

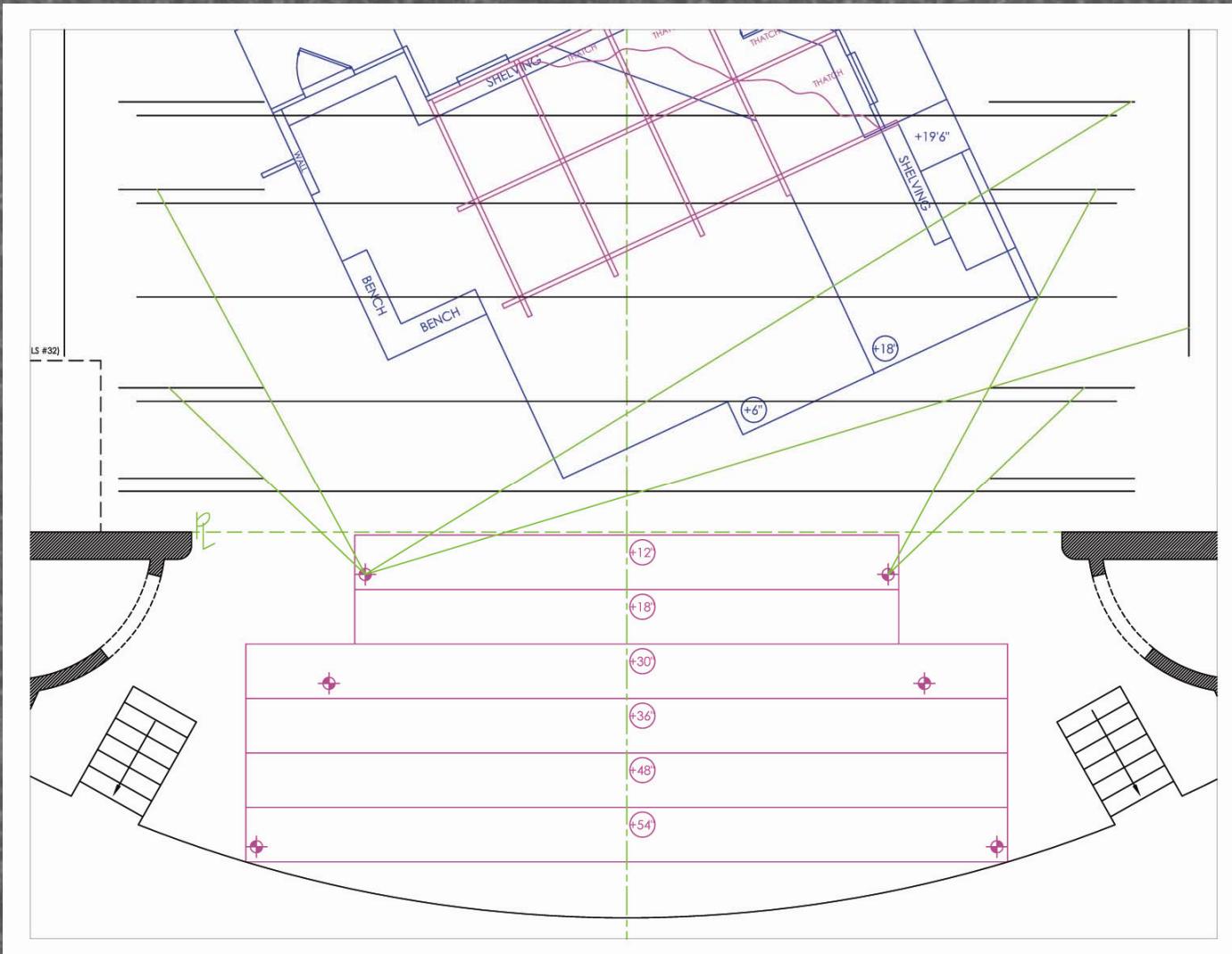
Elementary Stagecraft  
Modern Theatre Architecture  
and Equipment

# Auditoriums

- o Basic requirements for the audience : See, Hear, Safety, Comfort
- o **See**
  - Audience members must be able to see the scenery and actors
  - ***Sightlines*** – defines the view each seat has of the stage, drawn from the most extreme view or “worst” seat

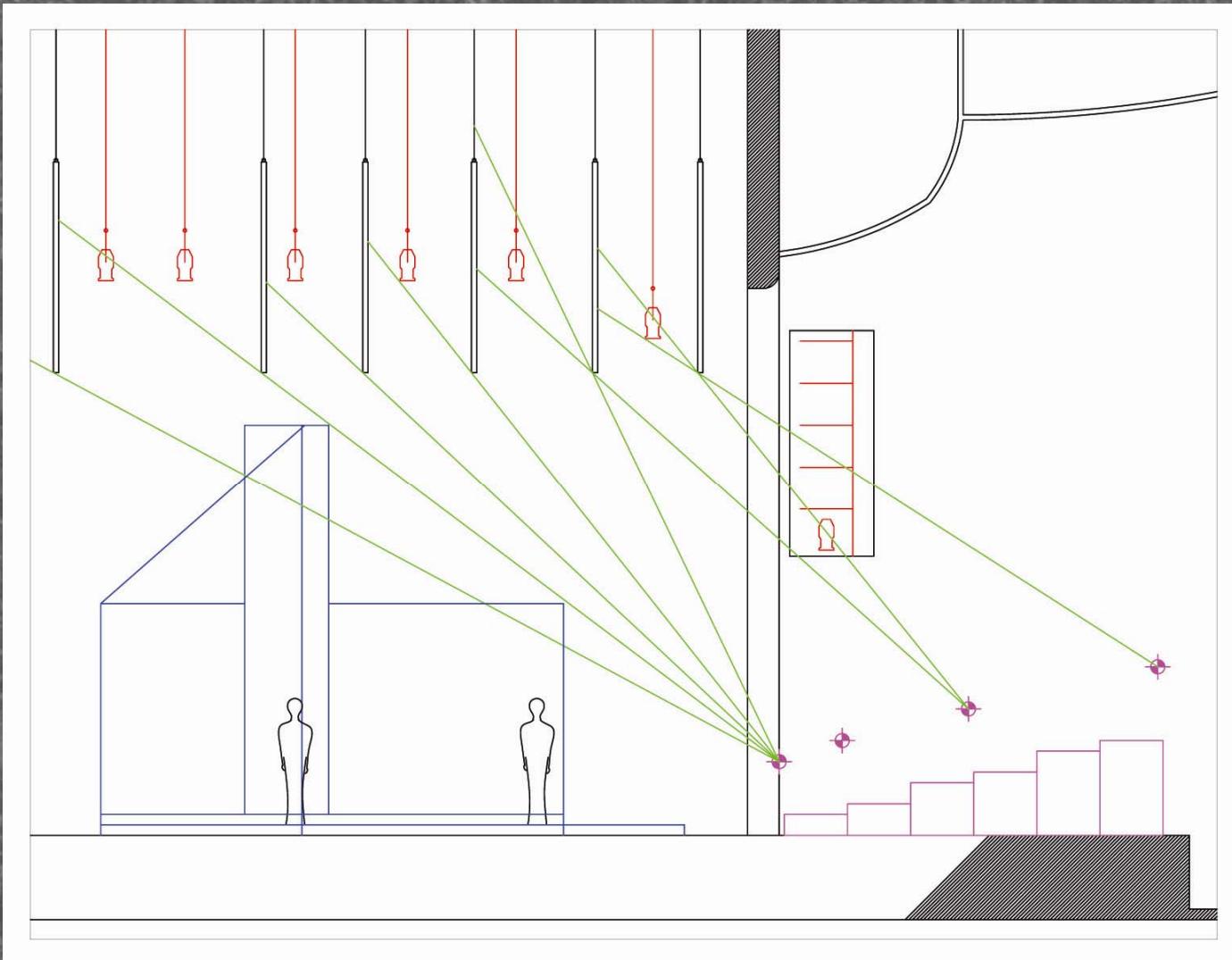
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# Auditoriums

- o Basic requirements for the audience : See, Hear, Safety, Comfort
- o **Hear**
  - **Acoustics** – the characteristics of a theatre that allow the audience to hear music or speech onstage
  - **Reverberation** – the amount of echo in a space, or the amount of time it takes a sound to fade to silence

