

# Theatrical Superstitions

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

wreak havoc	spreading a rumour	conjures up
cue	tucked under	into the limelight
		took over



## 1. What colour should never be worn on stage?

### Blue's banned

Legend has it that, back in the day when blue dye was particularly expensive, producers wanted to discourage big spending! By \_\_\_\_\_ that wearing blue on stage was bad luck, they avoided costumiers and actors demanding the most expensive fabrics. Sneaky, eh?

## 2. What name should you not say in the theatre?

### Macbeth is a no go

Don't say the name of Shakespeare's "Scottish play" inside a theatre. Some think the witchcraft in the play \_\_\_\_\_ evil spirits that will \_\_\_\_\_ on the current production!

## 3. What is considered a jinx to do backstage in the theatre?

### Don't whistle while you work

Before technology \_\_\_\_\_, scenery used to be manually lifted into the air by stagehands using ropes. And how did stagehands \_\_\_\_\_ each other? Whistling. An actor who whistled backstage could be inadvertently delivering an important \_\_\_\_\_, which could result in chaos! The superstition still stands to this day – don't whistle.

## 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'meʊsɪs].