Theatrical Superstitions

Fill in the gaps with the suitable words and phrases from the box:

macabre	bring misfortune	buttering him up	plague	culprit



7. What object is considered to bring bad luck if on stage?

Never bring a peacock feather on stage

Peacock feathers may be beautiful, but an actor is never supposed to carry one on stage. The superstition is inspired by the pattern on the feather that, to many, looks like the evil eye. No theatre production wants to risk offending an audience with this evil curse, which is supposed to _____ or injury to anyone who casts it.

8. Who is to blame if a play fails?

Beware of a visit from the ghost of Thespis (an Ancient Greek poet).

When something goes wrong in the theatre, those in the know will point to the ghost of Thespis as the _____. Ancient Greek sources identify Thespis as the first actor to step out of the chorus and play an actual character. He is the father of all actors. When theatres are not lucky enough to have their own ghosts, they rely upon Thespis to be the scapegoat for all the problems that might _____ a production.

9. What is considered good luck to give to the director when a theatre production closes?

Give the director a graveyard bouquet.

When a theatre production closes, it is considered good luck to give the director a bouquet of flowers stolen from a graveyard. This _____ symbolic gesture obviously denotes the end of a production (its death). Historically, actors did not make a lot of money, so one might assume that this was an inexpensive way to say thank you to their director while _____ for the next round of auditions.

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