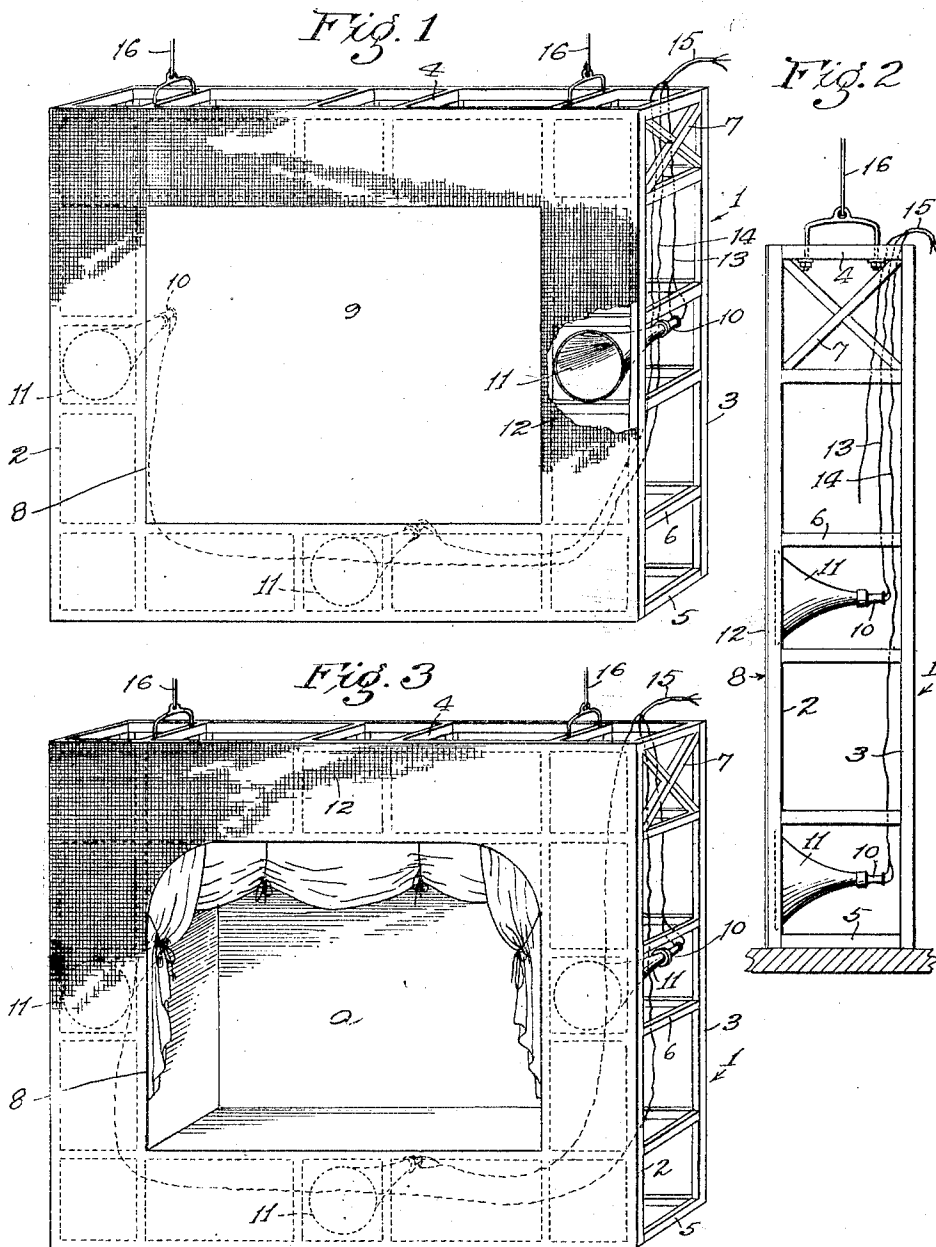


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THEATRICAL APPLIANCE.
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1,040,109.

Patented Oct. 1, 1912.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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THEATRICAL APPLIANCE.

