C. F. DE SORIA.

METHOD OF PRODUCING STAGE EFFECTS.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 4, 1914.

1,186,292.

Patented June 6, 1916.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

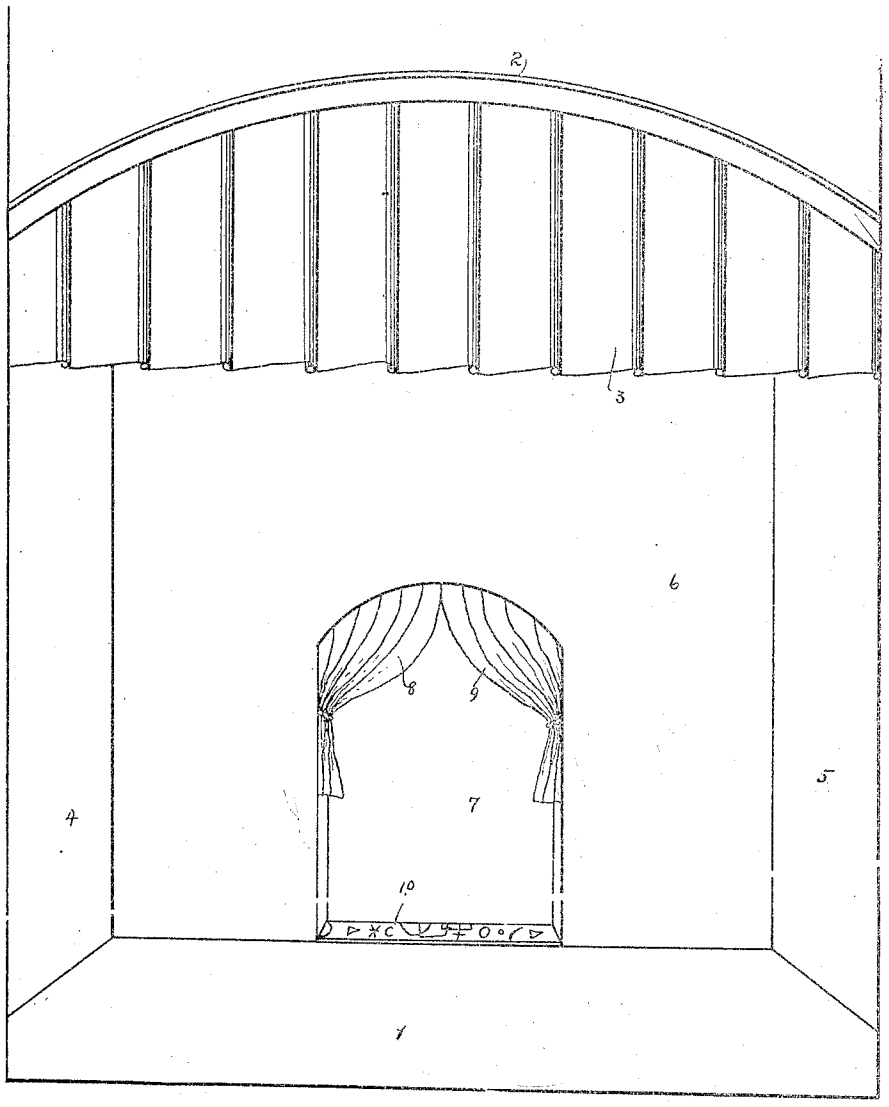


Fig 1

WITNESSES

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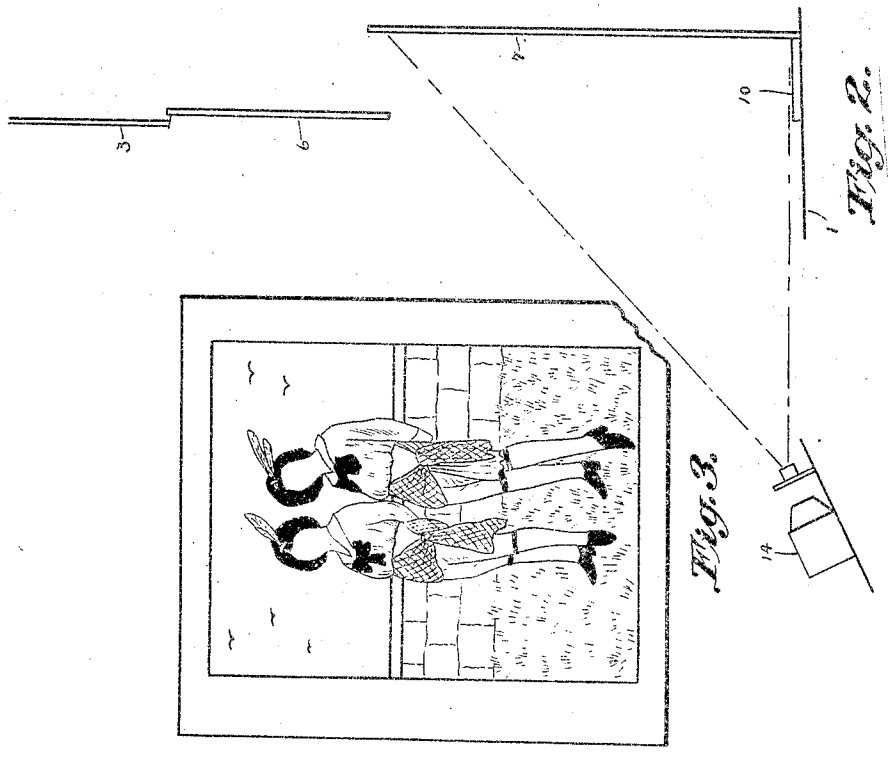


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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METHOD OF PRODUCING STAGE EFFECTS.

