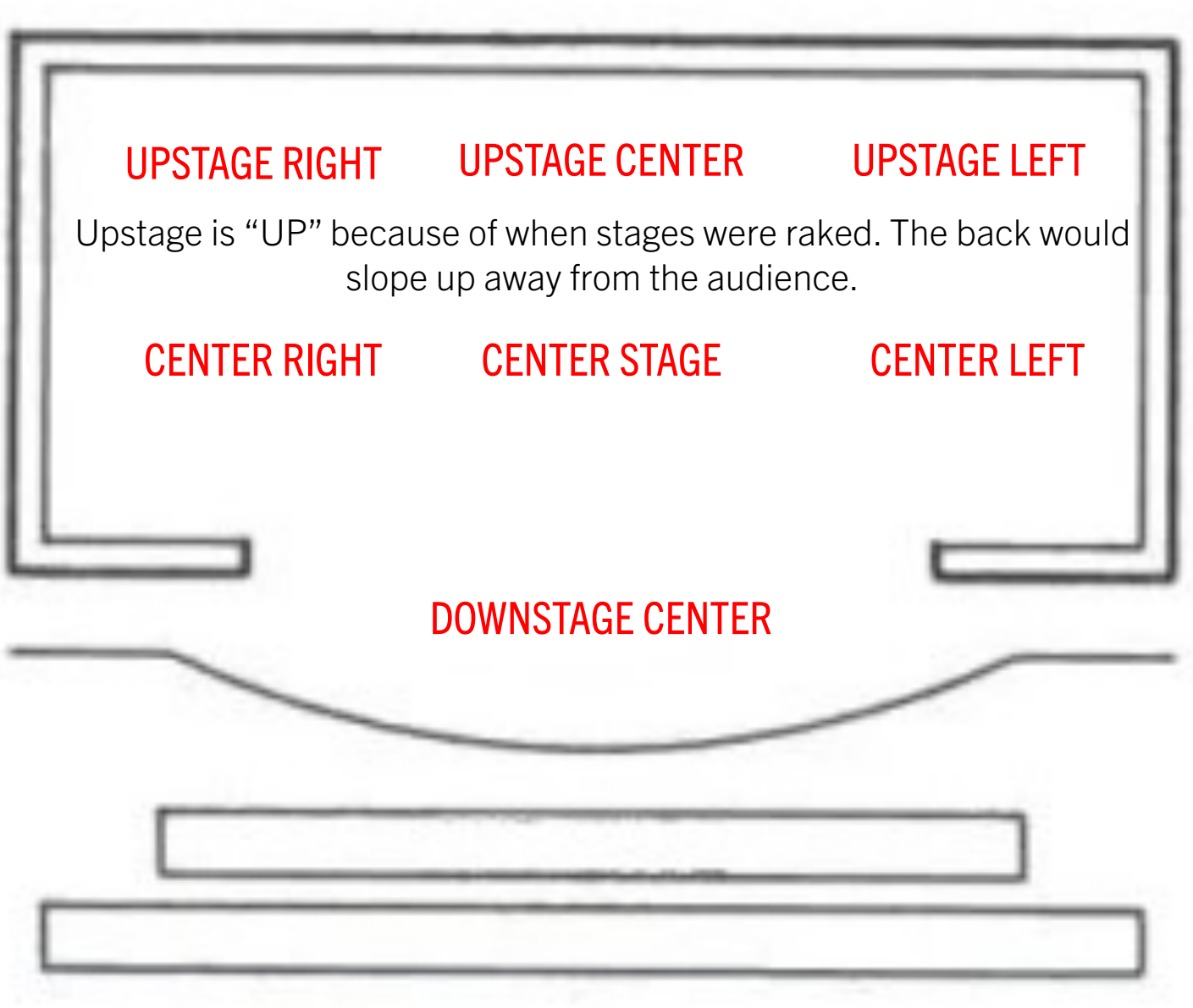

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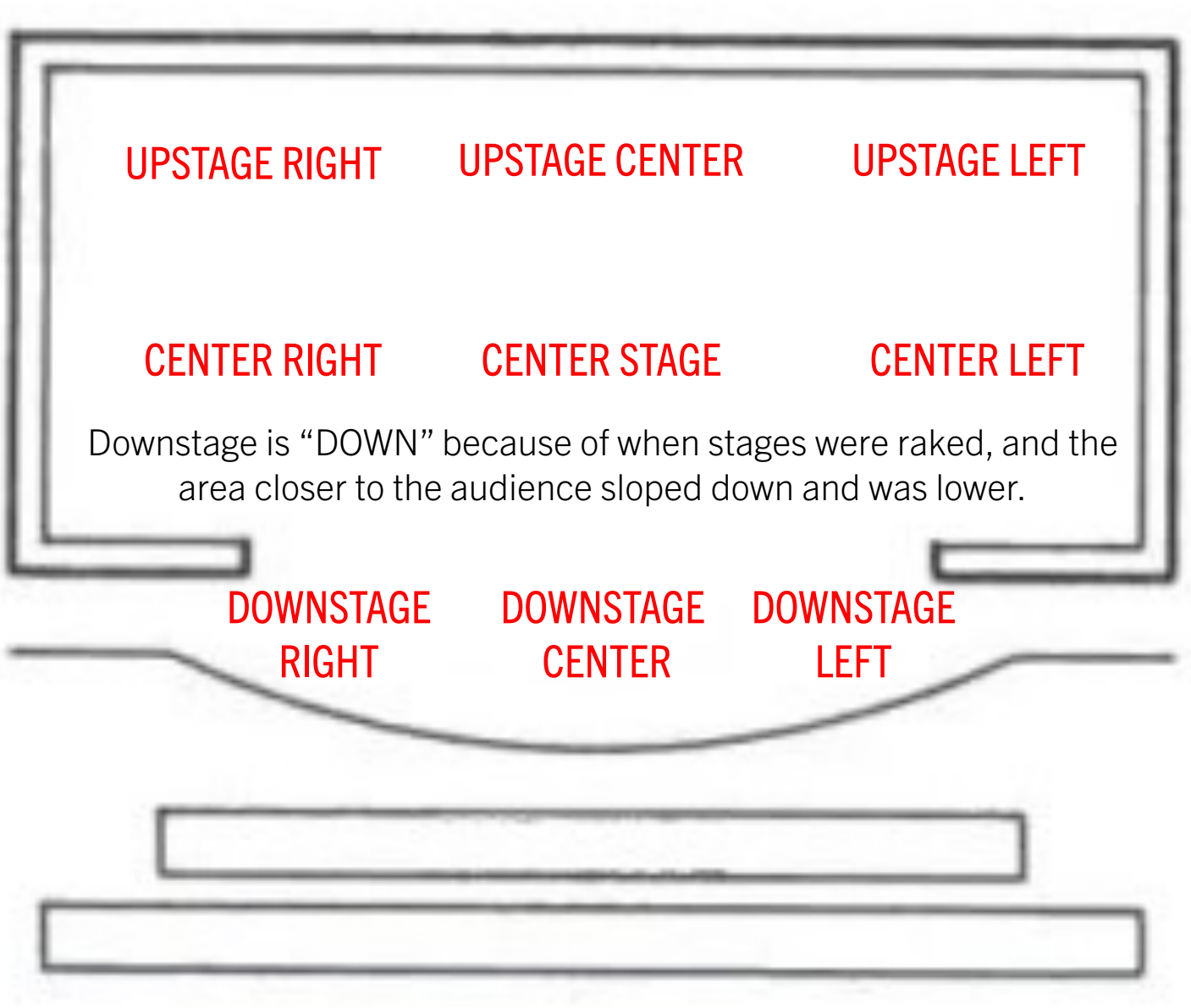