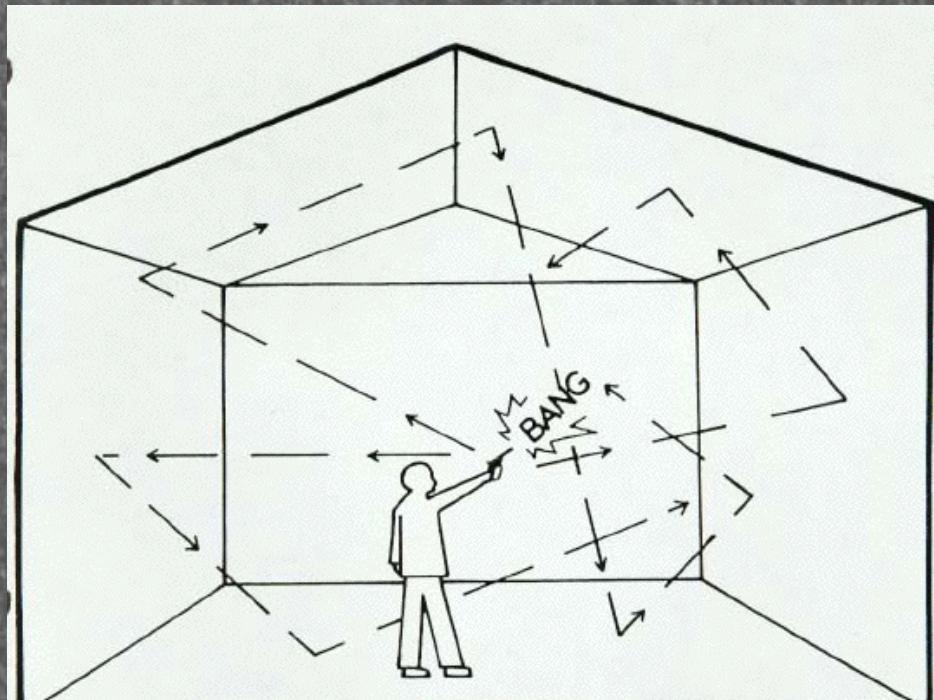


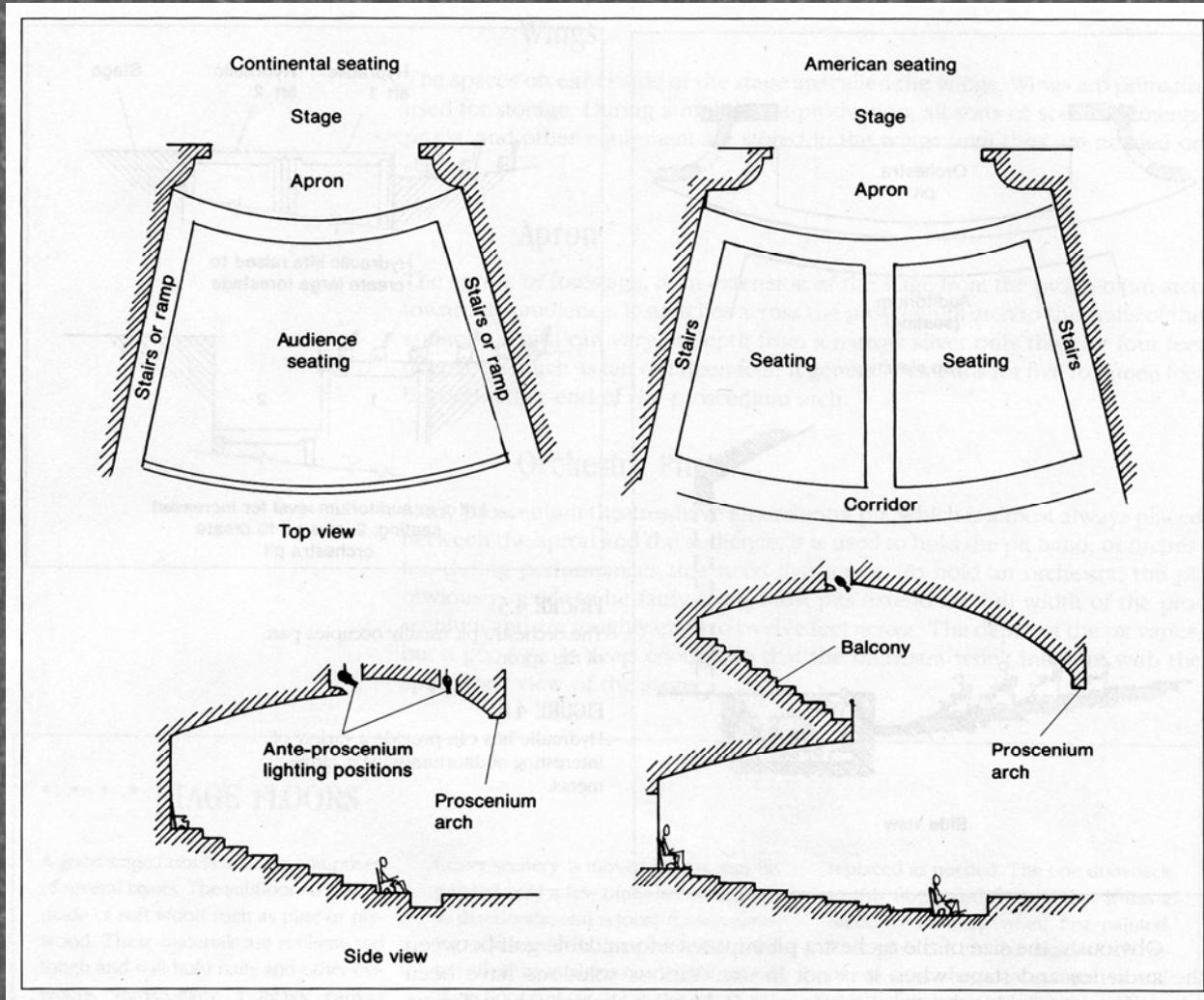
Fig 10 Sound reflects off all hard surfaces and will carry on reflecting until it is eventually absorbed.

# Auditoriums

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  - ***Acoustics*** – the characteristics of a theatre that allow the audience to hear music or speech onstage
  - ***Reverberation*** – the amount of echo in a space, or the amount of time it takes a sound to fade to silence
  - Optimal reverb time varies by application : shorter for speech and longer for music
  - Some theatres are purpose built (opera houses) but many are multipurpose and have adjustable acoustic panels to accommodate

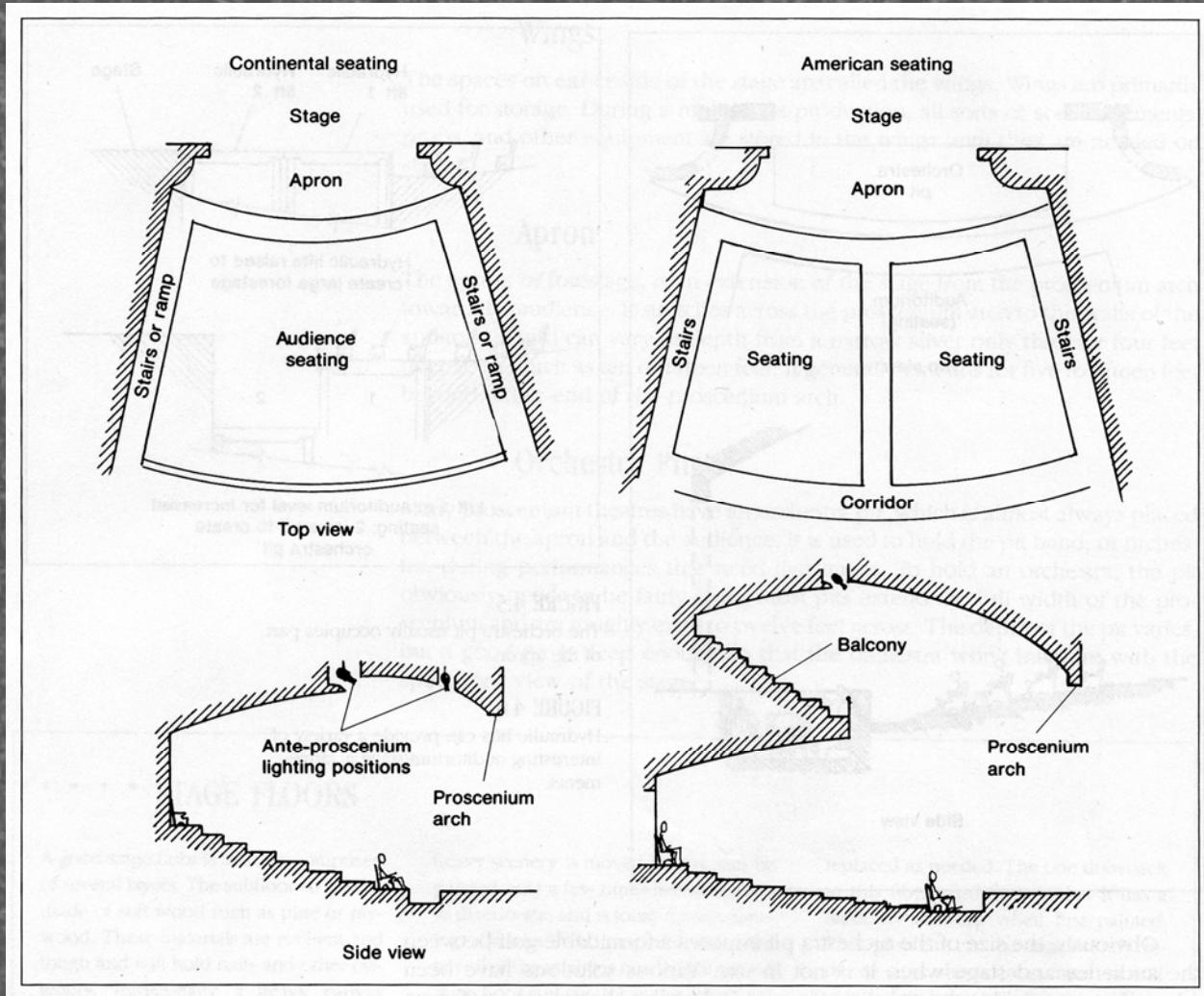
# Auditoriums

- o Basic requirements for the audience : See, Hear, Safety, Comfort
- o Raked seating improves view of the stage and acoustics



# Auditoriums

- o Basic requirements for the audience : See, Hear, Safety, Comfort
- o **Balcony** - gives additional seating space in a second level

