
GLOSSARY

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The items below, not marked (*), have been quoted from F.H. Ricketson, The Management of Motion Picture Theatres. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co. Inc., 1938, pp. 330 - 370. While not all of them appear in the thesis, it was felt that they might be useful terms to have on record.

box office (aka **ticket box**). The office in a theatre where tickets are sold.

carbon arcs. A lamp house on a projector whose lighting source comes from a sustained luminous glow formed under certain conditions when a break is made in an electric current. (*) The carbon rods face each other, almost touching and this creates the break in the electric current.

carbons. Rods made from a hard chemical compound, of a variety of sizes and used in arc lamps and the lamp house of motion picture projectors.

CinemaScope (*). A form of wide screen projection that commenced in Australia in the early 1950s.

cove lighting. Indirect lighting where the light source is hidden from view through a concealed concave structural recess.

drapes or draperies. A set of heavy cloth wings, borders and back curtain that enclose the stage and prevent the audience from seeing the side or back walls.

dress circle (aka **gallery**) (*). The upstairs seating area. The area closest to the stage was often referred to as the Lounge.

exhibitor. A person or persons, partnership or association or corporation engaged in the ownership or operation of theatres for the showing of motion pictures.

façade. The front of the theatre showing the architectural style and pretensions.

film (aka **picture**). A celluloid strip coated with a light-sensitive photographic emulsion.

foyer (*). For the purposes of this thesis, the upstairs waiting area or lounge area for dress circle patrons.

front-of-house staff (*). Theatre employees who work as usher, cashier, theatre manager.

front-of-house (*). That part of a theatre in front of the stage, including auditorium and vestibule/foyer.

lamp house. The metal housing of a motion picture projector surrounding the light source and carrying the mount for the condenser lenses.

lens. A piece of glass having two opposite regular surfaces,... used in the optical system for the projection of motion pictures.

matinee. A daytime performance.

motion picture projector. Machine consisting of a light source, shutter, mechanical housing containing ball-bearing intermittents, upper and lower film magazines, lenses, and, since the invention of sound, fitted with suitable electrical or mechanical attachments for reproducing sound in synchronism with pictures.

nitrate film. Commercial film with a nitrate base. Highly inflammable.

projection box (aka **bio box**). The booth or fireproof enclosure in which is located the mechanical equipment for presenting the show.

projectionist (*). Person whose job is to operate and maintain the projecting equipment.

proscenium. The opening between the stage and the auditorium.

proscenium arch. The arch that frames the stage opening.

safety film. Has a base of acetate which is slow burning and so is less inflammable than nitrate film.

screen. The white or silver porous surface behind which are placed the sound system speakers and upon which the picture images are reproduced, creating synchronous lifelike reality to the voice and action of a motion picture.

sound-on-disk. A sound picture system in which sound is supplied to the picture from a phonography-type record that is run with the picture on suitable turntable apparatus.

sound-on-film. A sound motion picture system in which sound is synchronously applied to the picture in the form of a sound track photographed alongside the picture frames in definite (or fixed) relation thereto. (**sound track**. An 0.084-inch width on film with photographic impressions of sound that actuates sound reproduction.)

stalls (*). The downstairs seating area of the auditorium, often divided into Back Stalls and Front Stalls.

usher/usherette. Attendant...who directs the seating of theatre audiences.

vestibule (*). For the purposes of this thesis, the entrance lobby of a theatre, where tickets are sold.