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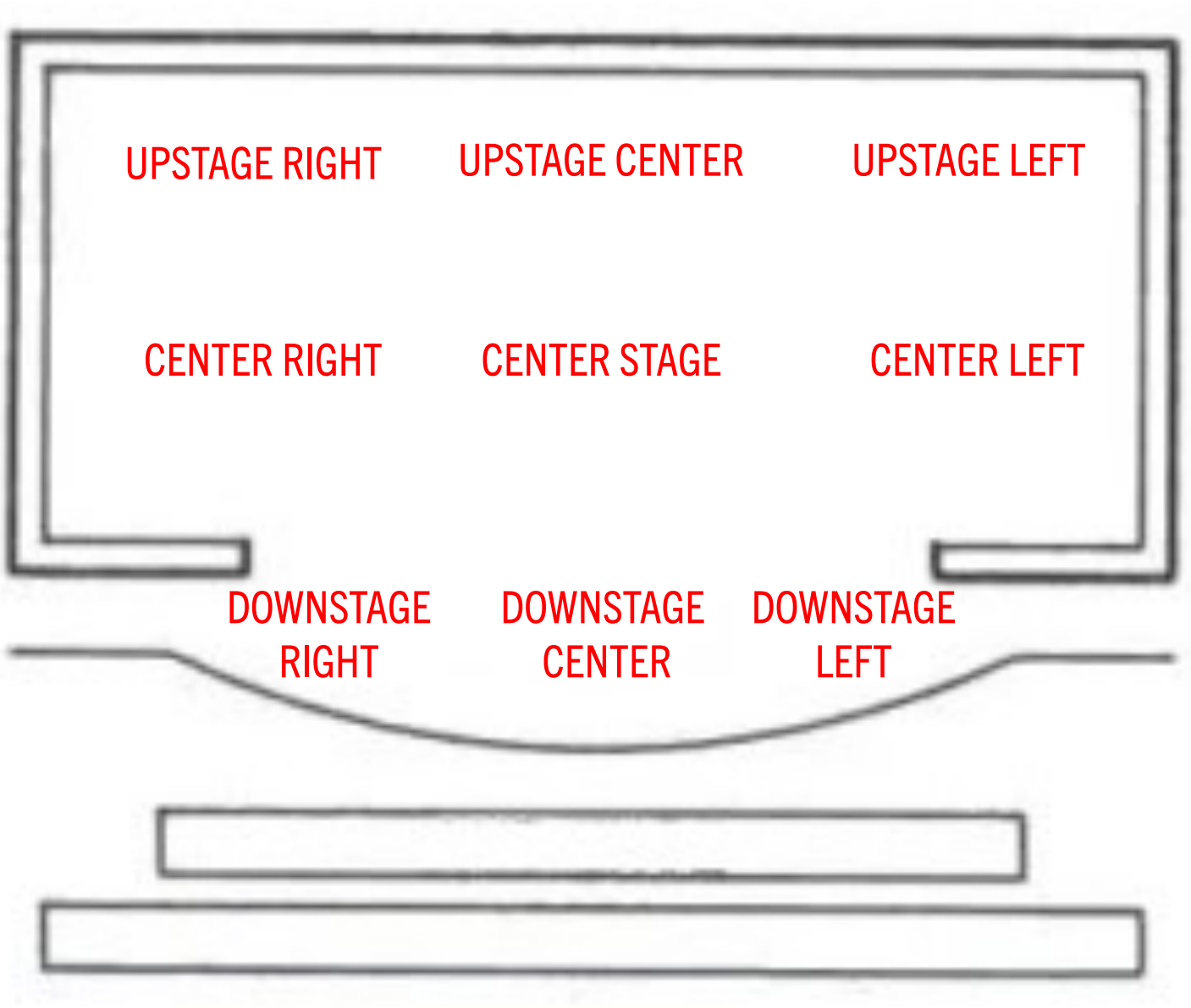
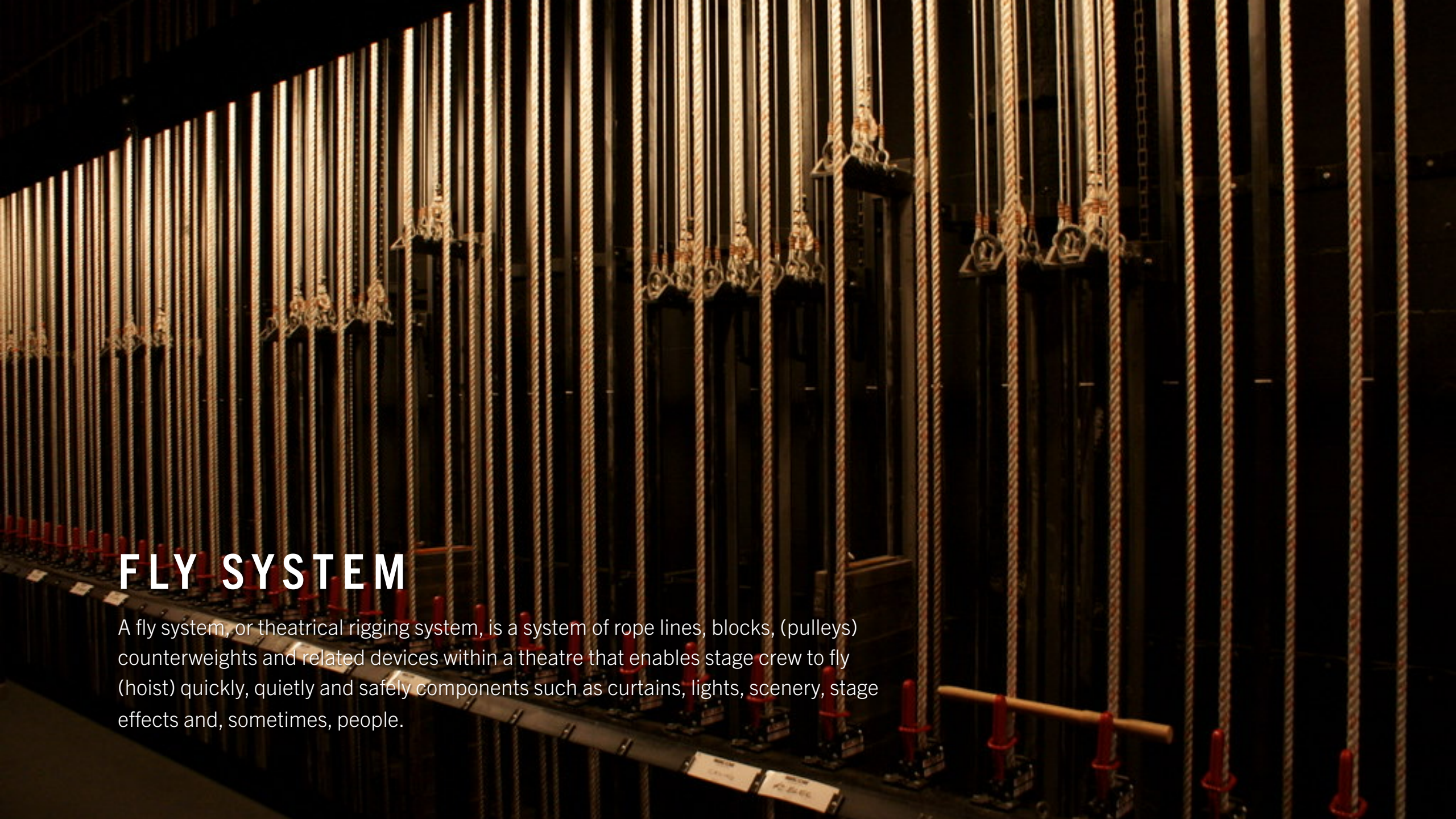


