

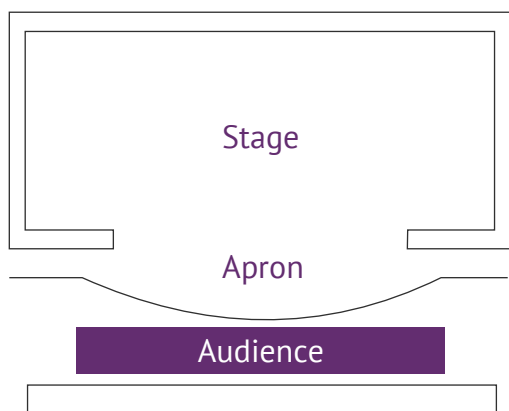


Whaleys School Stage Set Up Guide

Whether you require a staging set-up for a brand new drama studio, or a multi-functional assembly hall, we can work with you to provide you with a solution that suits all your requirements. With over fifty years of experience, we have the skills and knowledge to manufacture bespoke staging solutions that create the right atmosphere and ambience in your school.

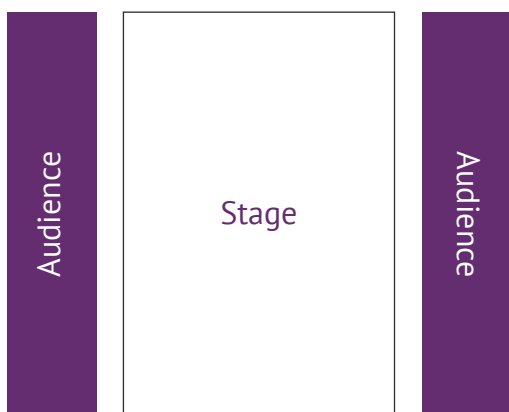
Types of Stages

First thing first you need to determine what type of stage you have, as this will influence the Theatre Drapes or Stage Curtains.



Proscenium Stage

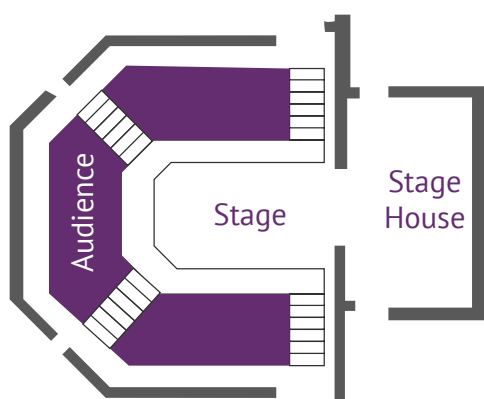
In schools, the most common type of staging is the Proscenium Stage. This is where the audience sit directly in front of the stage, with the seating either at one level or tiered. Most people associate a Proscenium Stage with theatres, as it usually has a grand frame or arch that hides the stage wings. Although, most schools and colleges don't have the majestic window found in West End Theatres, they do have something similar in design that keeps those waiting in the wings hidden from the spectator's eyes.



Traverse Stage

Sometimes referred to as Profile Stage, a Traverse Stage is where the audience sits on two sides of the stage. Similarly to a catwalk design, this is usually on the left and right hand side, which can be effective in performances that require audience participation. In schools, these types of stages are usually created in sports halls with audience members sitting on either stalls or the floor.

Once you've clarified the type of stage you have, the next step is to decide on whether you need Theatre Drapes or Stage Curtains. These all depend on your stage set up, requirements & budget.



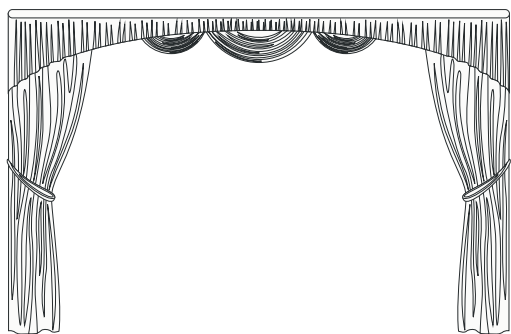
Thrust Theatre Stage

A stage that is surrounded by the audience on three sides is known as a Thrust Theatre Stage. This brings audience members closer to the action, whilst maintaining a back stage area that's usually hidden by a theatre drape or backdrop. In schools, these styles of staging areas are great when it comes to putting on educational performances and pushing audience participation.

Types of Theatre Drapes

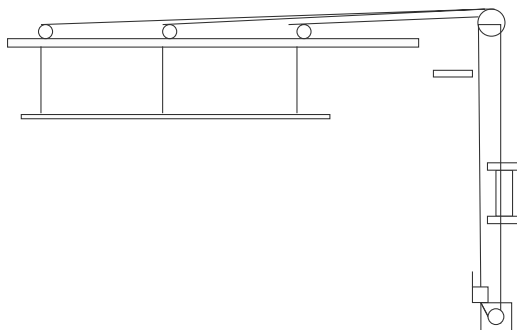
Front of House

Front of House curtains are one stage feature that are synonymous with the theatrical experience, and can be a perfect way to showcase your school's commitment to the creative arts sector. What type of Front of House curtain all relies on the space you have to play with, budget you have to spend, and stage you have to dress but they are best suited to schools with a Proscenium or Thrust Theatre Stage.



