

## THEATRE TERMINOLOGY

August 2018.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Sesotho equivalent</b>
Actor	A person whose profession is acting on the stage, in films, or on television	Sebadi sa ditshwatsho
Amplifier	Sound term. A piece of equipment which amplifies or increases the sound captured by a microphone or replayed from record, CD or tape. Each loudspeaker needs a separate amplifier	Amplifaya /seeketsamodumo
Apron	In a traditional theatre, the part of the stage which projects in front of the curtain. In many theatres this can be extended, sometimes by building out over the pit (qv).	Sebaye
Assistant Director	Assists the Director (qv) by taking notes on all moves and other decisions and keeping them together in one copy of the script (the Prompt Copy (qv)). In some companies this is done by the Stage Manager (qv), because there is no assistant.	Motlatsamolaodi
Assistant Stage Manager	Stage Manager (ASM) Another name for stage crew (usually, in the professional theatre, also an understudy for one of the minor roles who is, in turn, also understudying a major role).	Motlatsamookamedi wa kalana
Audience	The assembled spectators or listeners at a public event such as a play, film, concert, or meeting	Letshwele/babohi
Back track	Music playing in the background	Morao/kamorao
Bar	An aluminium pipe suspended over the stage on which lanterns are hung. Also the place where you will find actors	Sefole

	after the show - the stage crew will still be working	
Barn Door	An arrangement of four metal leaves placed in front of the lenses of certain kinds of spotlight to control the shape of the light beam	Selaola kganya
Batten	The metal pipe on the rigging that goes from one side of the theatre to the other that we hang things from, either soft (drops), hard (flats) or special (signs, bicycles, moons, etc	Sefole
Beam light	Lighting term: a type of lantern which produces a parallel beam of light. In construction rather like a car headlamp, being a sealed-beam unit.	Bimilaete
Beam Spread	Lighting term: the area that a given lantern covers. It is usually expressed as the angle that the beam subtends at the focal plane: the smaller the angle, the narrower the beam. the orchestra to start the introductory music and to the cast to get into position on-stage.	Kanelo ya kganya
Beginners	Those members of the cast who are on-stage when the curtain goes up. T	Basimolli/bathomi/baqadi
Blackout	Lighting term: switching all lights out at once, leaving the stage in complete darkness	Phifatso
Board	Another name for a control desk, either lighting (most usually) or sound.	Taolong
Box Office	The place where the tickets are sold. Also used colloquially to mean the size of the	Diteketeng

	audience ("What's the box office like tonight?")	
Cast	The list of characters in a play and the actors who play them. Also, as a verb, to allocate parts to members of a company	Dibapadi/baphetwa
Cheat	To make an action on stage look realistic without actually doing what you seem to be doing; e.g. an actor looking towards the audience in the general direction of the person he is talking to, is cheating	Ho hakanya
Check	Lighting term: to lower the brightness of a lantern	Fifatsa
Choreographer	Devises and rehearses the dance routines, following the concept laid down by the Director	Khoriokrafa/molaodi wa motjeko
Cloth	Backdrop scenery painted on fabric. Cloths can be on a banjo (usually in the amateur theatre), can be rolled up, or can be flown	Qhai ya ditshwantsho
Colour Changer	A remotely controlled means of changing a coloured filter over the lens of a lantern	Sefetola mmala
Colour Frame	A frame which fits over the front of a lantern to hold a coloured filter or gel. They can be made from metal(preferred) or a kind of cardboard	Kosene ya mebala
Complimentary ticket	A complimentary seat, ticket, or book is given to you free. For example, you consumed at a restaurant, and then they may give you a complimentary ticket, which entitles you to a discount price or a totally free meal next time you consume here. It is widely used as a promotion method	Tekete ya mahala

