

down the curtain with the pile, not upwards. Under no circumstances should a vacuum cleaner be used, as this will cause creasing and puckering of the pile.

On stage curtains, no attempt should be made to remove marks with a water solution, as this will only cause white spots to appear, due to the flameproofing solution working through the cloth. If stored away folds must be kept to a minimum and storage space should be well ventilated. When in position, curtains should hang just clear of the stage floor to avoid wear along the bottom edge. Curtain tracks professionally designed for the stage and correctly fitted are always provided with brackets to allow adjustment on height, so that the curtain drop can be varied according to stretch in the curtain material or shrinkage after cleaning and flameproofing. However, when making up curtains should always be given generous hems so that any shrinkage that may occur at a later date through cleaning can be compensated. Curtain materials are specially dyed to suit the total yardage required and a repeat of the same colour can never be guaranteed. There will always be a slight variation in shade.

Making up stage curtains is a specialised process and entirely different from that associated with normal domestic curtains. Fullness is pleated in permanently and special spring tab hooks are fitted to the heading. Fullness varies between 50% and 100% according to application and curtains are always webbed to ensure that they hang properly. Allowance must be incorporated in the initial making up for shrinkage and adjustment that may be necessary over the years, due to the need for flameproofing which has to be carried out regularly every two to three years, on fabrics not inherently flameproofed.

Stage Gauzes

A theatre gauze (mosquito type netting) has the facility of appearing solid when lit from the front, but vanishing altogether when lighting is brought up from behind, thus enabling dissolve sequences to be introduced on to a stage. Often the gauze is painted with a scene, perhaps an exterior view, so that the dissolve to the interior setting becomes more effective.

From the lighting point of view, success depends upon the front lighting being so positioned that it does not pass through the gauze and the best way of achieving this is to use individual spots and floodlights where the beams can be angled clear of the cloth.

Aniline dyes should always be used for painting the gauze, as opposed to normal scenic paints which, when dry, would tend to clog the net and spoil the dissolve. Gauze material can be obtained in black, white or grey. Widths of 9 ft or 12 ft being available to minimise seaming and again, as with cyclorama cloths, seams

should be kept in the horizontal and arranged either at the top or bottom of the cloth to clear the major part of the visual picture. Due to the light weight of the material, gauze curtains should be weighted to hang taut and kept wrinkle free as again these will obstruct the dissolve. Grey material, when hung behind a window backing, can be used to simulate fog or mist.

Our Planning and Advisory Service will prepare schemes and specifications covering the above points and make recommendations as to size and type of curtain materials available.

U.V. Materials

The use of Ultra Violet lighting has become popular for many types of presentation and the introduction of this effect, together with a suitable stage setting can enhance or high light a Revue or Pantomime presentation. In this respect both paint and cloth can be supplied to fluoresce when activated by this light form. The cloth is available in four different qualities, a super or standard net gauze, nylon voile, satin and taffeta. The latter material being more suitable for costume whereas the net is designed merely to give a general effect, it is fragile so that care must be taken in handling. A sample colour range is available on application. In paint a limited range of colours can be provided, supplied in 2 lb. or 11 lb. tins. These generally fluoresce in the same colour as the base colour, although in normal lighting the effect is very pale, and therefore in use it is preferable to paint a scene in two colours, one that will stand up brightly in normal lighting and then the U.V. effect. Sample card can be supplied on application. Stocks are very limited as the paint tends to deteriorate quickly when not in use and therefore, when ordering, 2-3 weeks should be allowed between date of order and supply of material.