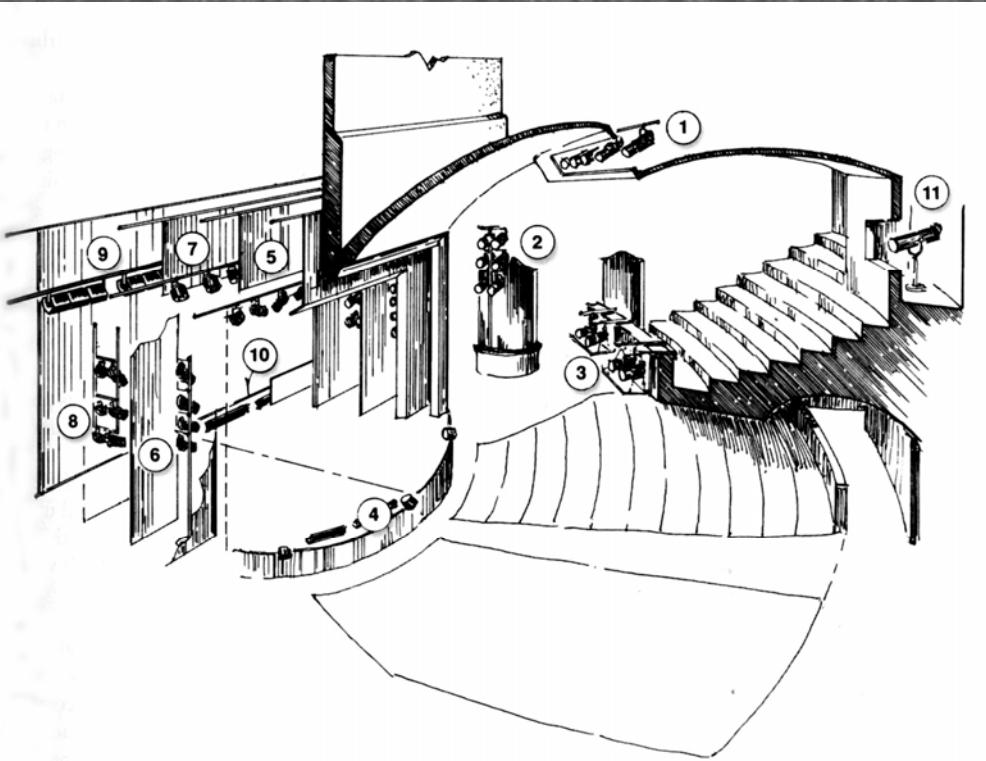


# Auditoriums

- o Basic requirements for the audience : See, Hear, Safety, Comfort
- o **Safety**
  - Audience must be able to enter and exit with ease and safety
  - Building codes vary per jurisdiction and affect : fire safety, number of exits, aisle width, ADA requirements
- o **Comfort**
  - Theatre Seats
  - HVAC
  - Restrooms

# Auditoriums

- **Lighting Positions** – auditorium houses various rigging positions for lights



## **Lighting Positions in the Proscenium Theatre**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Ceiling beams or ports.                                       | 7 Second electric pipe (midstage back light position).          |
| 2 Box booms or side coves.                                      | 8 Ladder.   |
| 3 Balcony front or balcony rail.                                | 9 Third electric (back-light, backdrop, or cyclorama lighting). |
| 4 Apron or footlights.  | 10 Ground row (backdrop or cyclorama lighting).                 |
| 5 First electric pipe or bridge (upstage front light position). | 11 Follow spot.   |
| 6 Floor stand or boom.  |   |

- **APs** (Ante-proscenium) – or cove opening in auditorium ceiling providing space for lighting, numbered starting at the proscenium (1<sup>st</sup> AP, 2<sup>nd</sup> AP)
- **Box Booms** – vertical lighting positions built into the side walls, paired left and right, numbered from the proscenium
- **Balcony Rail** – pipe attached to the edge of the balcony

# Auditoriums

- o ***Control Booth*** – located at the rear of house, allows unobstructed view of the stage for the stage manager, light board and followspot ops
- o ***Sound Mix Position*** – booth located at rear of audience seating in the house, allows mixer to hear from the audience perspective

# The Proscenium Stage

## o Proscenium Arch

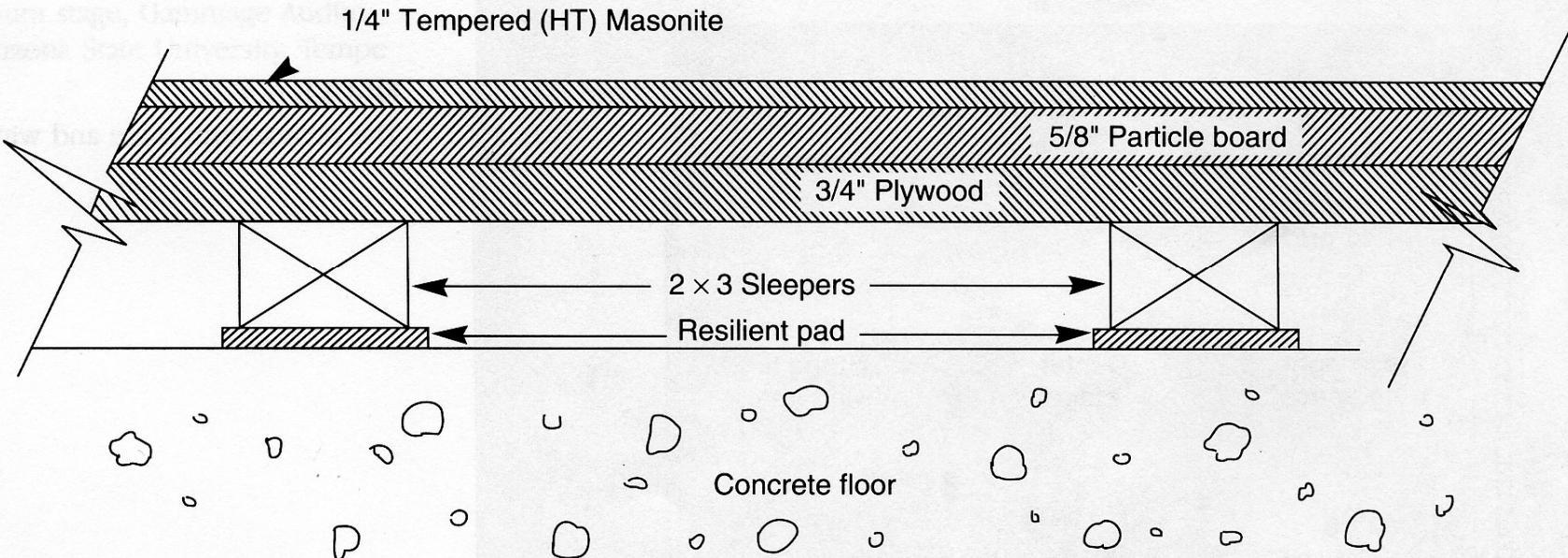
- Separates the stage from the auditorium
- Size varies depending on auditorium size, from 18' to 30' high, from 24' to 64' wide for 300 to 1200 seats



# The Proscenium Stage

## o The Stage

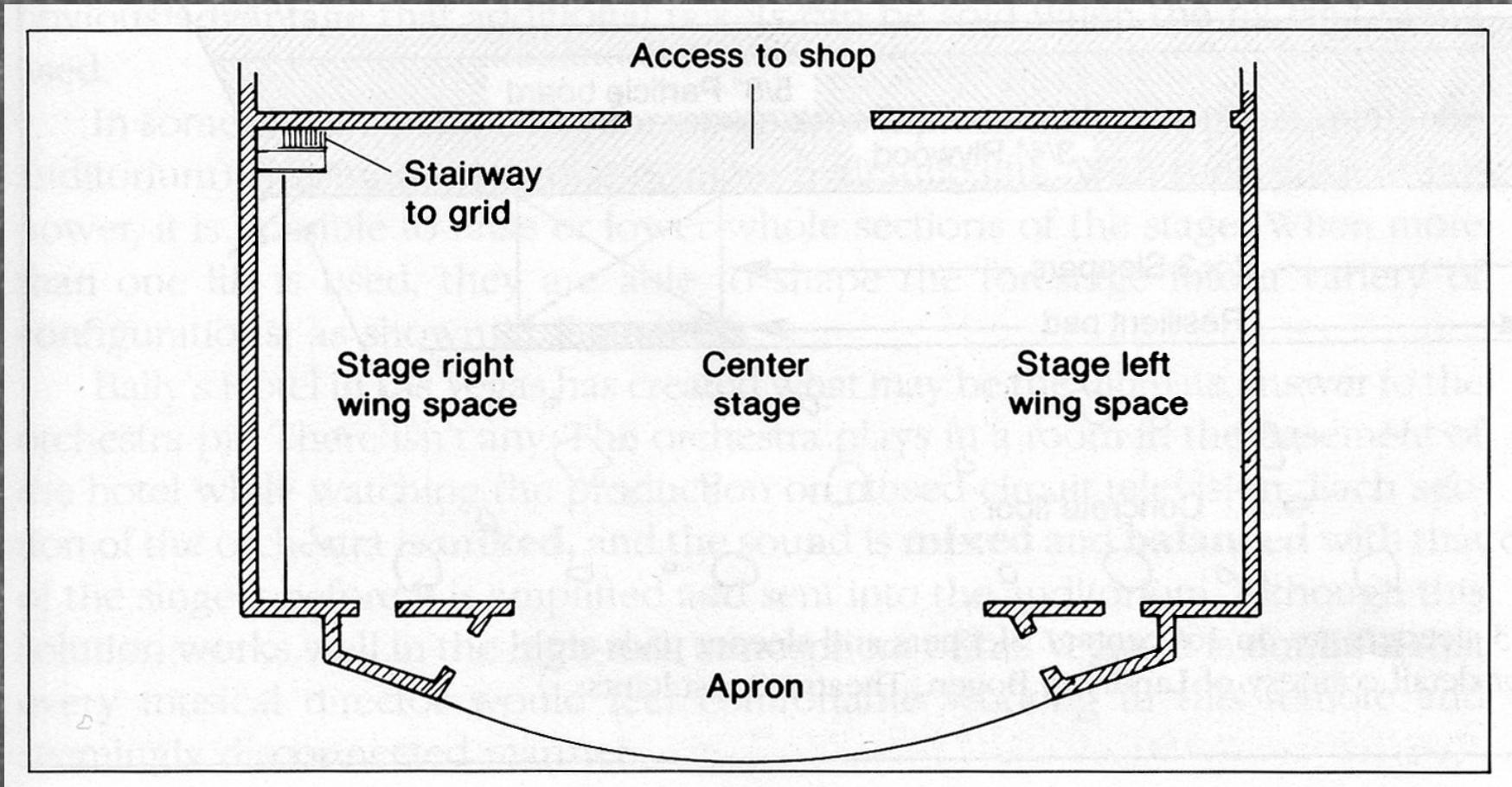
- *Deck* – stage floor, working surface for multiple purposes
  - Solid, non-skid surface for actors
  - Paintable surface
  - Resistant to splintering or gouging from heavy scenic elements
  - Easy to screw or nail into