PARTS AND PIECES OF THE THEATRE

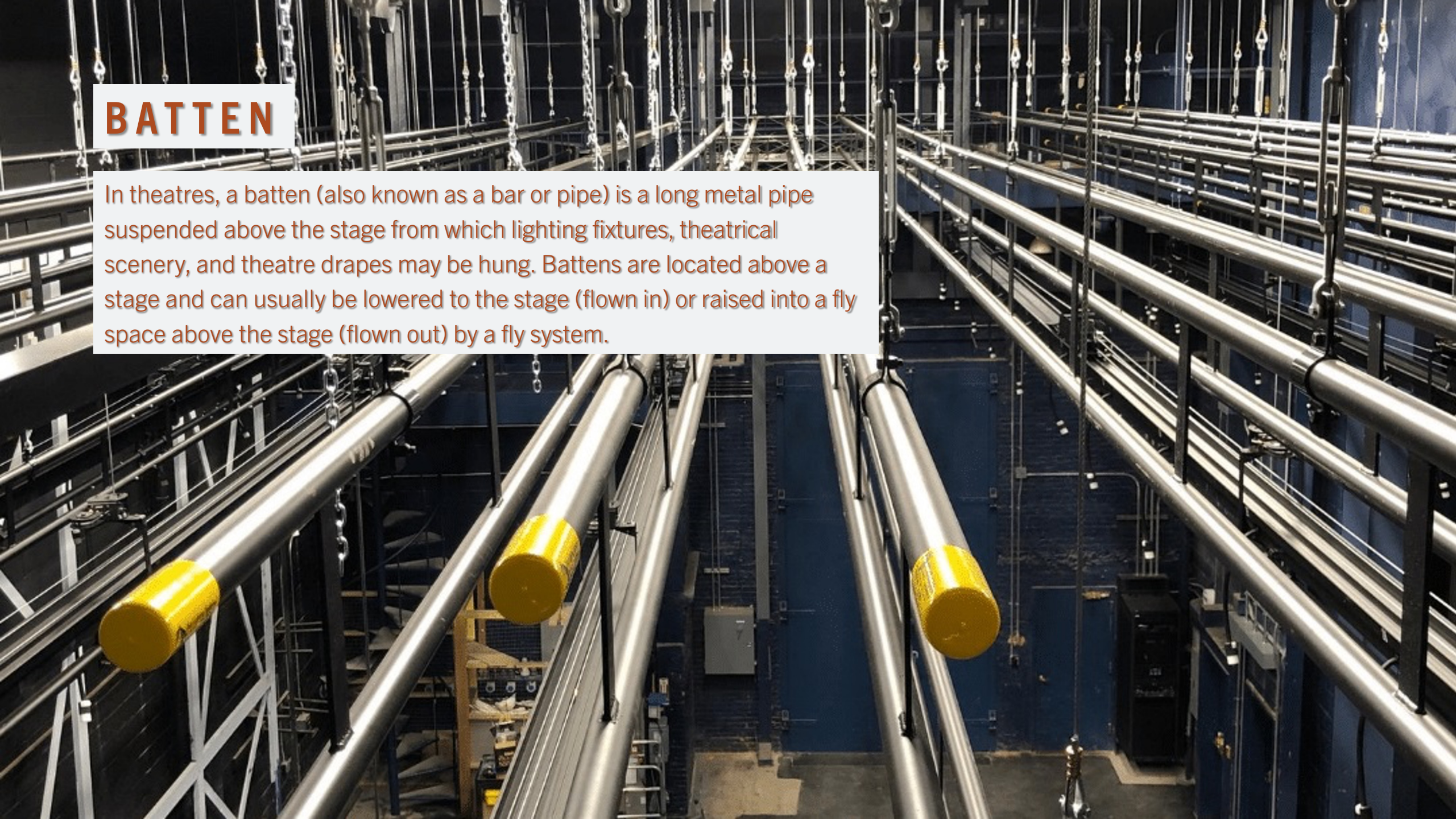


FLY SYSTEM

A fly system, or theatrical rigging system, is a system of rope lines, blocks, (pulleys) counterweights and related devices within a theatre that enables stage crew to fly (hoist) quickly, quietly and safely components such as curtains, lights, scenery, stage effects and, sometimes, people.

