April 14, 1925. 1,533,337

E. T. PURDY ET AL.

PORTABLE STAGE

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Fig. 1.

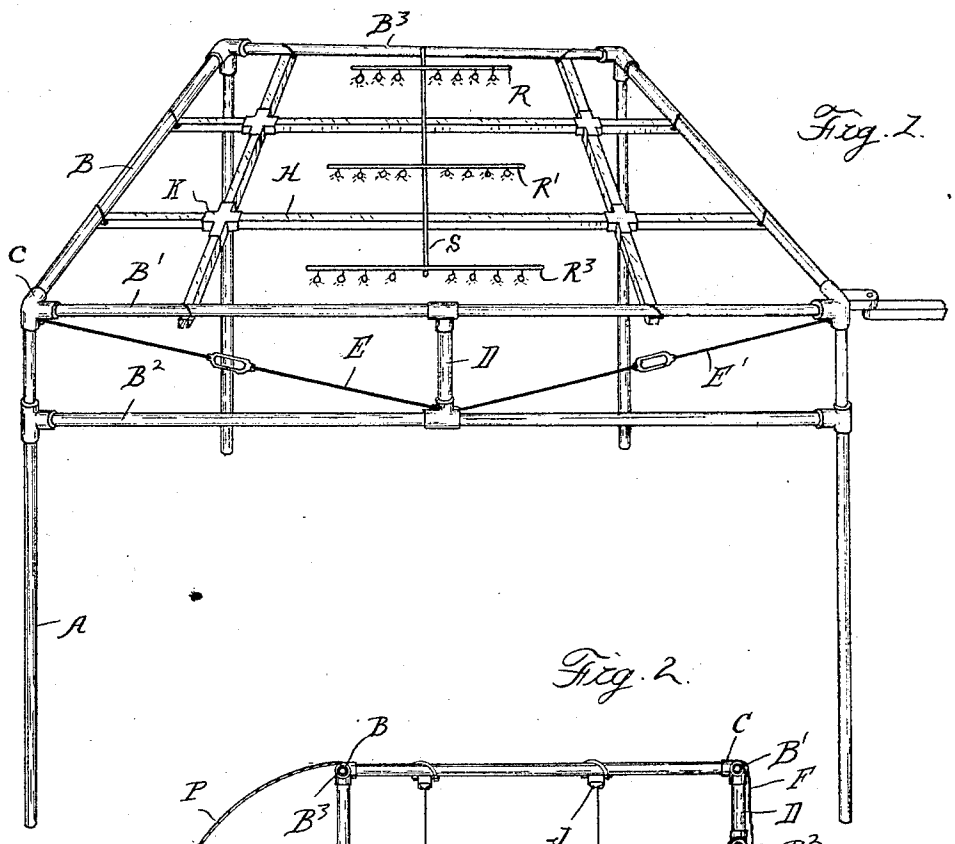
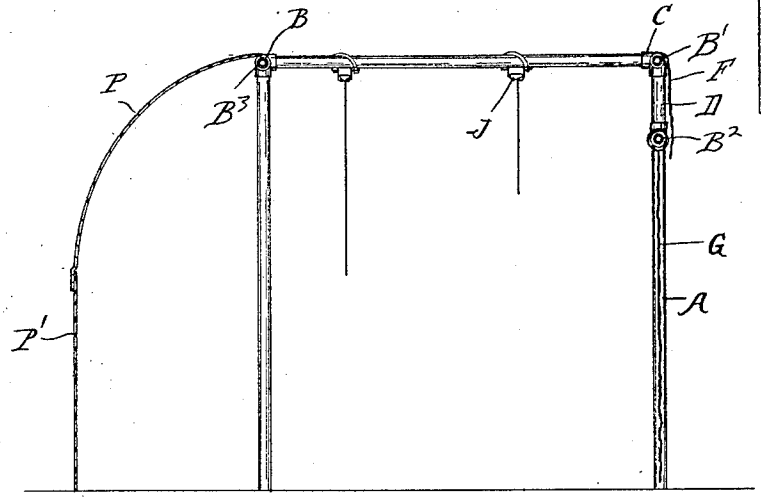


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 4.

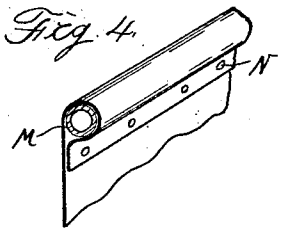


Fig. 3.

