



ausdance
act

Staging Information

What is the staging like at The Canberra Theatre?

The Canberra Theatre Stage has:

- a front curtain that flies up into the roof
- stage cloths down the sides ('legs')
- a large white soft sheet at the rear (the Cyclorama, or 'cyc' - don't touch, it's very delicate!).
- a black curtain at the rear that can be flown out, and a black scrim at the rear that reduces flare from the cyc. We can add a glitter cloth as well.
- UV tubes and lamps across the front of the stage (but they are not very powerful so you need to be close for the best effect).

Remember:

- when you create and rehearse your dance piece that you will need to space the dancers away from all the edges
- our work experience crew will be able to place set items for you
- flies and lights must be operated by staff of the Canberra Theatre.

Props, Sets and Flies

We like creative use of the theatre space, but we know elaborate sets and props are problematic due to limited time, staffing and storage space. So we place more emphasis on creating the dance rather than all the extras. But if it's a great concept, go for it! Remember that clever use of stage lighting and the scrims will add extra tone and mood on stage.

Sets must be easy to move, simple to assemble with no 'hanging bits and pieces'. Make sure they are well-constructed, as our crew doesn't have time to make repairs. The Canberra Theatre will not accept any flies that 1. sag, or 2. have pieces of material or wood hanging off it - these will snag other flies when they move (leading to a closure of the stage).

Flying items and stage cloths take some time and effort for you and the theatre staff, but they can be worth it if they are well-made. Please call Ausdance ACT to discuss and get specifications and be sure you really need it - often your effect can be created with the moving lamps.

We retain the right to refuse the use of any prop, set, fly or backdrop for safety reasons. We'll do this early, before we get to the theatre and the theatre staff do it (they will - it's their theatre), so you have good time to work around the problem. If you aren't sure, call us!

Stage Paint

Ordinary colours look a bit dull on sets. Look for a product called permaplastik at Eckersleys - it's what the professionals use.

Staging Terminology

PROP: Any hand held item that is easily danced with by one individual, and can be carried through hallways without difficulty (Props are to be kept in the possession of teachers/performers for the duration of rehearsals/performance days).

SET: All other larger items that are to be stored back-stage including chairs, stools, boxes, rostra, etc.

FLY: A fabric or thin flat wooden backdrop or stage cloth that is attached to a bar crossing the stage that can be 'flown' into the roof for concealment.

Drop off and Pick Up

All sets and flies must be delivered to the rear dock door of the Canberra Theatre at 8am on the Monday of the theatre week. Canberra Theatre staff will not accept any flies or sets after this date as we are all on a tight schedule in the theatre. Please clearly label all pieces of your set/fly with your school's name. Hand props and carries items can come with you as a group for the tech. Collect everything immediately after your evening performance or they will be discarded by Theatre staff. They don't have storage space at the theatre for us.

Theatre Safety Restrictions - do not use:

- Body Oil, Petals, Talcum Powder, Confetti, Glitter and similar substances. Gets all over the place and embeds in the tarket.
- Naked flames, candles or sparklers.
- Live animals.
- Toy weapons - prohibited by law if it's a gun resembling a 'real' firearm but otherwise ok. If you do intend to use some sort of weaponry, please consult the Ausdance ACT production team well in advance of technical rehearsals.
- Hairspray - OUTSIDE only, not in dressing rooms. We get too many asthma attacks!

There is a useful guide to safe stage practices at the web site of the MEAA. The Entertainment Industry Safety Guidelines: Workplace safety guidelines for live productions (also known as the "Blue Book") can be found at: <http://ohs.alliance.org.au/safety-codes-guidelines-for-use-in-australia/view-category/Page-3>