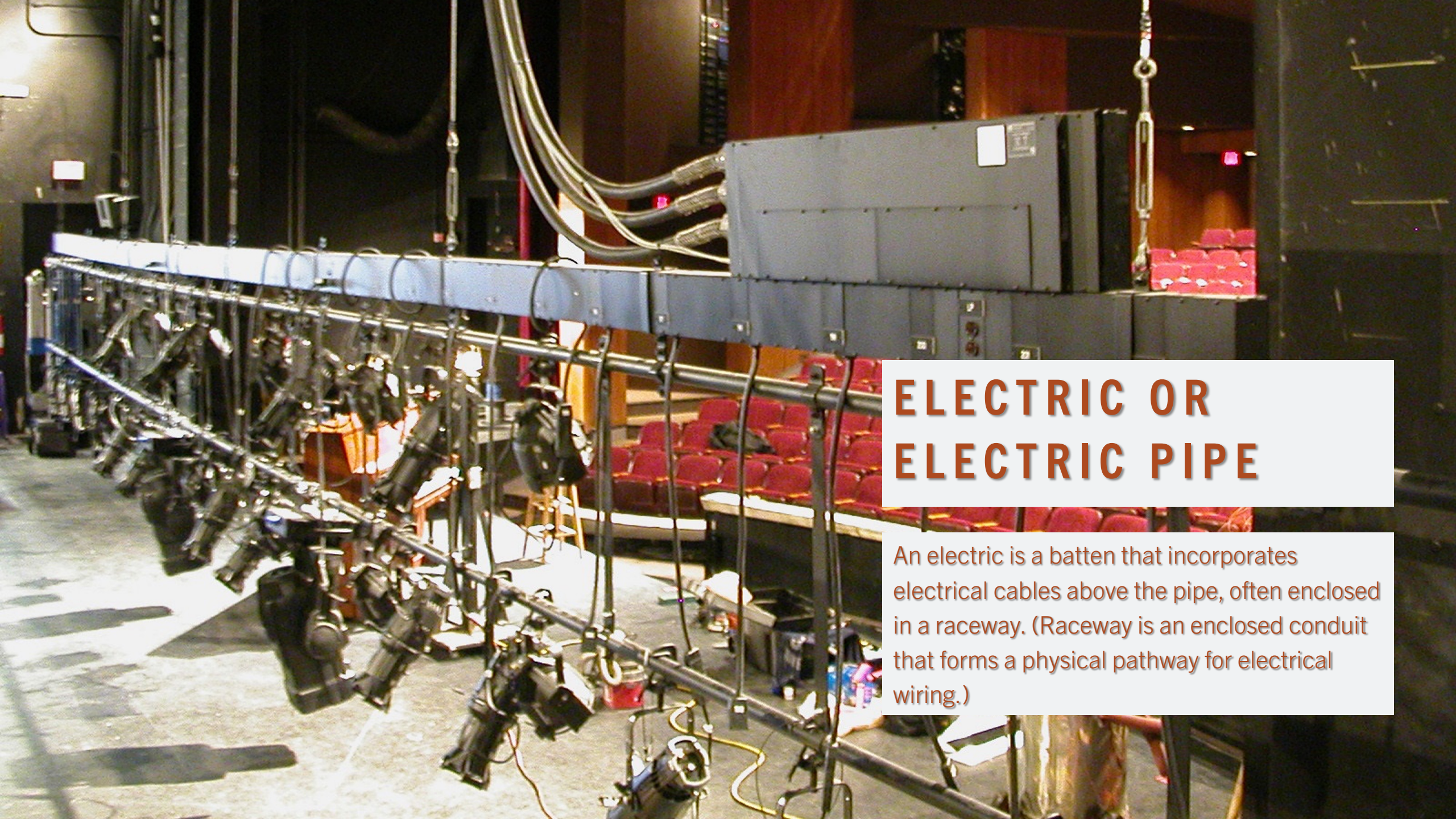
FLY RAIL

The area from where the stagehand would operate the fly system in a theatre.



