

[54] ADJUSTABLE PUPPET SHOW STAGE

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[51] Int. Cl..... A63h 33/00

[58] Field of Search 46/13; 272/9, 21

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[57] ABSTRACT

A puppet show stage comprising a horizontal playing bar which is supported by two vertical supporting rails. The playing bar is adjustable in height and has an adjustable curtain attached to conceal the puppeteers. The stage has an additional curtain system comprising a top curtain and two side curtains going to the floor. The stage also contains a window shadelike shadow wall. The playing bar can also be adjusted lengthwise and when the vertical rails are in the form of hinges can be mounted across the intersection of two walls.

10 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures

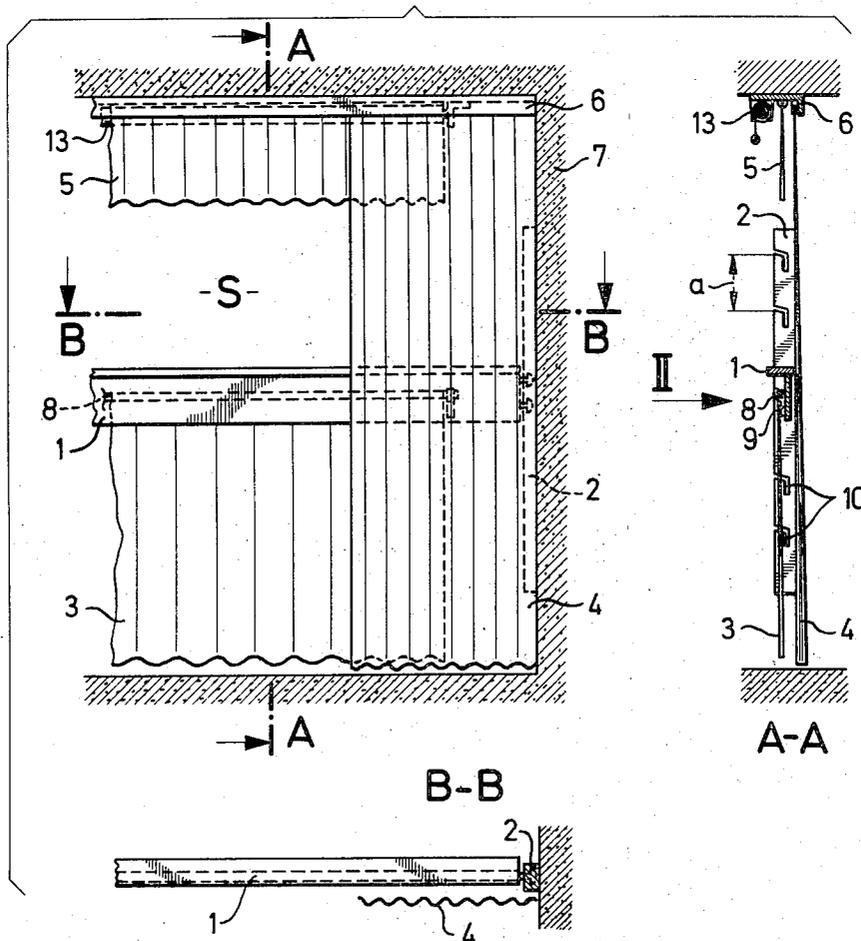


FIG. 1

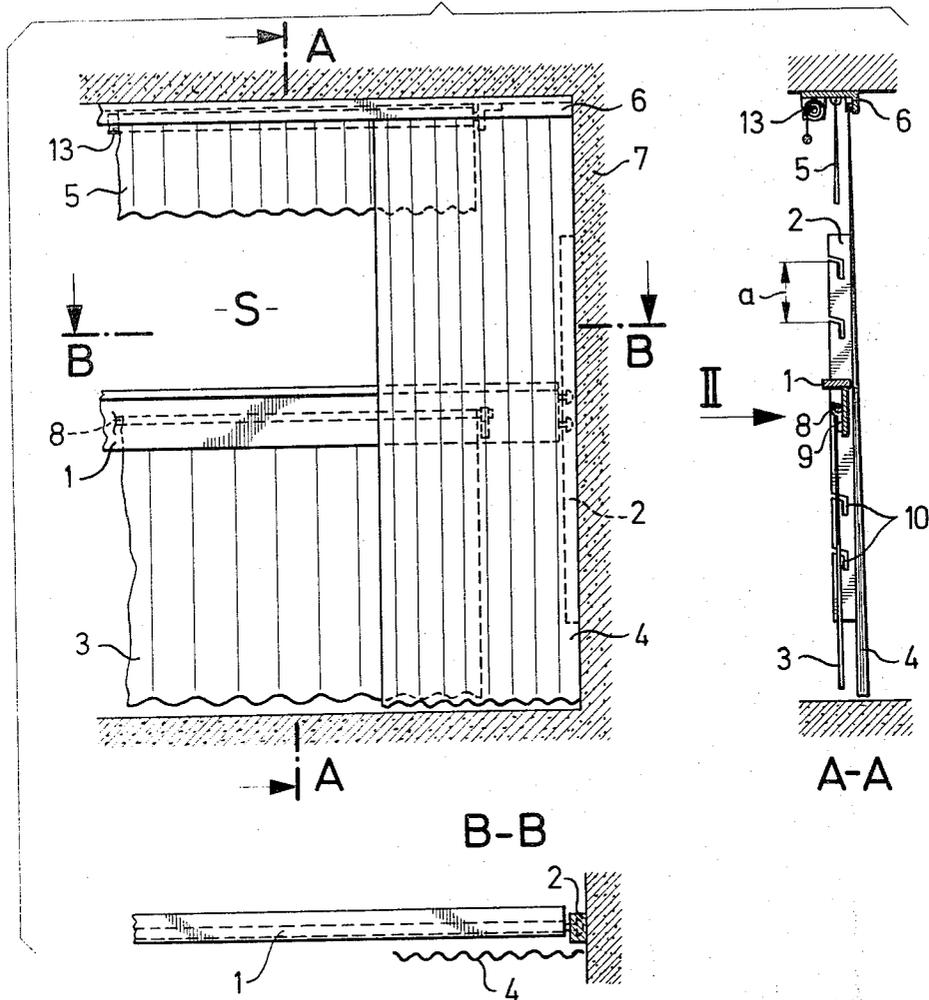


FIG. 2

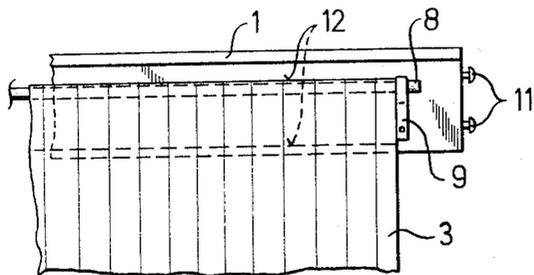


FIG. 3

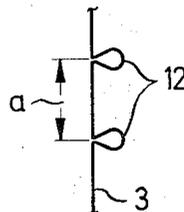


FIG. 4

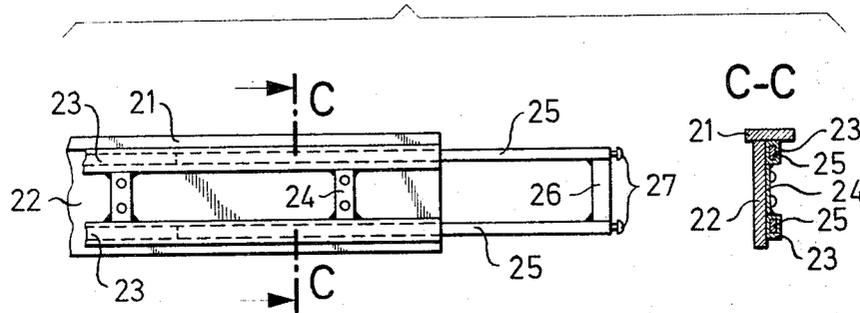
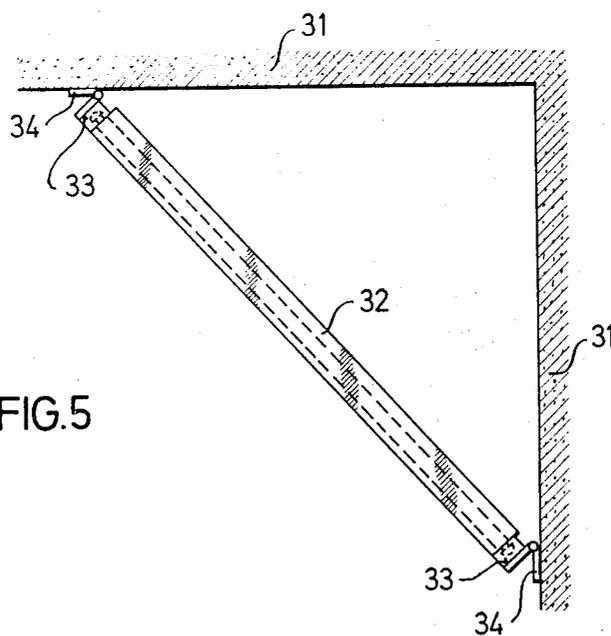


FIG. 5



ADJUSTABLE PUPPET SHOW STAGE**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****1. Field of the Invention**

The invention relates to stages for puppet shows and in particular to stages for hand puppet (glove puppet) shows. Specifically, the invention comprises a puppet show stage used with hand or glove puppets which can be adjusted to suit the height of the puppeteer.