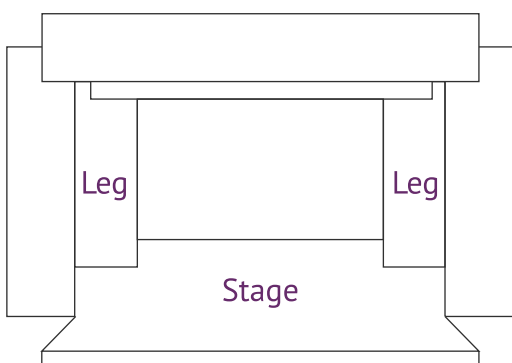
- Traveller Stage Curtains

These are the most popular of Front of House curtains, and are great if your school stage doesn't quite have enough space for a fly curtain. As these are drawn into the wings, they create a sensational opening. The fabric we normally recommend is our Cotton Velvet Velour due to its excellent light and sound masking properties.



- Fly Stage Curtains

Fly Stage Curtains are the types of curtains that you expect to see in a theatre. They aren't necessarily the best choice for a primary or secondary school, or low-budget solution, but can be the best fit for a college that specialises in Performing Arts. It is sewn as one drape that rises up with a counterweight and built in fly system. Whether you want a heavy-weight fabric like Polyester Velvet, or a lighter style such as Dupion Silk, we can advise on the best fit for your purpose.



Curtain Legs

Curtain Legs are a nifty way of adding depth to your stage, whilst allowing seamless transitions between performances. With a busy backstage area and manoeuvring of sets and props, it can be easy for your Curtain Legs to get damaged or snagged we always recommend finishing off your legs with our Curtain Lining if it's not all ready part of your solution.

To complete the rest of your Front of House solution, we can also provide you with Pelmet and Borders and Valance Curtains. These can frame the space, allowing audience members to focus on what's happening on stage whilst masking any lighting or rigging from the audience's view.

Types of Stage Curtains

At Whaleys, we know that Front of House curtains aren't always feasible due to budgets or space constraints, which is why a stage curtain solution may be a better fit. Best suited to a Proscenium or Thrust Theatre Stage, they can also be combined with your Front of House solution to complete your school stage.

Back Drops

Backdrops are the other part of a stage that is synonymous with a theatrical performance, concert, and events. They can become a part of a story, tell the story or amplify what's happening in front of them. At Whaley's, we offer four different types of Backdrops that can add something special to your staging area at school.



Gauze

Commonly referred to as Scrim, a Gauze Backdrop can create a dazzling effect by manipulating the light. The two fabrics that are perfect for this are Scenic Gauze and Sharkstooth Gauze. Scenic Gauze has a large, hexagonal weave, whereas Sharkstooth Gauze has a smaller, rectangular weave. Both these fabrics are translucent when light is projected from behind, but when it is lit from the front it becomes virtually opaque, smoothening out set transitions and adding depth to your scenery.

Types of Stage Curtains

Scenic Backdrops

A Scenic Backdrop hangs at the back of your stage to add to the magic of your performance. The best fabrics for this type of backdrop are White Sheeting Cotton, Assorted Cotton Canvas or Scenic Cotton Canvas. They're lightweight, durable and are easy to paint on, making them extremely versatile and adaptable to your school's plays.

Types of Stage Curtains

Cyclorama

A cyclorama fills the back of the stage and is normally used to represent the sky or open space. When choosing a seamless fabric such as Filled Cloth or Cotton Canvas, they can be projected onto, to add further depth. If your school is putting on a Christmas Nativity or Summer performance, then these can be a great addition to bring the stage to life.



Types of Stage Curtains

Star Cloths

Star Cloths light up your stage by creating the illusion of a starry night. These look spectacular as backdrops to concerts, dance shows and special events. Partnering with an electrical team, we entwine LED lights that can twinkle or change colour. The two fabrics we recommend for this Backdrop is Black Wool Serge and Supreme

Floor Cloths & Accessories

Accessories

At Whaleys, we manufacture stage and theatre curtains to the highest of quality and can provide you with a range of accessories to prolong their lifecycle. From storage bags to protect the drapes when they're not in use, to cotton webbing to reinforce the tops of the curtains.

All of our fabrics come with safety feature and conform to flammability requirements, but if they get wet, their coating should then be treated with our flameproof spray to ensure they are non-durable flame retardant.

Floor Cloths

Often overlooked, Floor Cloths can be the final piece to your stage solution. These are ideal for one off school plays, and are perfect for all three types of staging areas. By using a light weight fabric such as Muslin or Cotton Calico, it makes it easy to transport and a breeze to paint on. They can be an extremely versatile piece, and can add to your overall stage set.

Whether you need a full stage solution, or just a Backdrop, we can measure, tailor and manufacture a high-quality package that inspires imagination and adds something special to your school.

Contact Us: 01274 576718