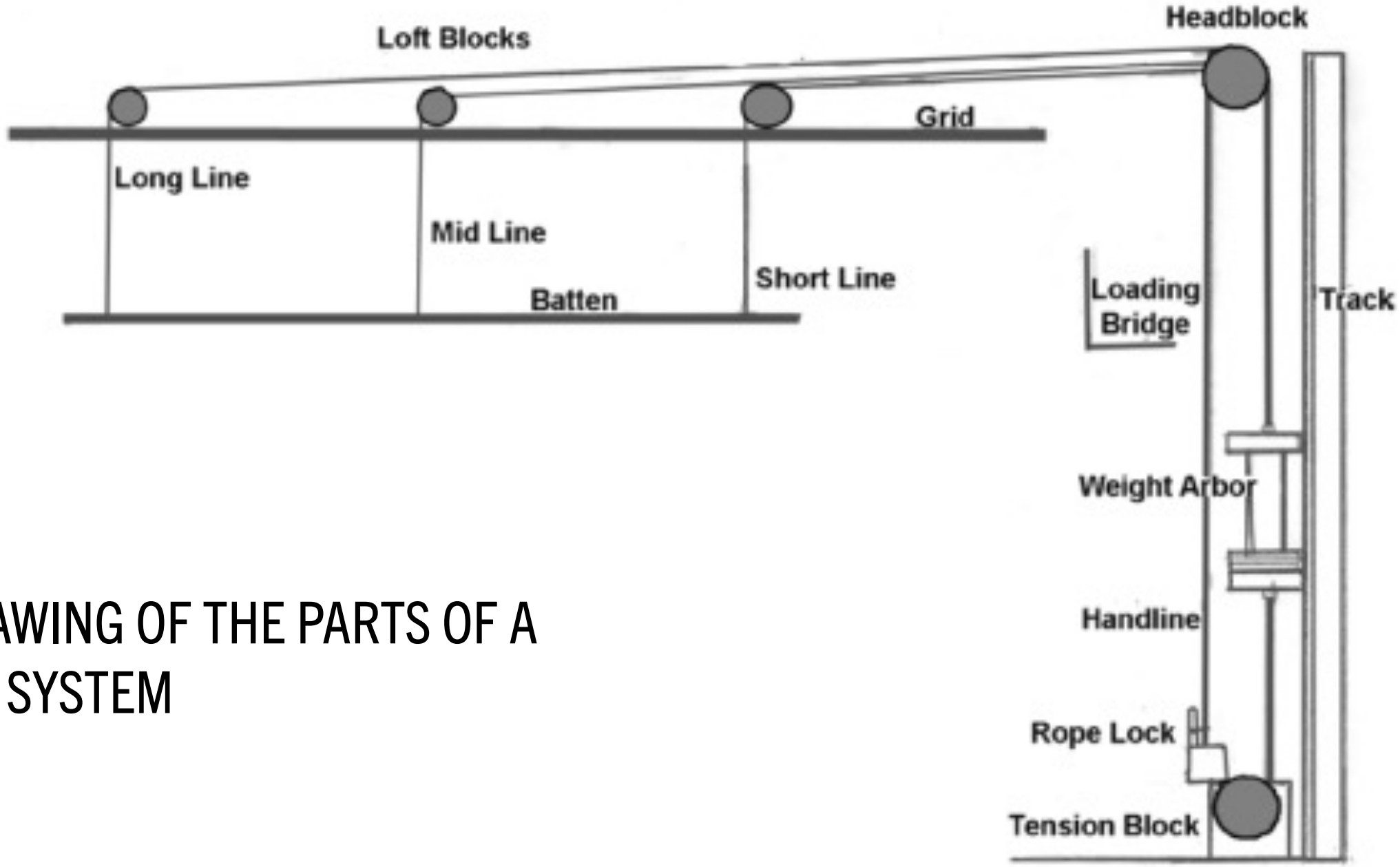
BATTEN

In theatres, a batten (also known as a bar or pipe) is a long metal pipe suspended above the stage from which lighting fixtures, theatrical scenery, and theatre drapes may be hung. Battens are located above a stage and can usually be lowered to the stage (flown in) or raised into a fly space above the stage (flown out) by a fly system.



ELECTRIC OR ELECTRIC PIPE

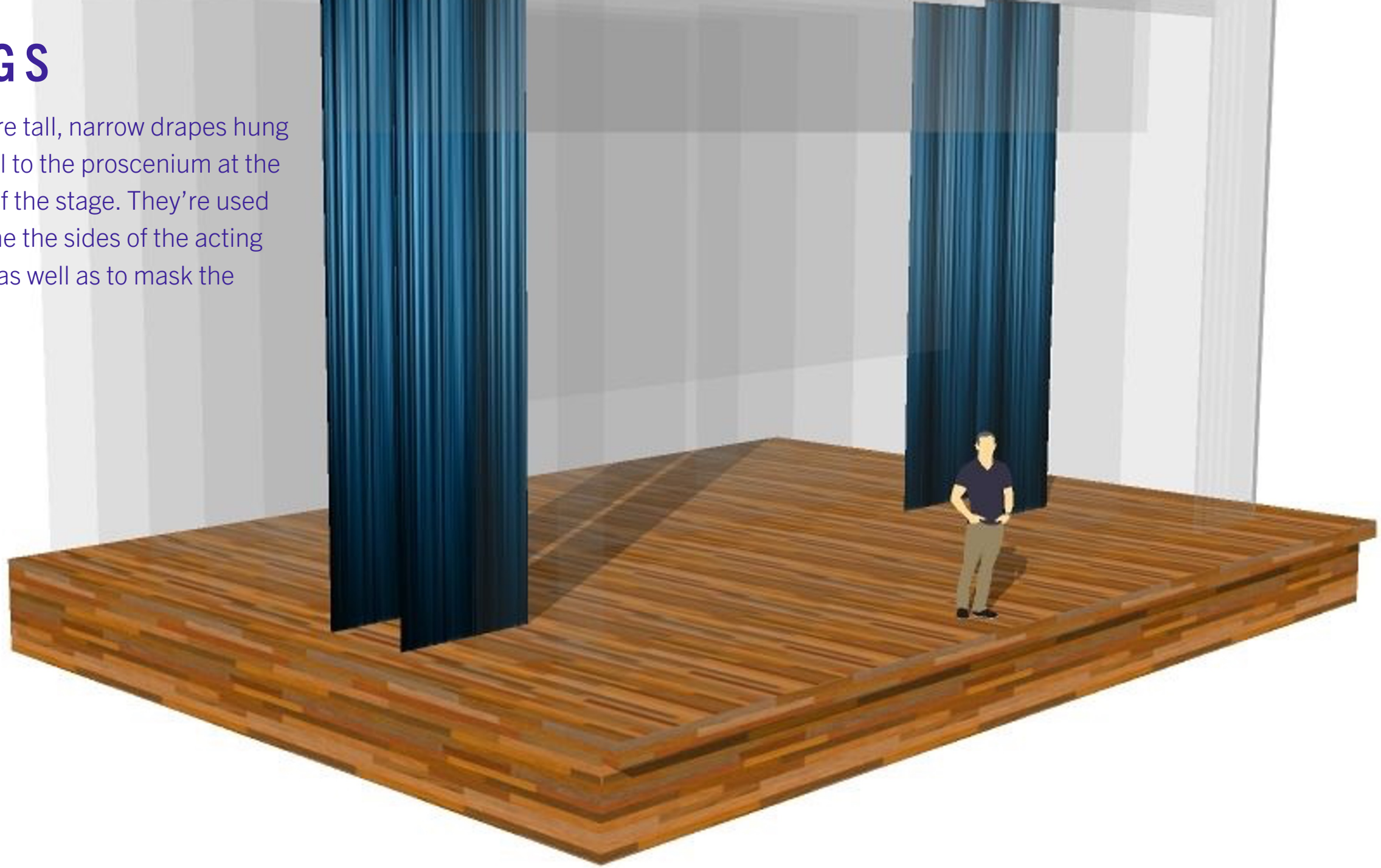
An electric is a batten that incorporates electrical cables above the pipe, often enclosed in a raceway. (Raceway is an enclosed conduit that forms a physical pathway for electrical wiring.)