# The Proscenium Stage

## o The Stage

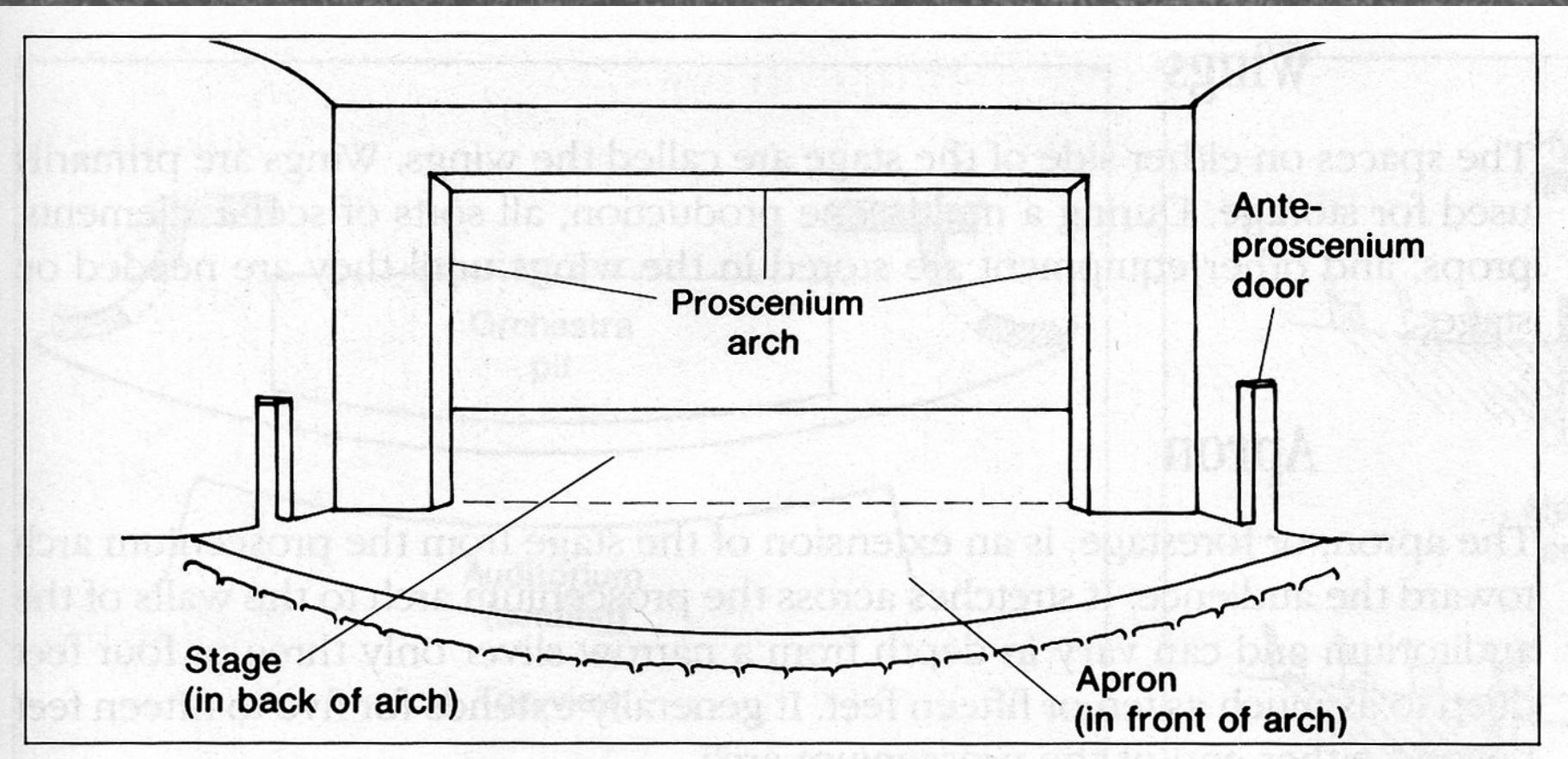
- *Wings* - space backstage, behind the proscenium, used primarily for storage of scenic elements and actors waiting to enter



# The Proscenium Stage

- o The Stage

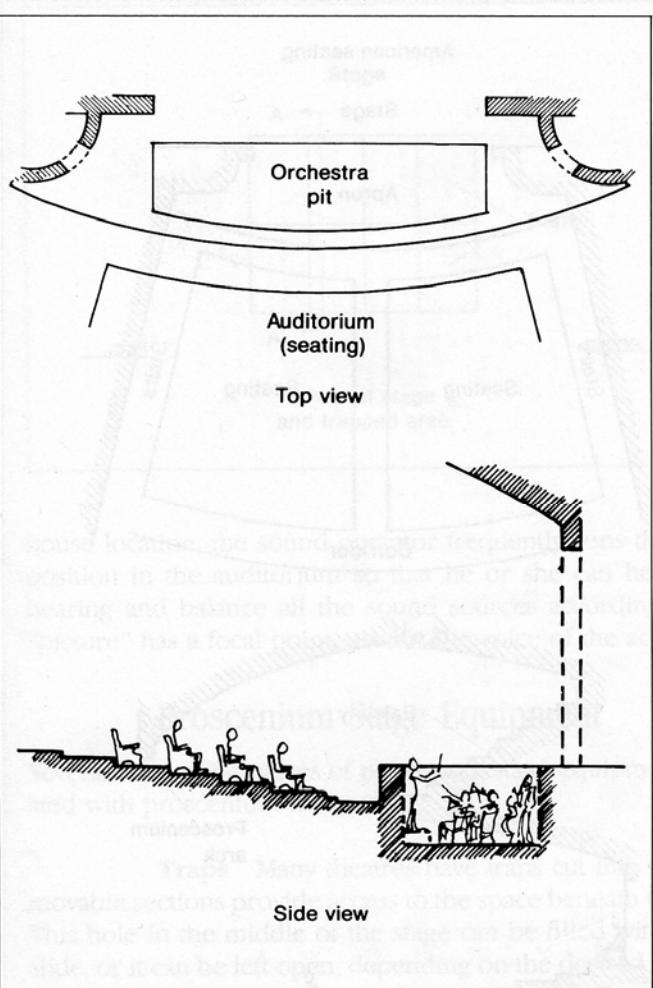
- *Apron* - forestage or extension of the stage from the proscenium towards the audience, varies in size from 3' to 15'



# The Proscenium Stage

## o The Stage

- ***Orchestra Pit*** – space in front or built into the apron used to house a pit band or orchestra for operas or musicals