2. Description of the Prior Art

As a rule, prior art stages used for giving puppet shows with hand or glove puppets comprise a single front wall with a fixed stage section and two side walls. The stage section may comprise a lower stage board or playing bar, an upper stage board or curtain and two side boards or walls. The stage usually has an appropriate curtain system for opening and closing the viewing area of the stage and for concealing the puppeteers from the audience.

This type of stage has the disadvantage that it cannot be adjusted to the size of the puppeteers, that is to say, in the case of a stage for adult puppeteers the lower stage board is too high for child puppeteers and vice versa.

Prior art puppet show stages cannot easily be adapted to existing space conditions. They are not readily placed in the corner of a room and cannot usually be expanded or retracted to match the width of various rooms in which the stage is used or to merely increase or decrease the width of the stage.

The present invention is directed to a versatile stage system that can be easily adjusted to the particular circumstances or environment in which it is being used.

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

As one object this invention provides a puppet show stage having a playing bar or lower stage board which is adjustable in its height above the floor supporting the puppeteers.

As a further object, this invention provides a puppet show stage having a playing bar adjustable in height attached to which is a vertical curtain hanging to the floor to conceal the puppeteers, said vertical curtain also being adjustable in height above the floor.

As still another object this invention provides a puppet show stage having a playing bar with curtain attached, both being adjustable in height, and having an additional three-part curtain system, one part at the top across the length of the playing bar while the other two parts are placed at both sides of the playing bar and preferably extend from the top of the stage to the floor.

In a still further object this invention provides a puppet show stage wherein the playing bar is adjustable in both height and length.

In again another object this invention provides a puppet show stage wherein the playing bar is supported on vertical supports which supports are pivotal about a longitudinal axis so that the playing bar may be mounted parallel to the floor across the intersection of two walls.

In yet another object this invention provides an adjustable puppet show stage having a retractable means for providing a shadow wall or screen, such as a window shade.

In still another object this invention provides a puppet show stage having an adjustable playing bar wherein the additional curtain system is carried by a rail which may be mounted in the ceiling, and the side curtains extend to the floor whereby, when closed, they obstruct the entire view of the stage whereby said adjustable playing bar may be converted in height or removed entirely during an ongoing show.

These and other objects of the invention are provided by the herein described invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The puppet show stage of this invention comprises a front wall, said front wall having a generally horizontal playing bar forming the lower stage board supported between two vertical supports, said bar being adjustable in height above the floor, a curtain attached to said bar and hanging vertically from said bar to conceal the area from the playing bar to the floor, said curtain being adjustable in length to correspond to the height of the playing bar. The vertical supports for the bar are preferably two vertical supporting rails which may be attached to the walls of the room in which the puppet show is given.

The prior art principle of a closed downstage wall with stage section is thus abandoned and instead there is only a playing bar, adjustable in height, and forming the lower stage board and a curtain capable of being adjusted to the desired height. The height of the stage can thus be chosen as desired and adjusted to the height of the puppeteers.

As in the puppet show stages of known construction, a conventional two-part curtain can be placed above the playing bar to permit opening and closing of the stage viewing area. However, according to a further development of the invention, it is more advantageous to provide an additional curtain system comprising at least three parts, with one part across the length of the playing bar forming the upper stage board, while two other parts which may reach the floor are placed on both sides of the play beam to serve as stage curtain. In this way, the overall size of the viewing area and stage section can be altered at will, especially if the section forming the upper stage board is also detachable. On the other hand, when the side stage curtains are closed, the stage can be adjusted in height or converted even during an ongoing show, especially to perform shadow shows.

For human shadow shows the curtain track attached to the play beam can be replaced by a curtain track suitable for shadow shows. A more advantageous possibility offers a retractable window shade-type shadow show wall disposed immediately behind the three-part curtain system and at the same height as the top of the curtains. When pulled out, the lower edge of the shadow show wall can be attached to the play beam or to the supporting rails.

In a further embodiment, the playing bar can be adjusted lengthwise so that the distance between the carrying supporting rails can be varied to match existing space conditions. This is especially advantageous when the supporting rails are to be attached to existing space limitations, such as room walls and the like.

In a still further embodiment, the supporting rails can be moved pivotally around their longitudinal axis so that the playing bar can be attached to room walls angularly disposed in relation to one another.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The versatile and adaptable stage system of this invention will be described with reference to the embodiments shown in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a front view of a puppet show stage half.

FIG. 1A is a cross-sectional view of the stage along the line A—A.

FIG. 1B is a cross-sectional view of the stage along the line B—B.

FIG. 2 is a detailed view depicting the attachment of the curtain to the playing beam.

FIG. 3 shows the construction of the curtain in accordance with the type of attachment shown in FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 shows a playing beam which is adjustable lengthwise.

