

Theatre Superstitions CBRT Script
By Sarah Beth Pfeifer and Natalie Pyle

1	Theatre Superstitions!	All	“Break a leg!” [sound effect]
All	Theatre Superstitions, what are those?	1-5	[start whistling]
2	Well, a superstition is a commonly held belief...	6-10	Hey! Don’t you know it’s bad luck to whistle!
3	not based on logic...	2,3	Just like on ships!
4	but the supernatural or fate.	All	Ah, hoy! [gesture]
5	Look, a black cat! [gesture]	10	That makes sense because theatrical rigging comes from ships.
All	Oh, no! [sound effect]		
6,7	Don’t worry, in the theatre black cats are good luck.	1	And just like sailors...
All	Thank goodness! [sound effect] [gesture]	2	Stage crews used to use whistling to communicate changes.
8	Where do superstitions come from?	3	So if an actor whistled
9	Sometimes from history...	4	a set piece that should have gone up [gesture]
10	Like-	5	might go down! [gesture]
All	The legend of Thespis! [gesture]	All	Aaah! [gesture] [sound effect]
10	Thespis was the first actor to speak lines alone on the Greek stage.	6	But the most notorious,
1	On November 23, 534 BCE.	7	cursed,
All	[Begin soft ghost sounds, continue under speakers till “everywhere!”]	8	catastrophic
2	And ever since then	All	theatre superstition of them all is... [sound effect]
3	his ghostly presence has been blamed for mishaps	6-10	Macb-
4	and mischiefs	1-5	the Scottish play! [gesture]
5	that happen in theatres everywhere!	9	Since the 1600s saying Macb-
All	And Thespis is why actors are called thespians! [gesture]	All	Shh! [gesture]
6	Sometimes, “good luck!” is bad luck!	9	the Scottish play
All	Huh? [gesture]	10	has spelled the production
7	An actor should never wish another actor “good luck,”	1	or the theatres’
8	because then he won’t have any luck left for himself.	All	doom! [gesture]
9	So instead we wish them something terrible, like...	All	So remember!
		1-3	Black cats are good luck
		4-6	good luck is bad luck
		7-10	And thespians never ever say
		10	Macb-
		All	Shh! [gesture]