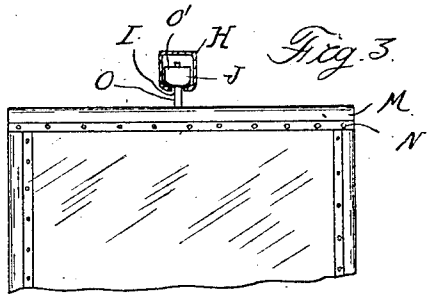


Fig. 6.

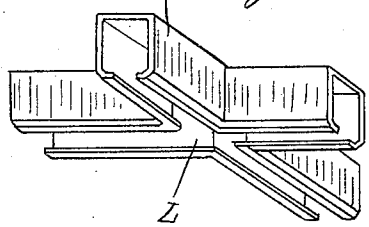


Fig. 7.

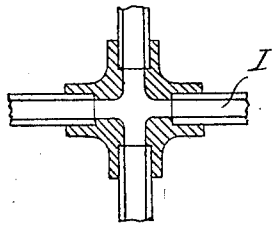


Fig. 5.

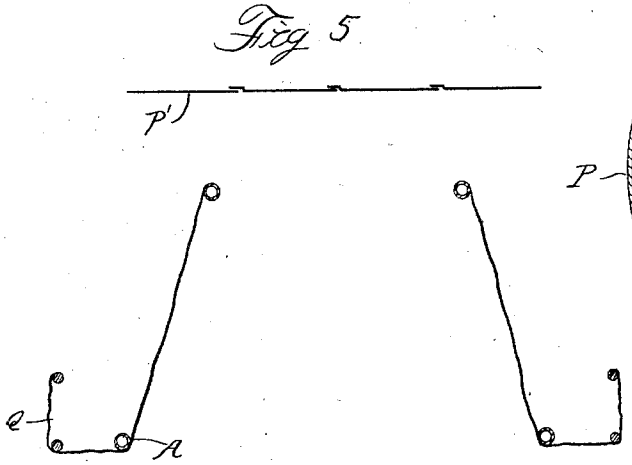
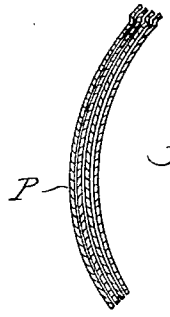


Fig. 8.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EVA THOMSON PURDY AND CHAUNCEY ALLEN CORNELL, OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

PORTABLE STAGE.

Application filed December 14, 1921. Serial No. 522,450.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, EVA THOMSON PURDY and CHAUNCEY A. CORNELL, both citizens of the United States of America, residing at Detroit, in the county of Wayne and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Portable Stages, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

It is the object of the invention to provide a portable structure by means of which a fully equipped stage for dramatic work can be quickly erected either within a building or outdoors. With this object in view the invention comprises the novel construction as hereinafter set forth.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the main frame-work erected;

Figure 2 is a cross-section;

Figure 3 is an elevation of one of the collapsible and reversible scenes;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a portion of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a horizontal section;

Figure 6 is a perspective view of one of the junctions for the trolley system used in shifting scenes;

Figure 7 is a horizontal section thereof;

Figure 8 is a section showing the manner of nesting the sections of the cyclorama for shipment.

For the satisfactory presentation of dramatic work, a proper stage setting is indispensable. Many buildings which are frequently used for such entertainments are unprovided with a stage and the temporary equipment of proper stage settings is both difficult and expensive. With my improvement any building accommodating the audience can be quickly equipped with a stage and practically all of the accessories which are needed. My improvement consists essentially of a collapsible or knock-down frame which, when erected, serves as a support for the curtains, scenes, lights, cyclorama, and other equipment. This frame preferably comprises posts or columns A, preferably formed of tubing, which are connected at their upper ends by laterally-extending members B through the medium of quick detachable fittings C. At the front there is formed a truss or arch as by means of a pair of transversely extending members B′ and B² engaging the columns A and provided at the center with the connecting strut D and having diagonal braces E and E′. All of the members of the truss are detachable, the tubes preferably engaging the fittings by a slit telescopic joint, so that the structure may be assembled or disassembled. The front of the frame is suitably draped, as indicated at F, to conceal the framework and the draw-curtains G are supported from the lower member B² of the truss. At the top of the frame there are arranged transverse members H forming a support for a trolley system from which the shiftable scenes are suspended. These members H may be of any suitable construction, but preferably are tubular, having slots I extending longitudinally at the bottom of each member and adapted to receive shiftable members J for the curtains or scenes. To provide for quickly shifting these curtains and scenes to any desired location on the stage, the members H are connected to each other by junction fittings K, which are provided with cross slots L, the arrangement being such that a suspended scene may be shifted from one member to another and thereby transported to any desired location.