Corner	Short for the "prompt corner"; the place from which the Stage Manager controls the show	Huku ya taolo
Corpse	Not a dead body in a thriller! An actor who gets an unintended and uncontrollable fit of laughter on stage is said to "corpse".	Sekeketehi
Cross Fade	Lighting term: fading one lantern (or group of lanterns) up while fading another down.	Phapanyetsano ya kganya
Cue	An instruction given by the Stage Manager to one of the technical departments to take some action	Taelo
Curtain Call	Taking a bow in front of the audience at the end of a show. Usually abbreviated to "curtain".	Phethelo
Cut-out	A free-standing piece of scenery, e.g.a tree, cut out of board into the correct shape and painted.	- Maiketsetso
<b>Cyclorama</b>	Also known as a cyc. A very large piece of white fabric, tensioned on two or more sides, which covers the entire back wall of the stage. It can be lit in various colours or have slides or gobos projected onto it	saetlelorama
DAT	Sound recording term: digital audio tape. A very high quality audio recording method in which sound is digitally recorded on tape (often video S-VHS tapes Are used).	Kgatiso ya modumo dijithale
Designer	Designs all aspects of the production: set, costumes, wigs, make-up etc.. Not, however, responsible for lighting design, although he will work	Seradi

	closely with the Lighting Designer	
Dimmer	A piece of equipment for varying the amount of electricity sent to a lantern, thus varying its brightness	Sefifatsi
Director	In control of all aspects of the production.(S)he develops the concept of the production, briefs the designer and lighting designer, plots the actor's moves, rehearses the actors, etc. etc. etc..	Molaodi wa ditshwantshiso
Doubling	One actor taking more than one part in a play.	Theputso
Dress rehearsal	The dress rehearsal is a full-scale rehearsal where the actors and/or musicians perform every detail of the performance. For a theatrical performance, cast members wear their costumes.	Boitukisoqetela/boikwetlisoqetela
Dresser	One whose job it is to help an actor (or actors) in quick changes of costume.	Moapesi
Effects Spot	A spotlight (qv) which projects a slide, or a still or moving picture, i.e. of rain or clouds, onto the stage or, more usually, the cyclorama	Kganyatshwantshisi
Fade	Sound and lighting term: to increase (fade up), decrease (fade down) or eliminate (fade out) gradually the brightness of a lantern or the volume of a sound	Tekanyetso
Flat	An oblong frame of timber, covered with either canvas or hardboard and painted, which forms part of the set	Folete
Fliers	A small handbill advertising an event or product	Dibapatsi/diflaya

Flood	A floodlight: a lantern which gives a wide-spreading, unfocused beam of light	Sepharalatsa kganya
Fly	Verb: scenery which is raised into the roof (flown out) or lowered on the stage (flown in). The apparatus for doing this consists of a series of ropes and pulleys in the "fly tower" (a very high roof space) and they raise or lower the scenery by means of a counterweight system or by directly pulling on "hemp lines". The men who operate the "flies" are called "flymen" and the area in which they work is called the "fly floor" of, quite simply, the "flies". People can also be flown (as in every production of "Peter Pan"! ) in a harness.	Folaye
Gallery	A balcony or upper floor projecting from an interior back or side wall of a hall or church, providing space for an audience or musicians	Sefala
Gate	The focal plane of a profile spot (qv) into which gobos (qv) and iris diaphragms can be placed.	Keiti
G-clamp	Used for fastening lanterns to a bar. A G-shaped piece of metal with a screw through the bar of the G which clamps to the lighting bar	Sehokedi sa G
Gel	A filter placed over the front of a lantern to change the colour of the light.	Jele
Greenroom	A room backstage often licensed, in which the company can sit and relax before, during or after a show. Once common, greenrooms are rarely found in modern theatres	Boiketlong