DRAWING OF THE PARTS OF A FLY SYSTEM

LEGS

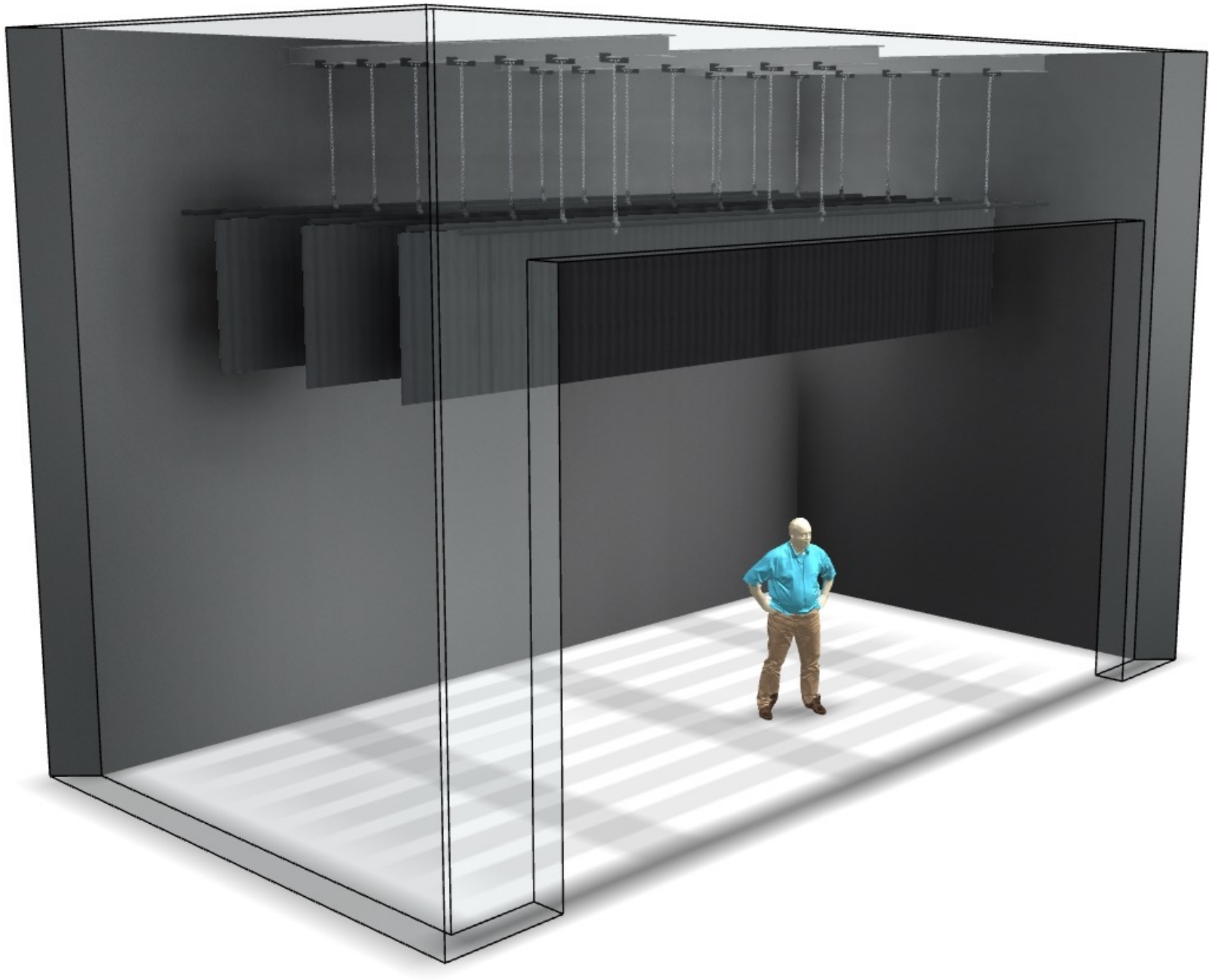
Legs are tall, narrow drapes hung parallel to the proscenium at the sides of the stage. They're used to frame the sides of the acting space as well as to mask the wings.



MASKING

Neutral material or designed scenery which defines the performance Area and conceals the offstage areas.

In Strong we use our black legs for this. For certain events in Douglass or May Room, pipe and drape may be used to mask behind the stage.



