

Flats Readers Theatre Script

By Danielle Deacon, Catholic University student in
Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn's course, The Teaching of Theatre

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|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Today we are going to learn about | 6 | while Hollywood flats put the wood for the stiles and rails on the edge of the wood. |
| All | flats [gesture]. | | |
| 3 | Floats? But the Homecoming Parade isn't for months. | 1 & 4 | What's a rail? |
| 4-6 | Not Floats. | 3 | Forget that! What's a stile? |
| All | Flats [gesture]. | 5 & 6 | One question at a time! |
| 4 | Flats [gesture] are a form of two-dimensional scenery. | 5 | Rails are the horizontal top and bottom portions of the frame. |
| 6 | A flat is a lightweight frame | 6 | And stiles are the vertical sides. |
| 2 | Made from wood or steel tubing | 5 | Toggle bars and corner blocks can also be used to make the frame sturdier. |
| 1 | And then covered with some sort of material. | 3 | Toggle bars and corner blocks? [gesture] |
| 5 | One type of flat is a soft flat, also known as a theatrical flat. | 1 | A toggle bar is a piece of wood place in the center of the flat. It runs parallel [gesture] to the rails. |
| All | A theatrical flat? [gesture] | 2 | A corner block is a small piece of plywood that is placed in the corner and attached to one stile and one rail. |
| 2 | Yes, this flat has a wooden frame | 4 | Corner blocks usually keep the flat square. |
| 4 | And is usually covered with fabric. | 3 | I thought flats were rectangular. |
| 6 | Another type of flat is known as a studio or Hollywood flat. | 2 | Most flats are rectangular. |
| All | Hollywood! [gesture] | 6 | For something to be square means it is straight. |
| 1 | Hollywood flats also have wooden frames, but are usually covered in plywood. | 4 | The top of the flat is just as wide as the bottom and it doesn't lean [gesture] |
| 3 | Are they made by movie stars? | All | [gesture] |
| All | No! [gesture] [sound effect] | 4 | to one side. |
| 5 | They're known as Hollywood flats because this is the style movies usually use. | 5 | So now you know about flats [gesture]. |
| 3 | Are there any other differences between the two? | 3 | Did somebody say floats?? |
| 4 | Or just differences in what covers the frame? | All | Groan [sound effect] |
| 5 & 6 | There is also a difference in how they are built. | | |
| 5 | Theatrical [gesture] flats are built with the wood lying flat, on the wider side of the wood, | | |

From the web site of Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn, Educational Drama Specialist

www.rosalindflynn.com