1,040,100.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 1, 1912.

Application filed March 5, 1912. Serial No. 681,332

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD H. AMET, a citizen of the United States, residing at Redondo Beach, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented a new and useful Theatrical Appliance, of which the following is a specification.

An object of this invention is to provide for use in theaters novel apparatus by which to produce a realistic combined audible and visible entertainment.

This invention is applicable for exhibiting motion pictures, stereopticon views, marionette performances and the like with sound accompaniments.

An object of the invention is to provide means whereby vocal or other sounds supposed to emanate from or accompany motion picture characters or subjects may be reproduced with localized effect.

The accompanying drawings illustrate the invention.

Figure 1 is a broken perspective view of theatrical apparatus constructed in accordance with this invention for use in a picture show. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same in use. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the device as applied for a marionette show.

The invention comprises a curtain or drop consisting of a frame 1 having considerable depth and comprising front and back portions 2, 3, connected by suitable means as the top, bottom and intermediate cross pieces 4, 5, 6 and bridging 7. The frame-work surrounding the central visual exhibiting space 8 may be partly or entirely closed at the front by the picture screen 9 which may be of any material suitable for the purpose, the same being in the case of motion pictures or stereopticon pictures, of material which will clearly reflect the images projected thereagainst. In the case of marionette shows, a suitable open space *a* may be provided within the frame for exhibition of the manikins. In said frame are mounted sound reproducers as the electrical telephone receivers 10 and sound amplifying horns 11, the mouths of which horns are concealed by gauze or net material 12 fastened to the frame front and capable of allowing the sound to pass therethrough unobstructedly, and being capable of reflecting light sufficiently to conceal the horns. Said gauze or net may be suitably painted or otherwise decorated to form an ornamental border

around the exhibiting space. Electrical connection between the telephone receivers 10 and the source reproduction as a talking machine, not shown, is provided in the form of electrical leads 13, 14, formed as a flexible connection at 15 to lead from the drop to the talking machine. The drop is supported by suitable raising and lowering means as the ropes 16 fastened thereto and led into the loft and there manipulated by the usual mechanism, not shown, for operating theatrical drops. The flexible electrical connections 15 allow the curtain to be raised or lowered without disturbing the necessary electrical circuit.

In operating with a motion picture machine, not shown, such machine projects the picture on the screen and the audible parts are transmitted from a talking machine, not shown, which is in synchronism with the motion picture to the enouncing horns, which are located in the marginal space or border that forms the frame of the picture screen. As many sound reproducers may be employed as are necessary to give the desired result, viz., to distribute the sound evenly to all parts of any cross sectional area of the room. Three sound reproducers will generally be sufficient, excepting where my sound-distributing and localizing method described in my co-pending application Serial No. 636,740 filed July 3, 1911 is employed, when six sound reproducers will generally be used.

I have so constructed this combination screen and sound reproducer support that it may be used as a drop in an ordinary theater, where shows other than motion picture shows are given, where a fixed picture screen would be impracticable. Where the combination is used in such a theater I have arranged that all lead wires necessary are at all times in connection with said support, the same being carried in flexible cable form as at 15 from the frame to the line wires, not shown, leading from the electrical apparatus. These connections are not disturbed when the curtain is raised as the cable compensates for the necessary motion and distance traveled in raising or lowering said screen and sound reproducer support.

I claim:—

1. A theatrical drop comprising a motion picture screen, a support therefor having a marginal space acting as a frame for said screen space having a width and a depth

sufficient to contain sound reproducers, and the necessary operating wires for the purpose specified.

2. A theatrical drop combining a motion picture screen or curtain frame or support and electrically operated sound reproducers located in proximity to the edges or borders of said screen or curtain, and means for connecting said sound reproducers with the sound source.

3. A theatrical drop provided with a central exhibiting space, and sound reproducers around such space.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Los Angeles, California, this 28th day of February, 1912.

EDWARD H. AMET.

In presence of—

JAMES R. TOWNSEND,
L. BELLE RICE.