FIG. 4A is a cross-sectional view of the playing beam of FIG. 4 along the line C—C.

FIG. 5 shows the playing beam attached between two room walls angularly disposed in relation to one another.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a front view of a puppet stage half according to the invention. The essential element is the playing bar, which is suspended in position at both ends in a supporting rail 2 conveniently attached to a room wall 7. The stage section S is confined by an additional three-part curtain system comprising bilateral curtains 4 and a curtain 5. Said three-part curtain system is conveniently attached to a common rail 6 which may be secured to the room ceiling or upright supports. The bilateral curtains preferably extend from the top of the stage to the floor. The area between the playing bar and the floor is concealed by a curtain 3 suspended from the playing bar.

Further details will appear from the two cross-sectional views A—A and B—B detailing the echelon formation of the individual curtains. The two bilateral curtain sections 4 on both sides of the stage, when drawn together, block the audience's view of the stage area and conceal all other sections of the stage, so that the playing bar can be adjusted even during an ongoing show, or the curtain 3 can be replaced by a shadow show wall.

The sectional view taken on the line A—A shows also the window shade 13 for shadow shows, which is likewise secured to the rail 6 or may be suspended between supporting rails 2. During shadow shows of figurines, the window shade is suspended in position with the lower edge thereof against the playing bar. During human shadow shows, however, the window shade is pulled out until it reaches the floor. Meanwhile, the playing bar can either be hung out completely or adjusted to the top position without the curtain 3, so that together with the curtain section 5 a self-contained upper proscenium is obtained.

Also apparent are the receiving notches 10 on the supporting rails 2, into which the playing bar is suspended into position. Said receiving notches are placed at regular intervals along the supporting rails. To adapt to the various play heights, the curtain 5 can be detached and the curtain 3 can be adjusted at regular intervals. The latter is held by a rod 8 which is suspended into position at both ends in hooks 9 placed on the playing bar 1.

FIG. 2 illustrates more clearly said very advantageous type of suspension, which rules out deflection in various places. The rod 8 is slid into running nooses 12 sewed into the curtain 3. As shown in FIG. 3, said nooses are likewise provided at intervals a, that is to say, at the same intervals as the receiving notches 10 on the supporting rails 2. The nooses 12 can very simply be made by means of continuous seams.

FIG. 2 further shows the suspension tenon 11 of the playing beam.

FIG. 4 illustrates a further embodiment of the playing bar which is adjustable lengthwise in comparison with the other form of construction, so that one is not bound by preset intervals of the supporting rails. The bearing element is formed by two square tubes 23 connected together via two butt straps 24 and carrying the playing bar 21 and 22. The tubes 25 are each movably inserted into the square tubes 23 at both ends of the playing bar so constituted and linked together at one end by a butt strap 26.

As apparent from FIG. 5, the supporting rails can also be attached to the room walls running angularly towards each other. To ensure that the receiving areas of the supporting rails 33 for the play beams 32 lie parallel to one another, the supporting rails are pivotally mounted and secured to the room walls 31 by means of hinges 34. Thus, in conjunction with a playing bar in accordance with FIG. 4, the stage system can largely be adjusted to existing space conditions.

I claim:

1. A puppet show stage comprising a front wall, said front wall having a generally horizontal playing bar forming a lower stage board supported between two vertical supports, said bar being vertically adjustable in height above a floor capable of supporting a puppeteer, a first curtain attached to said bar and hanging vertically from said bar to conceal the area from the playing bar to said floor, said curtain being adjustable in length to correspond to the height of the playing bar.

2. The puppet show stage of claim 1 further including an additional curtain system, said curtain system comprising three parts, a second curtain vertically displaced above said playing bar and across the length of said playing bar to form an upper stage board and two further curtains arranged on both sides of said playing bar and reaching the floor.

3. The puppet show stage of claim 2 wherein said first curtain, which forms the upper stage board is detachable.

4. The puppet show stage of claim 2 wherein said additional curtain system is carried by a horizontal rail positioned at the top of the front wall.

5. The puppet show stage of claim 2 further comprising a window shade-type shadow show wall disposed behind said three-part curtain system and at equal height which, in pulled-out condition, can be attached with the lower edge to said play beam or to said supporting rails.

6. The puppet show stage of claim 2 wherein said playing bar is adjustable lengthwise.

7. The puppet show stage of claim 2 wherein said vertical supports are supporting rails capable of being attached to walls or upright supports.

8. The puppet show stage as defined in claim 7 wherein said supporting rails are pivotal about a longitudinal axis.

9. The puppet show stage of claim 7 wherein said additional curtain system is carried by a horizontal rail at the top of the stage.

10. The puppet show stage of claim 9 wherein said horizontal rail is attached to the ceiling of a room.

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