BORDER

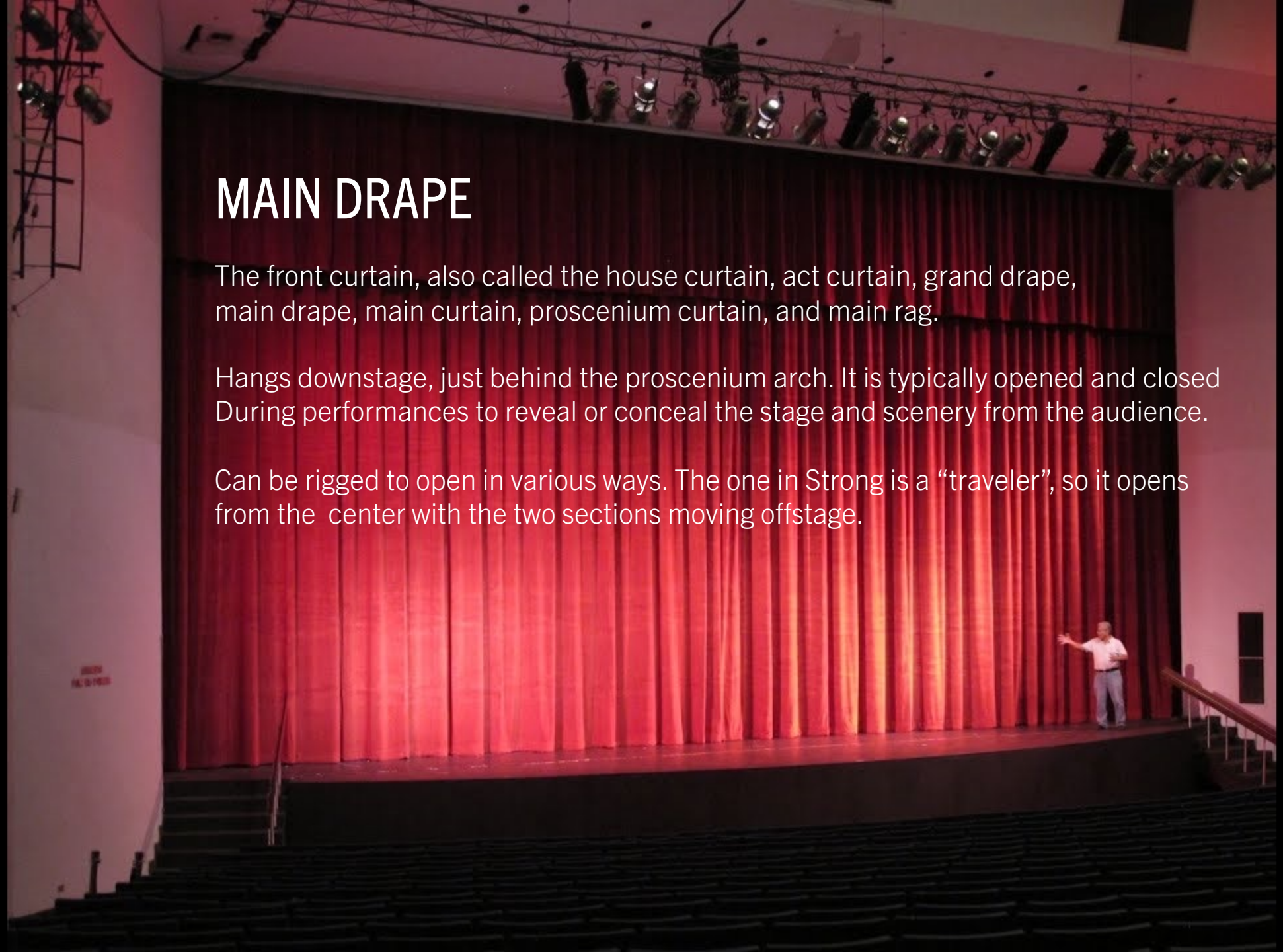
Borders are usually short drapes hung above the stage, spanning its width. they are used to mask equipment and scenery hidden above.

In Strong we use them to hide the electrics as well as the orchestra shell.

FULL STAGE CURTAIN

A curtain that covers the width of the stage.
Can be placed on different line sets to change
The depth of the stage.

In Strong, we often use this as the Mid-stage curtain.



MAIN DRAPE

The front curtain, also called the house curtain, act curtain, grand drape, main drape, main curtain, proscenium curtain, and main rag.

Hangs downstage, just behind the proscenium arch. It is typically opened and closed During performances to reveal or conceal the stage and scenery from the audience.

Can be rigged to open in various ways. The one in Strong is a “traveler”, so it opens from the center with the two sections moving offstage.

TRAVELER CURTAIN

A traveler curtain, also called a draw curtain, bi-parting curtain, or just traveler. Traveler curtains remain at a fixed elevation to move horizontally, break and meet up in the middle.

The main drape is Strong is a traveler, as well as some of the curtains in Sloan.

CYCLORAMA or CYC

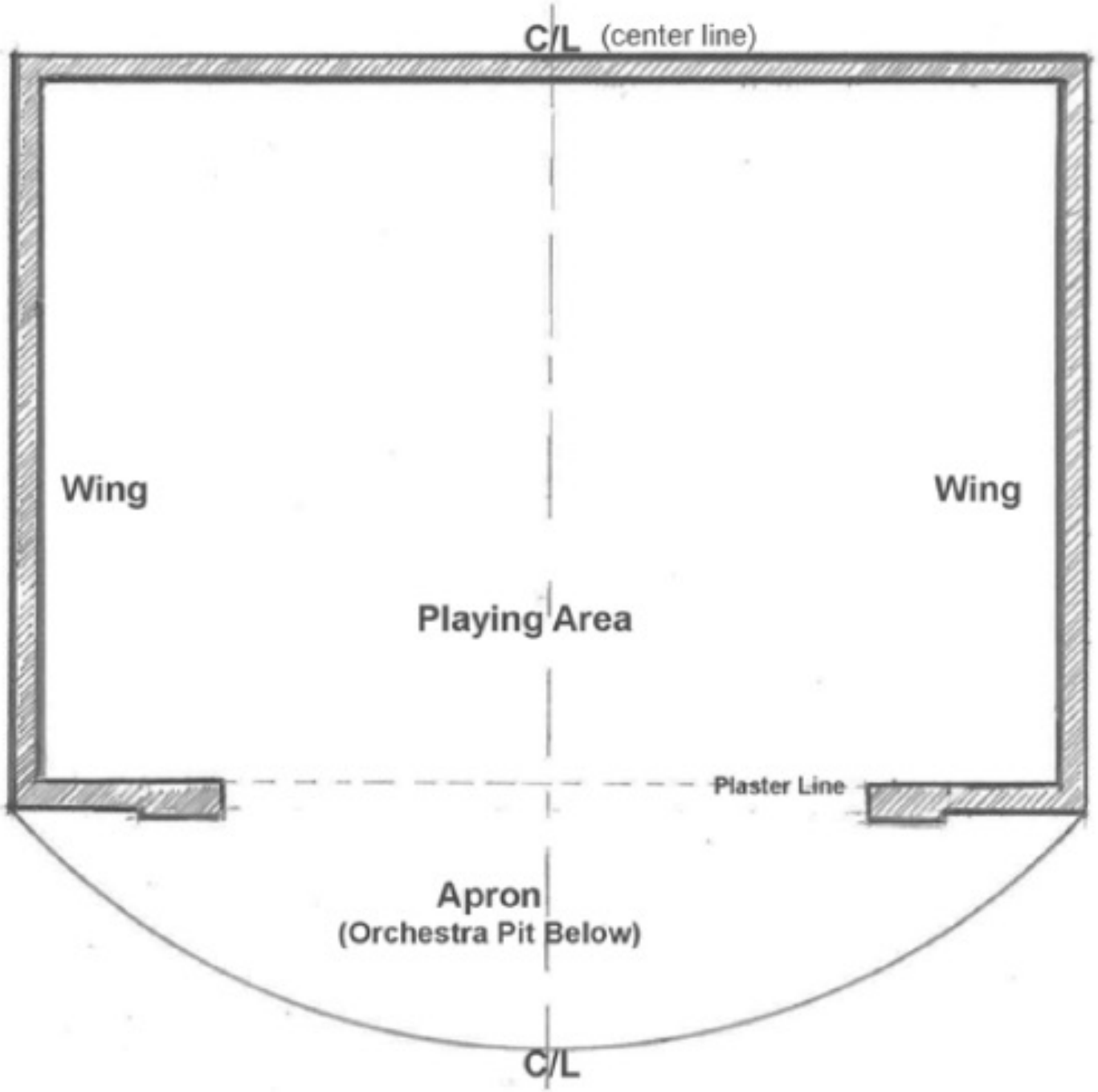
In theatre and film, a cyclorama is a large curtain or wall, often concave, positioned at the back of the stage. Often used as a lighting surface. Occasionally, the cyc may be painted with a decorative or pictural scene to fit a specific show; these are generally referred to as backdrops.