1,186,292. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 6, 1916.

Application filed September 4, 1914. Serial No. 860,139.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES F. DE SORIA, a citizen of the United States, and resident of the borough of Manhattan, city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in the Method of Producing Stage Effects, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a combination of certain living models who will assume artistic poses and certain color and scene effects which will in every instance harmonize with the poses of the models.

In the past a stereopticon lantern has been used in combination with a dancer or with a single individual, but one of the most important features of my invention is the combining of a plurality of figures upon a single slide. Because of the difficulties of obtaining register this has never before been attempted and wherever a plurality of figures were to be used a plurality of lanterns have also been used, and the figures received the projected image from each lantern independently. With my device I utilize what I am pleased to term a keyboard, and the success of my undertaking depends upon an understanding of the key-board and the proper adjustment of the lanterns and figures in relation thereto. I also employ a plurality of lanterns to obtain certain artistic effects and I employ certain blinds or shutters which perform important functions.

A complete description of this method of operation will appear as the specification progresses.

The following is what I consider the best means of carrying out my invention, and the accompanying drawing forms a part of this specification in which:

Figure 1 shows an elevation of stage set for the production of my effects. Fig. 2 is a side view of the stage showing the location of the lanterns. Fig. 3 shows one of the slides.

Similar reference numerals indicate like parts, in all figures where they appear and in describing my invention I will describe the parts in rotation commencing with the stage and the apparatus used thereof.

At 1, I have shown the floor of the stage, at 2 the proscenium arch and at 3 the drop which usually extends a few feet below the arch and is used for screening the upper ends of the wings or drops. 4 and 5 indicate two ordinary wings. All of these parts may be of ordinary construction and require no change to be operated successfully with my invention. At 6 I show a screen which may be white and formed from scrim or an opaque material. About midlength of this screen and extending upward from the lower edge thereof, I arrange an arch which may be of any desired size as indicated at 7 and a pair of curtains 8 and 9 which when opened disclose to view a grotto in which my models are posed. This grotto consists of a white and preferably opaque background, and sides or wings sufficient to exclude cross lights, and upon the floor of the grotto I place a board or platform that I will sometimes refer to as a key-board. This key-board is an important element and consists of boards covered or painted white and having upon the upper surface a plurality of characters as indicated at 10. It is by the means of these characters that the models used in my effect are enabled to assume the proper positions and to harmonize with the projected scene that is to be received upon the screen.

In the best operation of my invention I use a lantern or projector or stereopticon as it is usually called. I may arrange the lantern at any distance away from the stage just described, as I have found that by arranging the lantern quite close to the stage that I may obtain an effect highly artistic and very satisfactory.

I will now describe one of the most important elements of my invention, that is the slide shown in Fig. 3. In connection with this slide it will be noted that the features of the figure shown do not appear. The features are to be supplied by the models or figures used in the effect. I however color the slide to an extent sufficient to produce the effect of robes or costumes which will appear as draped upon the models when the models are harmonized or are in register with the projected scene.

It is well known that the scene can not be observed by the person posing, the location of the persons or models must be controlled entirely by the key-board, and the arrangement of the properties such as pedestals, and other furnishings are also controlled by the key-board.

In producing this effect a number of mod-

els are used. The models are dressed in tights. The color of the screens is usually white with a darkened stage. The models assume positions indicated by the key-board, and then when the light from the lantern is projected upon the screen, the lantern projects a scene of which the models become a part. It is possible with this method of operation to project upon the models or figures representations of gowns so that to the observer the models appear fully dressed. It is possible to so fully blend the figures with the scene or picture of which they are a part that the line of demarcation between the two is not observable.

Although I have shown the use of but two figures, it will be understood that a greater number of figures may be employed with a corresponding number of models who must be well trained to assume their proper positions. It will also be observed that further modifications may be made within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the principle or sacrificing the condition of this invention. I may increase or decrease the size of the arch 7. Lay figures may be used instead of living models.

Having carefully described my invention what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. The method of forming a theatrical scene consisting of placing a figure and a back ground therefor substantially in the focus of a projecting apparatus and then projecting upon the back ground a scene of which the figure forms an integral part.

2. The method of forming a theatrical scene consisting of placing a figure and a back ground therefor substantially in the focus of a projecting apparatus and then projecting upon the figure and back ground a scene of which the figure forms an integral part.

Signed at New York city, this 7th day of August, 1914.

CHAS. F. DE SORIA.

Witnesses:
G. E. STERRITTE,
ANTON PHELPS MARR.