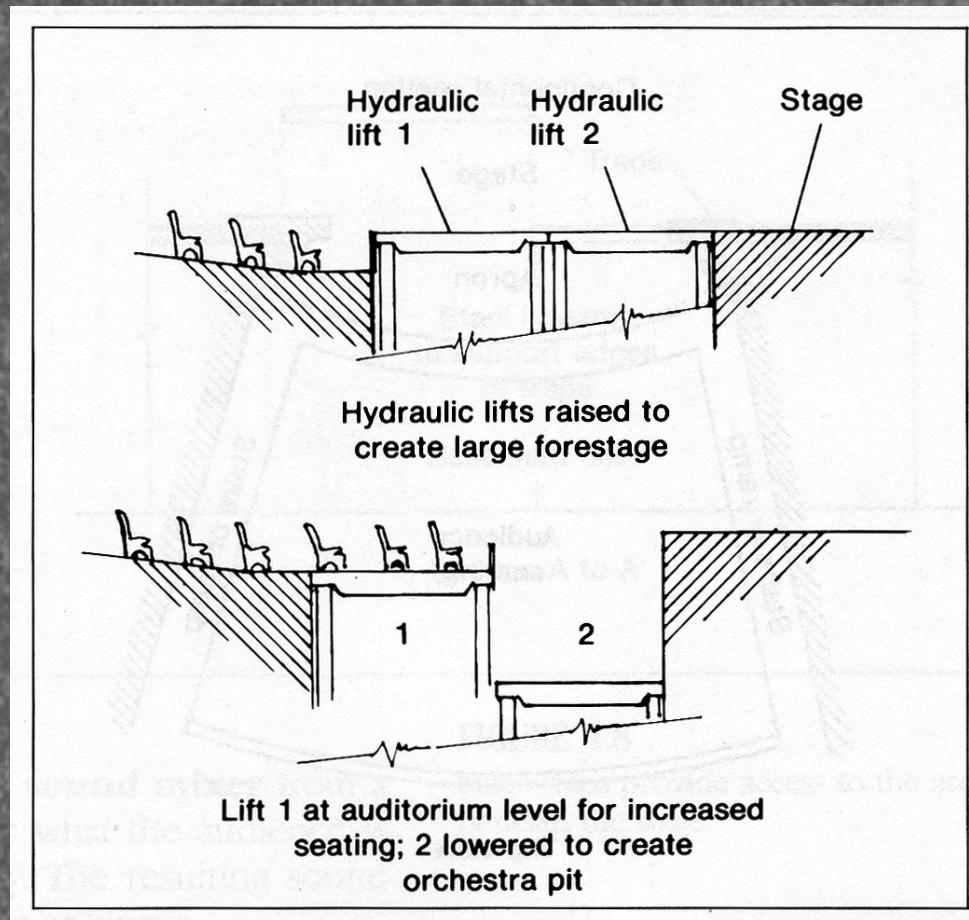


- Must be large enough to contain full orchestras
- most extend the width of the proscenium arch, 4' to 8' deep
- Pit can extend underneath the stage to house larger orchestras
- Often, an elevator built into the apron descends to form the orchestra pit

# The Proscenium Stage

## o The Stage

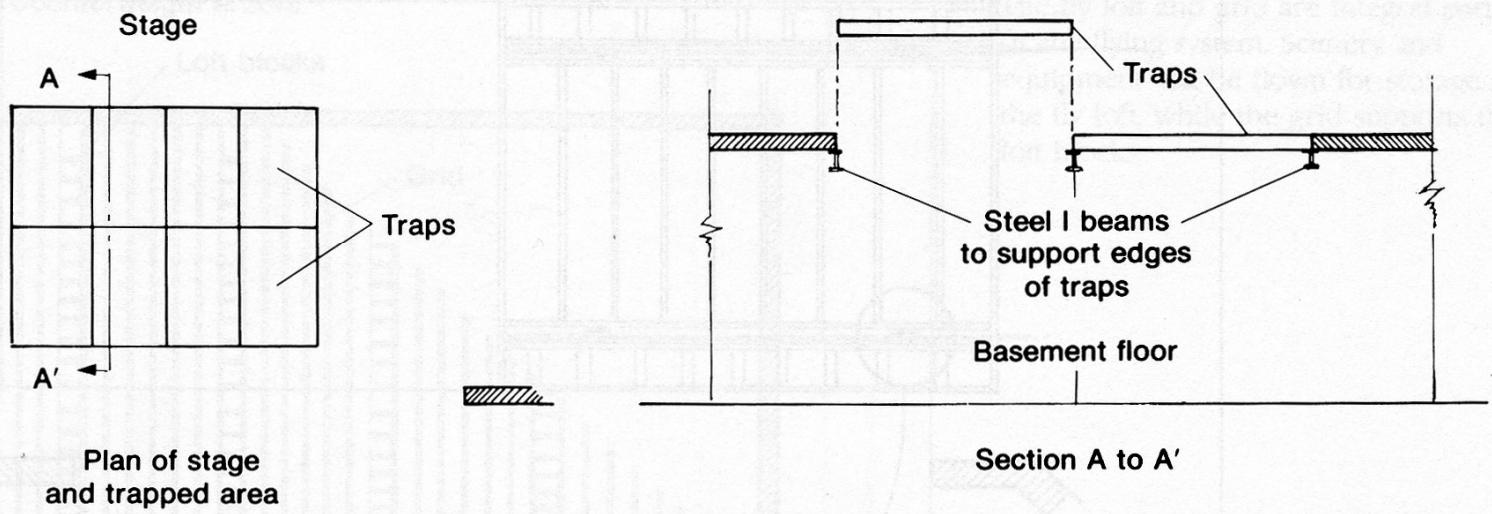
- *Elevators or Lifts* – movable sections of the deck can be used to create orchestra pits, extend auditorium seating or lower scenery into the trap room



# The Proscenium Stage

## o The Stage

- **Traps** – removable sections of the deck that provide access to the space beneath the stage (*trap room*), placing stairs, elevators or slides allow for various effects



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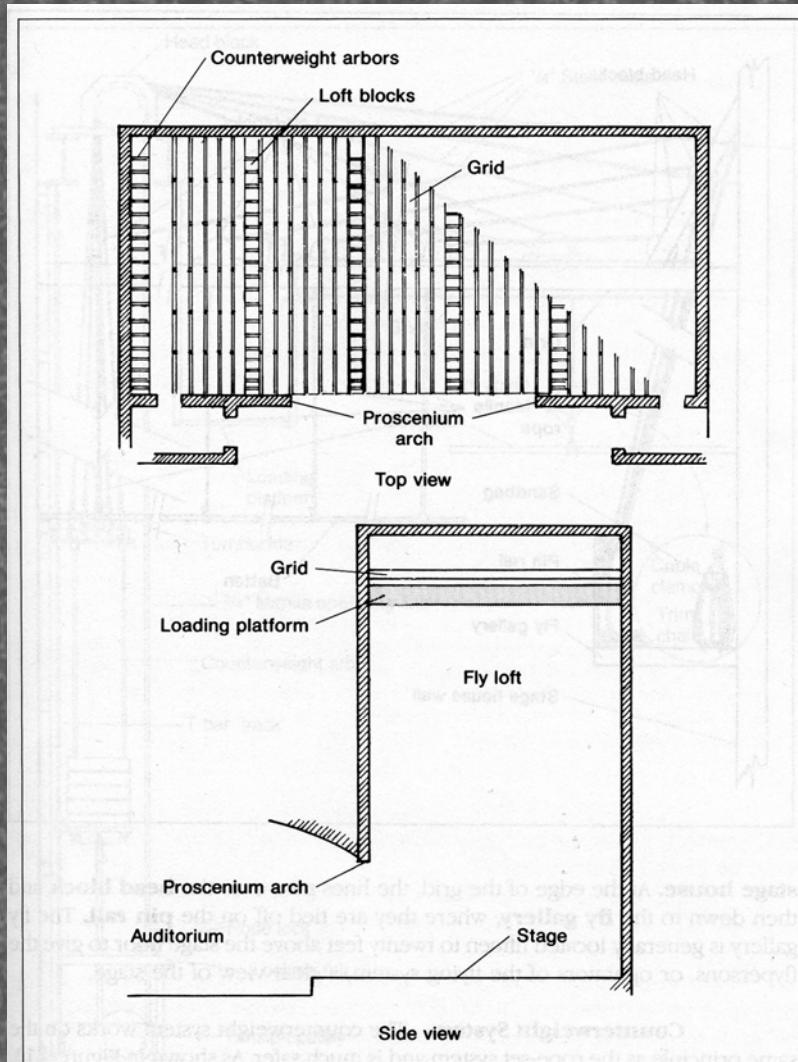


*Murder* : Edison Theatre, CSULB (2002)

# The Proscenium Stage

## o The Stage

- *Fly Loft* – area directly above the stage, houses rigging system



# The Proscenium Stage

## o The Stage

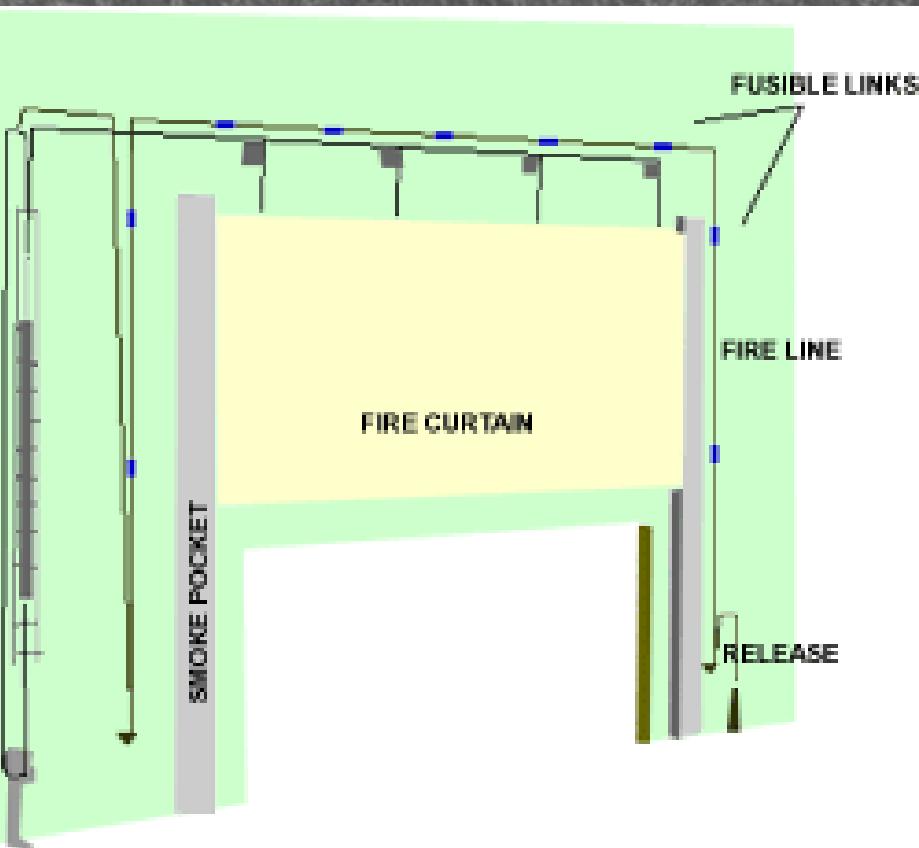
- *Fly Loft* – area directly above the stage, houses rigging system