Ground row	A batten (qv) placed on the floor of the stage, usually to light a cyclorama (qv). Also occasionally used to mean freestanding scenery, of a low height, running along the back of the stage in front of the back wall or cyclorama	Kraonto ro
House Tabs	The curtains across the front of the stage	Garetene ya kalaneng
Jack	A type of connector used in sound equipment; sometimes called a phone jack	Sehokahanyi/ jeke/sehokela
Juve	Abbreviation for Juvenile Lead: the young male main part	Lekejekejane
Ladders	High stands for hanging lanterns at the side of the stage. Not for climbing!	Tshiya tsa mabone
Lighting Designer	Responsible for designing, focusing and plotting the lighting for a production	Seralakganya
Make up	Theatrical makeup is makeup that is used to assist in creating the appearance of the characters that actors portray during a theatre production	- etsa sebopeho
Marketing	The action or business of promoting and selling products or services, including market research and advertising.	- bapatsa/ ho rekisa
Maroon	An electrically fired thunder flash, set off in a steel tank fitted with a wire mesh top, to simulate an explosion	Merunu
Mask	To hide: an actor's masks another when he stands in front of him and prevents the audience from seeing him properly. Also a noun: fabric hiding a row of lanterns hung above the stage	Boikgakanyi/ - sira
Mime	To act out a role in a play without saying any word	Botshwantshi
Mixer	Or Mixing Desk. A device	Setswaki

	for mixing together and modifying sounds from a variety of sources: microphones, tapes, CDs, musical instruments, etc	
Multiplex	A means of sending control signals from a lighting control console to the dimmer packs. Signals are sent down one cable rather than one per channel as is the case with analogue desks. At the dimmer end, a de-multiplexer (DMUX) is used to separate the signals and route them to the right dimmer	malthiplekse
<b>Phantom Power</b>	A means of powering condenser microphones. A current of (usually) 48 volts is sent along the mic cable from the mixing desk or, where the mixer does not have phantom power facilities, from a phantom power box, into which the mic is plugged and which, in turn, plugs into mixer.	Matla a fanthomo ( unless phantom is a person)
Posters	It is the key image on the film's main theatrical poster and it is the subject of its own featurette	Diphoustara
Producer	In amateur companies usually synonymous with the Director, but in the professional theatre the person who makes all the necessary arrangements for the production to be put on: finding the finance, smoothing the way for the Director. Almost the equivalent of the Business Manager	Mohlahisi
Proscenium	The traditional picture frame type of stage, usually with a curtain. Often abbreviated to "pros	Sebae/ kalane

Reprise	Musical term: to repeat, in whole or in part, a song which has already been sung in the show	Pheto
Reserved	Set aside for someone or for something	behelletswe
Rig	A lighting term. To set the lanterns in position. As a noun, its refers to the actually positioning of the lanterns	Tokodiso ya mabone
Rostrum	A moveable platform	Sethala se tsamayang
Row	A line of seats in a theatre.	Mola/Lethathama
Set Dressing	Items on a set which are not actually used by anyone but which make it look more realistic (e.g. curtains over a window, a bowl of flowers on a table, and so on).	Teko ya kalana
Sightlines	The area of the stage which can be seen by everyone seated in the auditorium. In some (badly designed!) theatres, a member of the audience sitting at the ends of certain rows, can only see two thirds of the stage	Pepeneneng
Sound effect	A sound other than speech or music made artificially for use in a play, film, or other broadcast production	Modumophethahatso
Stage truck	Our unique Mobile Stage Trucks offer a complete stage, sound and light solution for all . All the stages have large, pre-defined spaces for advertising	Teraka ya kalana
Thrust	A type of stage which projects out into the auditorium and has audience seated on three sides	Kalana e kenellang
Truck	A rostrum or platform on wheels, on which scenery can be mounted so that it can be rolled into any position on-stage	Teraka ya kalana
Upstage	At the back of the stage;	-ikgaba/potelleng ya kalana

	<p>away from the audience. As a verb: when one actor deliberately draw the attention of the audience to himself for purely selfish purposes.</p>	
Wardrobe Master	<p>(More usually Wardrobe Mistress) Responsible for the making (under the direction of the Designer), repair and washing of all costumes.</p>	Mohlokomedi wa kaparo
Wings	<p>The sides of the stage, out of sight of the audience, where actors stand before making their entrance, and where props are kept, ready to be brought onto the stage.</p>	Mahlakore a kalane
XLR	<p>A type of connector for sound equipment. The best microphones use these rather than jacks. Now becoming more common on all kinds of sound equipment. Mics which require phantom powering (qv) must have XLR connectors: one terminal carries the signal, one is a shield, and the third carries the phantom power current.</p>	XLR