Both Strong and Sloan use the cyc as a lighting backdrop, and sometimes as a projection surface.

FIRE CURTAIN

A fire curtain is a fire safety precaution used in large proscenium theatres. It is usually a heavy fiber-glass or iron curtain located immediately behind the proscenium arch. The curtain is extremely heavy and therefore requires its own dedicated operating mechanism. In an emergency, someone can usually pull a lever backstage which will cause the curtain to fall into position. The point of the curtain is in the event of a fire, to separate the stage from the audience to prevent the spread of the fire.

Strong is the only theatre with a fire curtain on campus.



PLASTER LINE

The plaster line is the most upstage point of the proscenium opening. It is where the proscenium meets the fire curtain smoke pocket.

OFFSTAGE

Offstage describes the area of the theatre that the audience can't see. Often the space behind the masking. When it is offstage left and right, it is often referred to as wings.

You may have heard of 'waiting in the wings', it means standing by for making your entrance onto the stage itself.

DRESSING ROOMS

A room in the theatre where
the performers can dress and get
ready for the performance.
Usually located near the stage for easy access.

TECH TABLE

The table where all of the “tech” is located. Usually holds the light board, the sound board and video.

STRIKE

Typically means to remove all pieces (sets, lighting, costumes, sound and props) of a show upon completion.

Can be used on an item to item basis.

“Someone strike that mic stand to its home.” Means get rid of that stand and put it back in storage, or where it is normally is when not being used.

SET

Preparing a space for an event.

“I have a set in the May Room.”

Means you will be setting the items needed for an event before hand. This could include furniture, staging, sound equipment, lighting equipment, video equipment and more.

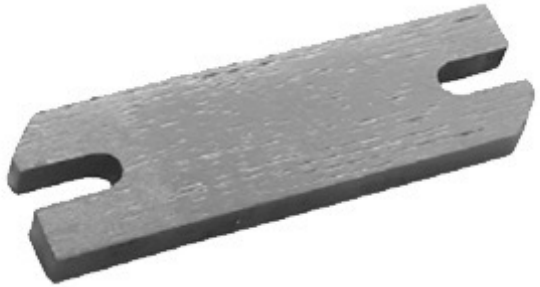
GROUND PACKAGE

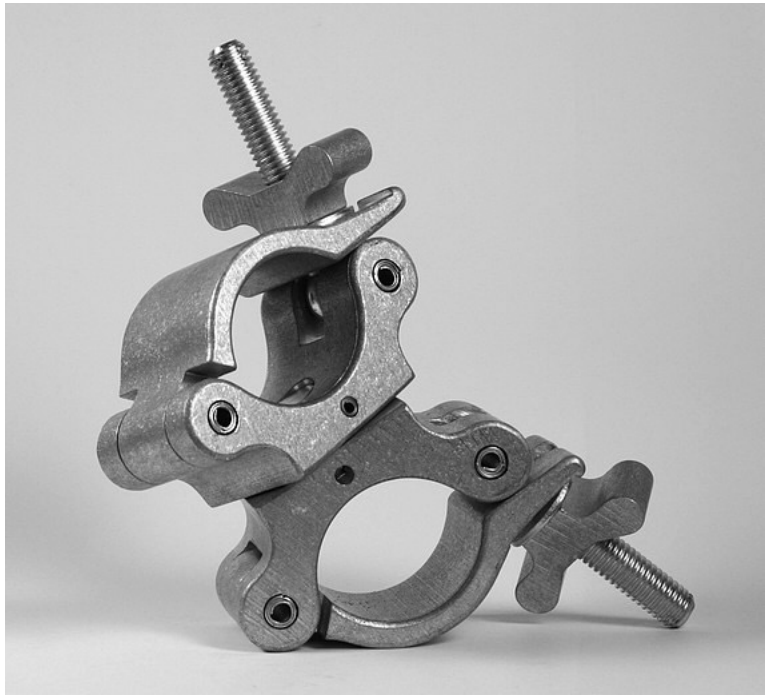
Term used to describe extra lighting equipment that may be placed on the stage or near the stage.

This could refer to moving lights that are placed on their bases on the floor, or strips lights such as the Mega Bars.

STAGE WEIGHT

Slotted cast iron weight used in counter weighting the arbor of the fly system.
Often used to brace or weigh down other items as well.
Can be called many different things such as iron, pig iron, and brick.





CHEESEBOROUGH

Also known as “scaffold clamp”. A device for connecting iron pipe or aluminum tube. Comes in two styles, rigid (or fixed 90°) and swivel. Made from forged steel, or machined aluminum alloy.

We use a type of these in Strong to attach the projector screen to the batten.

Are also used in Sloan for rigging pipes to the catwalk for lighting, scenery or sound.

GAFF TAPE

Also call Gaff, a shortened version of Gaffer’s Tape. Comes in multiple colors and sizes. One inch thick brightly colored gaff tape is often called spike tape.

When told to “gaff this cable down”, you would typically use the 2 inch think black tape. When taping down cables you want to make sure they stay flat on the ground and don’t pile on top of each other. They should be taped down neatly and securely so that they will not be a tripping hazard.

Aaaand that's all, well, most of it. There are a lot more things we could cover, but we'll start with these. There are a lot of things that weren't mentioned here that would only come up in certain spaces, or in very specific instances. But don't worry, we will explain on the job, and we will always answer any questions you may have.

Thanks!