# The Proscenium Stage

## o The Stage

- *Fire Safety Devices*



- ***Fire Curtain*** – descends to seal the proscenium from the auditorium in case of fire
- ***Smoke Pockets*** – steel channels that guide the fire curtain and hold it in place
- ***Smoke Doors*** – vents above the stage that open in case of fire drawing smoke out of the auditorium
- ***Fire Doors*** – fireproof doors covering stage entrances, designed to automatically close

# The Proscenium Stage

- o **Stage Drapes and Masking**

- designed to mask or hide backstage areas from audience view
- ***Grand Drape*** (or Main Drape, Main Curtain, Main, Grand Rag) – covers the proscenium opening, either flown or travelled



Eastman Theatre, Rochester, NY

# The Proscenium Stage

## o Stage Drapes and Masking

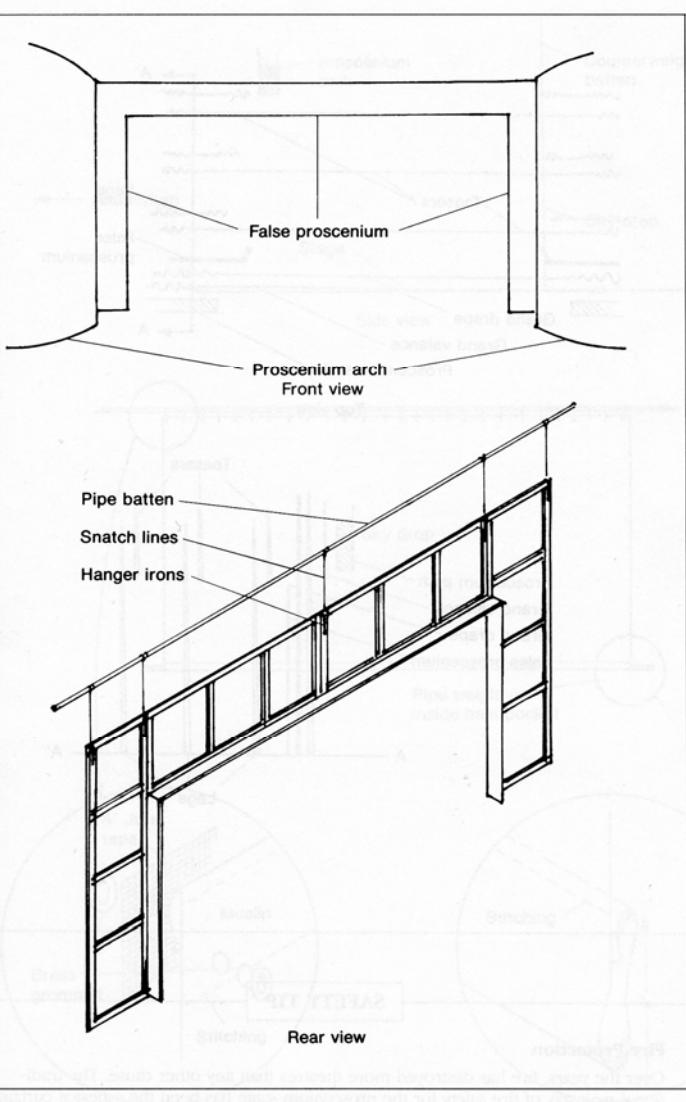
- ***Grand Drape*** (or Main Drape, Main Curtain, Main, Grand Rag) - covers the proscenium opening, either flown or travelled
- ***Grand Valance*** - border DS of Main, made of same material



Eastman Theatre, Rochester, NY

# The Proscenium Stage

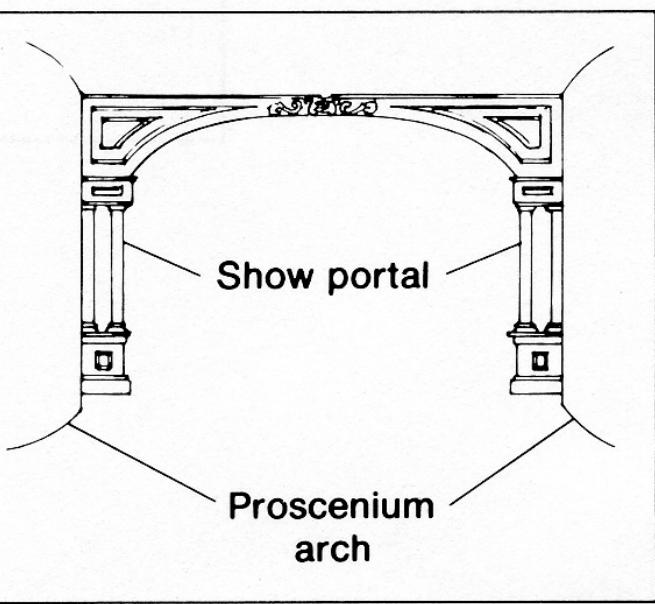
## o Stage Drapes and Masking



- ***False Proscenium*** – located US of Main, structure made of flats covered in duvetyn, used to shrink the apparent proscenium size

# The Proscenium Stage

- Stage Drapes and Masking



- ***False Proscenium*** – located US of Main, structure made of flats covered in duvetyn, used to shrink the apparent proscenium size
- ***Show Portal*** – false proscenium designed for a specific show

# The Proscenium Stage

- o **Stage Drapes and Masking**

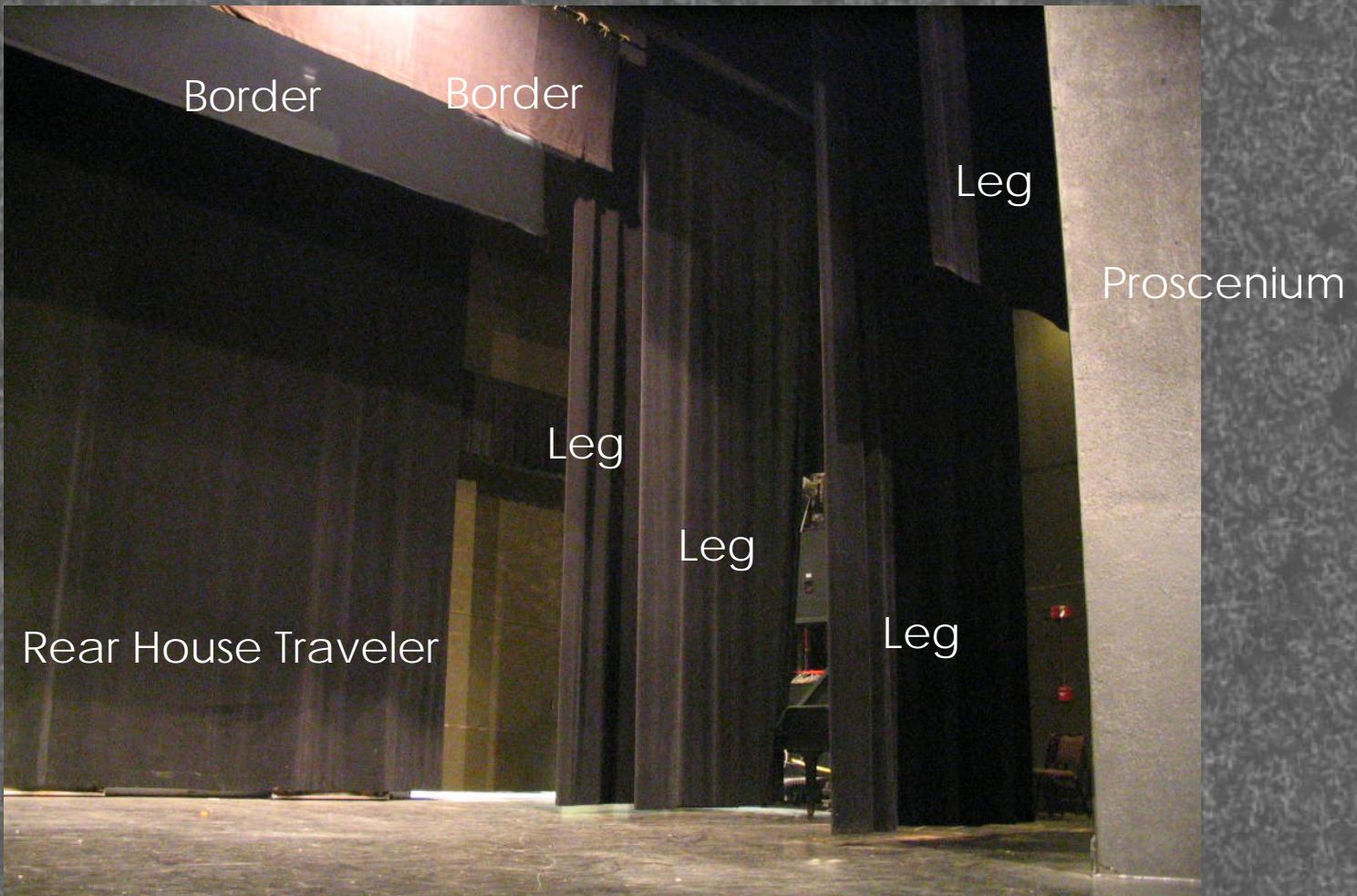
- **Legs** (or Tormentors) – vertical drapes used to mask the sides of the stage, tied to batten in pairs, made from black velour or duvetyn