The scenery is placed upon collapsible frames, the canvas being preferably painted on both sides. These frames consist of bars, preferably tubes M, to which the canvas is attached preferably by snap fittings N. Each frame is supported by a central hanger O which engages the slot I of one of the members H having a spherical head O′ within the tube. This central hanger permits of quickly changing a scene by turning it upon the hanger as a swivel and presenting the reverse side. When knocked down for shipment, the frame members are detached and the canvas rolled into a compact bundle.

One important accessory of the stage is the cyclorama or reflecting surface arranged at the rear which, when suitably lighted, gives the effect of sky and distance. For this purpose we employ a knock down or portable structure which may be quickly erected and as quickly taken down and arranged compactly for shipment. As shown, P are curved plates, preferably formed of sheet metal, and P′ are straight plates secured to said curved plates tangent to the

curve. The length combined of these plates is sufficient to extend from the floor of the stage to the top of the frame in rear thereof, the curved plates being arranged at the top and the straight plates at the bottom. A series of such pairs of plates are connected to extend across the stage and preferably sufficiently beyond the opposite sides of the rear of the frame so as to cover the entire field of vision from the front. The top plates rest upon the top of the rear frame bar B^3 and may be secured thereto by any suitable means. Thus, when suitably lighted, the inner surface of these plates P and P′ will produce the desired cyclorama effect.

Where the apparatus is used for entertainments out of doors, suitable curtains are arranged about the frame to form a complete enclosure and the entrance and dressing rooms may be provided at the sides as indicated at Q.

With the construction as described, when knocked down for transportation, all of the members of the framework may be separated from each other and packed in small compartments. The plates P and P′ of the cyclorama are detached from each other and nested or suitably packed for shipment. In erecting the apparatus, the members of the frame are first assembled, the curtains and scenes are hung upon the framework and the cyclorama and other accessories are suitably positioned. The lighting effect may be produced by several series of lights suitably located on the frame and connected by conduits or armored cables for the electrical conductors. As indicated in Figure 1, there are three rows of lights R, R′ and R^2 arranged at the top of the frame centrally thereof, and S indicates the conduit for the electrical conductors leading to the source of current and to the controlling switches (not shown). Lights of various colors are arranged in each bank or series to produce any effect required.

In use, the scenery which is not needed is shifted from the trolley system to the side of the frame, where it will be out of range of observation. However, in change of scene the desired frame is shifted along the trolley to the proper position or for a quick change of scene it may be merely reversed by turning on the swivel.

What we claim as our invention is:

1. In a portable stage, the combination with a knock-down frame, of a knock-down cyclorama comprising a series of longitudinally curved plates, and vertical plates secured to said curved plates tangent to the curves, the curved plates being detachably secured to the top of said frame.

2. In a portable stage, the combination with a knock-down frame, of a knock-down cyclorama comprising a series of longitudinally curved plates, and vertical plates secured to said curved plates tangent to the curves, the curved plates having offset portions resting on the upper edges of the vertical plates and detachably secured to the top of said frame.

3. In a portable stage, the combination with a knock-down frame, and a curtain, of a support for said curtain carried by said frame and including transversely extending and longitudinally extending tubular members having longitudinally extending slots therein, junction fittings connecting the adjacent ends of said members and having cross slots connecting into the slots in said members, and a hanger secured to said curtain and movable in the slots in the transverse and longitudinally extending members whereby said curtain may be moved longitudinally and transversely of said frame.

4. In a portable stage, the combination with a knock-down frame, and a curtain, of a support for said curtain carried by said frame and including transversely extending and longitudinally extending tubular members having longitudinally extending slots therein, junction fittings connecting the adjacent ends of said members and having cross slots connecting into the slots in said members, and a hanger secured to said curtain and movable in the slots in said members, said hanger having a weight movable within said tubular members permitting said curtain to be reserved as desired.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures.

EVA THOMSON PURDY.
CHAUNCEY ALLEN CORNELL.