

Theatrical Superstitions

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

tucked under into the limelight pitfalls ward off



4. If you want to wish "good luck" to an actor, you need to say
Wish your actors to break a leg

Seems a strange tradition, doesn't it? But perhaps 'legs' are referring to the base of theatrical side curtains. These 'legs' are the boundary between backstage and _____, so breaking this boundary is what every actor hopes to achieve!

5. What helps to learn the lines more quickly?

Sleep with a script _____ your pillow

Can sleeping with a script under your pillow help you to learn your lines? Probably not. But some superstitious actors believe it will help them learn by osmosis [ɒz 'məʊsɪs] .

6. What is necessary to do before leaving the theatre after performance?

Turn on the ghost light before leaving the theatre

When you enter a darkened theatre, there are many potential _____, such as open trap doors and orchestra pits to fall into, scenery to walk into, props and furniture to fall over. The ghost light remains turned on in the center of the stage when all other lights have been turned out. It's merely a matter of practical safety. Or is it? The legend of almost every theatre usually involves a few theatre ghosts who haunt the place. Many actors believe the ghost light _____ evil spirits.