# The Proscenium Stage

- o **Stage Drapes and Masking**

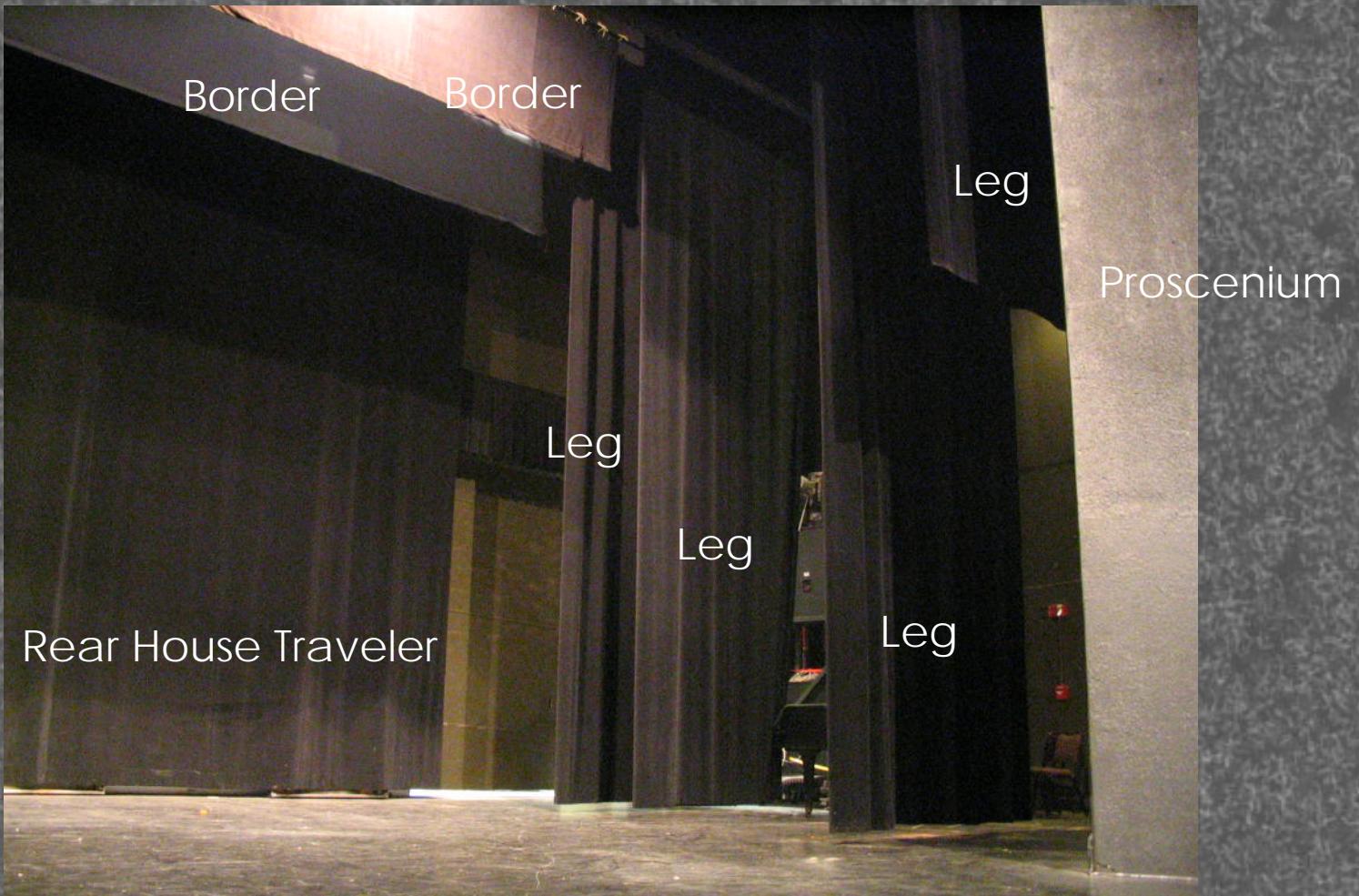
- ***Borders*** (or Teasers) – horizontal drapes used to mask battens and electrics, run length of batten, 4' to 10' tall, black velour or duvetyn



# The Proscenium Stage

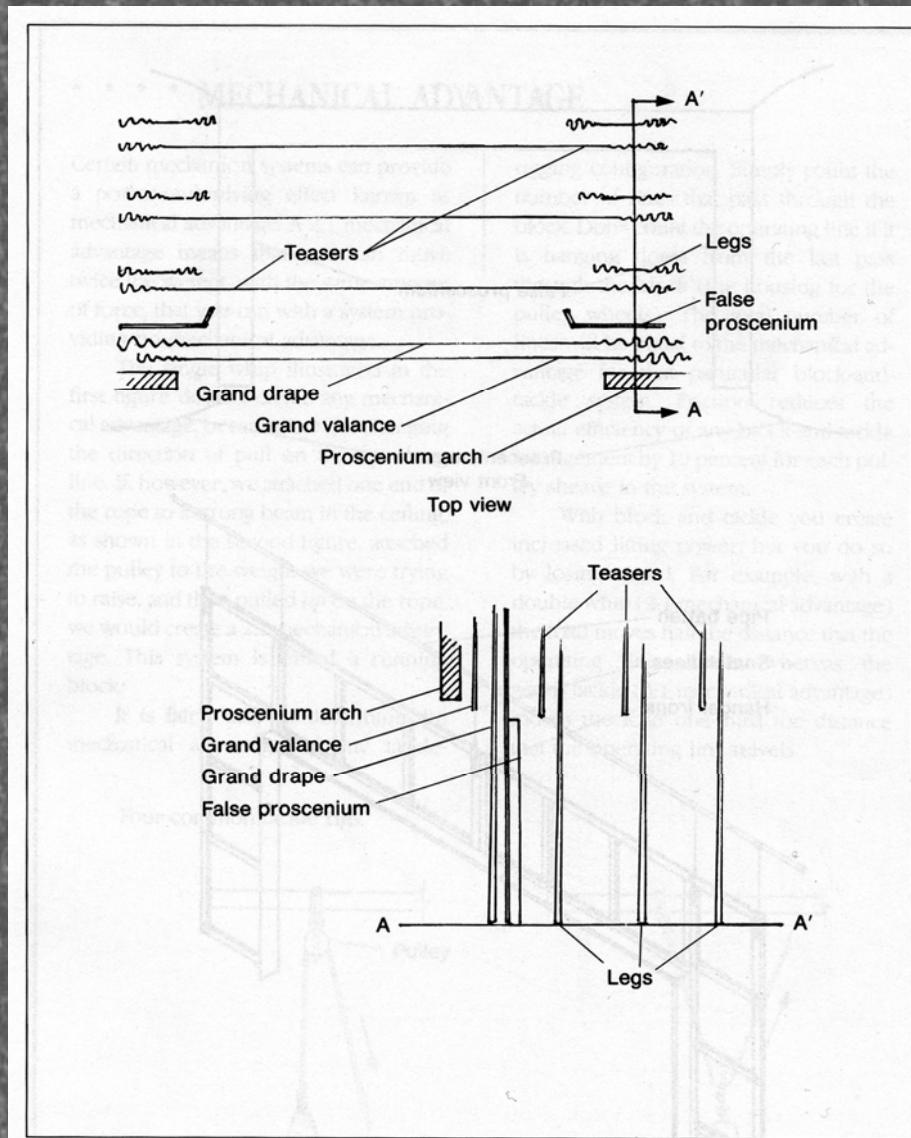
- o **Stage Drapes and Masking**

- **Travelers** – any drapery that moves or opens horizontally, runs the whole length of the proscenium and retracts offstage



# The Proscenium Stage

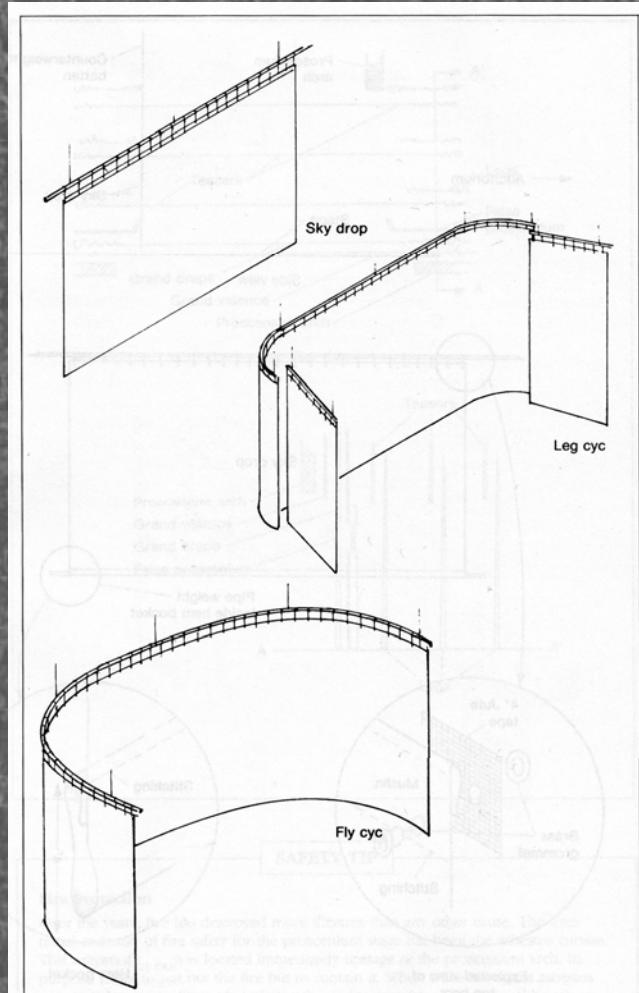
## o Stage Drapes and Masking



# The Proscenium Stage

## o Stage Drapes and Masking

- ***Cyclorama*** – large fabric drop used to simulate sky, hung at the back of the stage on a batten



- ***Flat Cyc*** – drop made of unbleached canvas or muslin to allow lighting designer to change colors
- ***Sky Drop*** – flat cyc, traditionally dyed sky blue or painted with clouds
- ***Wraparound Cyc*** (or Fly Cyc) – allowed a continuous sky to wrap around the set

# The Proscenium Stage

- Stage Drapes and Masking

- *Sky Drop* – flat cyc, traditionally dyed sky blue or painted with clouds

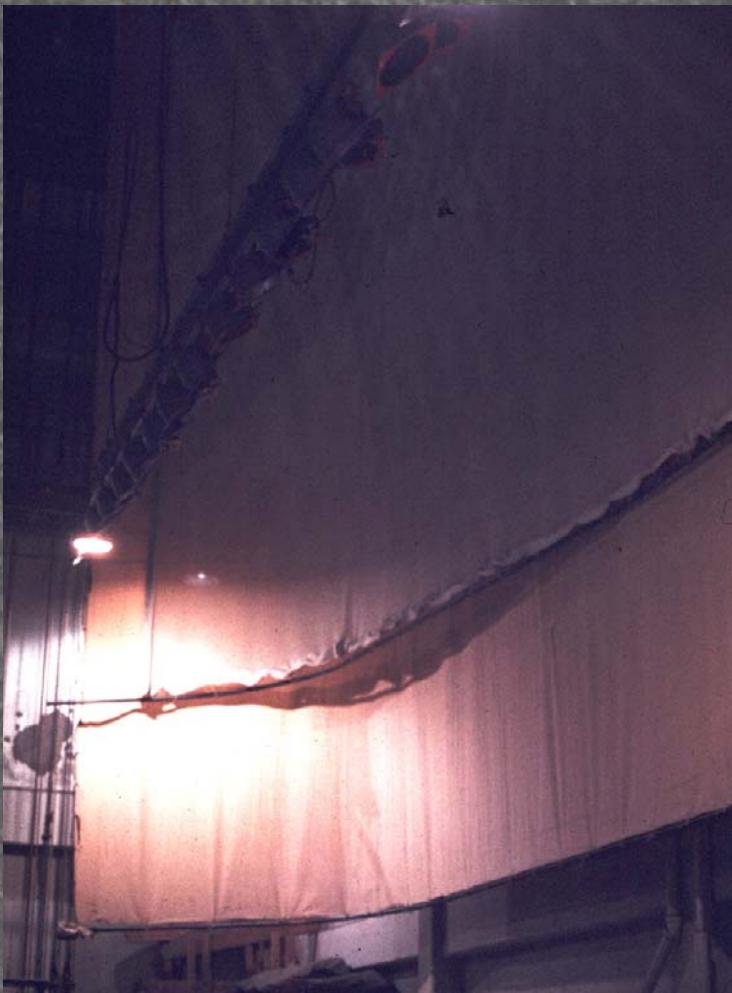


*Diviners* : Studio Theatre, CSULB

# The Proscenium Stage

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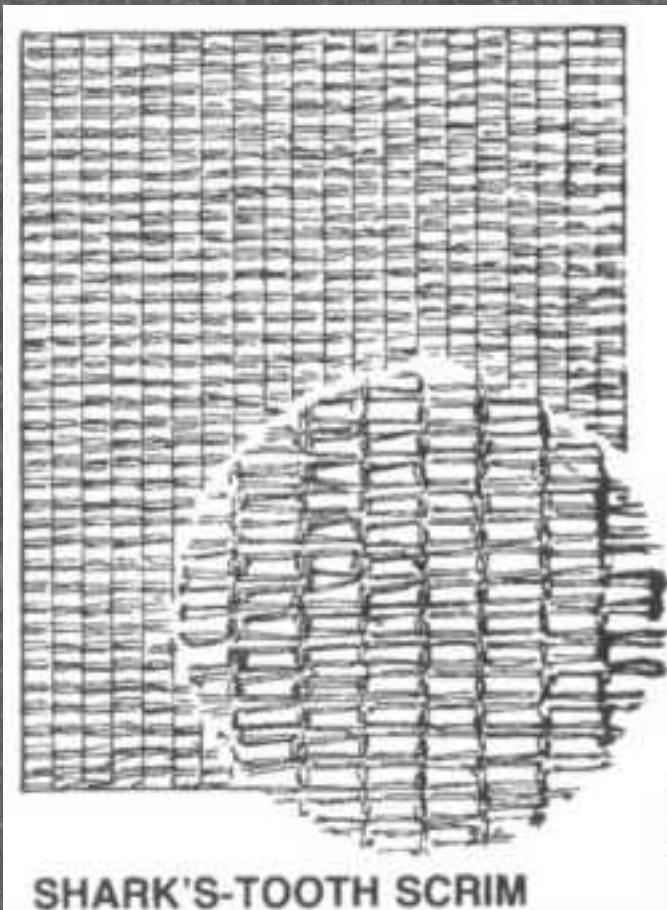
- *Wraparound Cyc* (or Fly Cyc) - allowed a continuous sky to wrap around the set



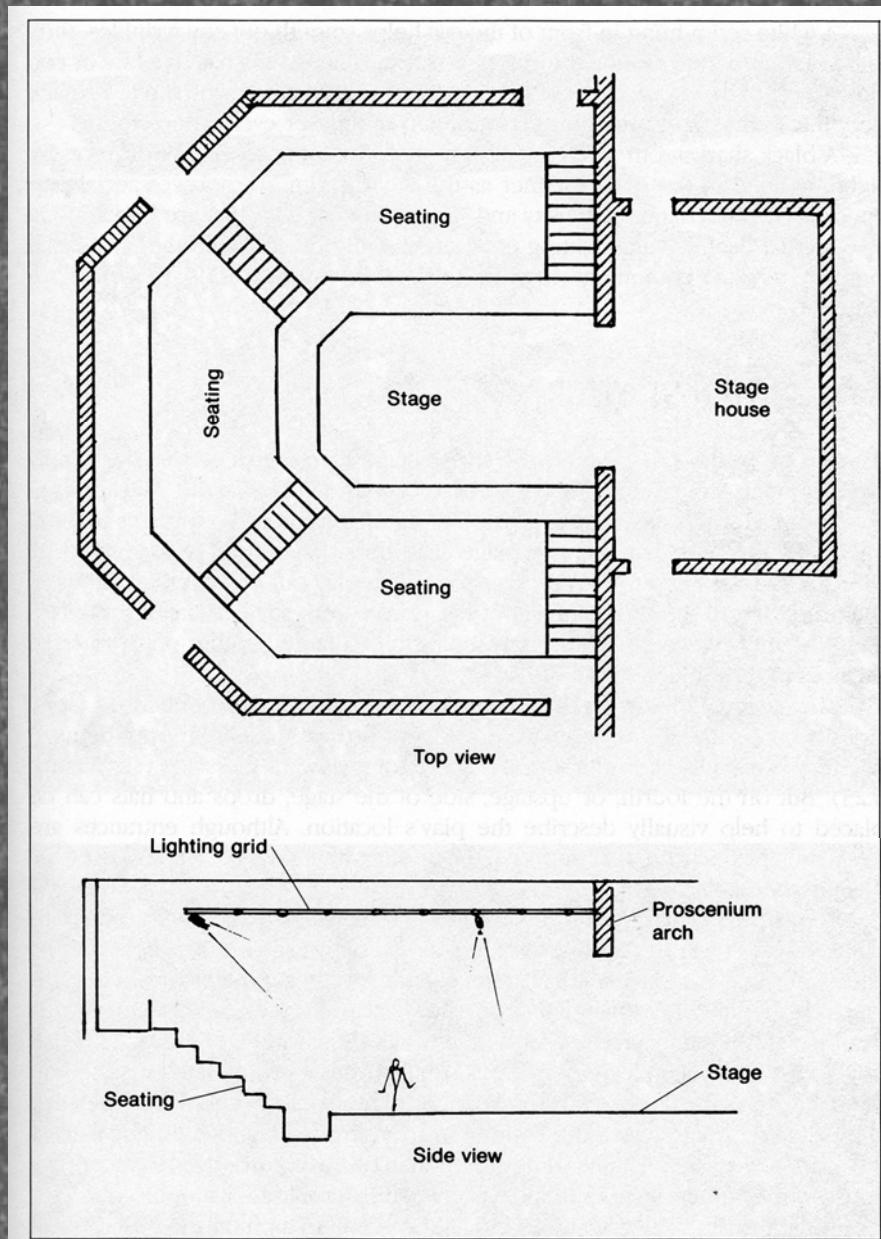
# The Proscenium Stage

## o Stage Drapes and Masking

- *Scrim* – drop made from a knit, loose weave fabric, lit from the front it becomes opaque, lit from the back in becomes transparent, used in front of cycs to even out irregularities



# The Thrust Stage



# The Arena Stage

