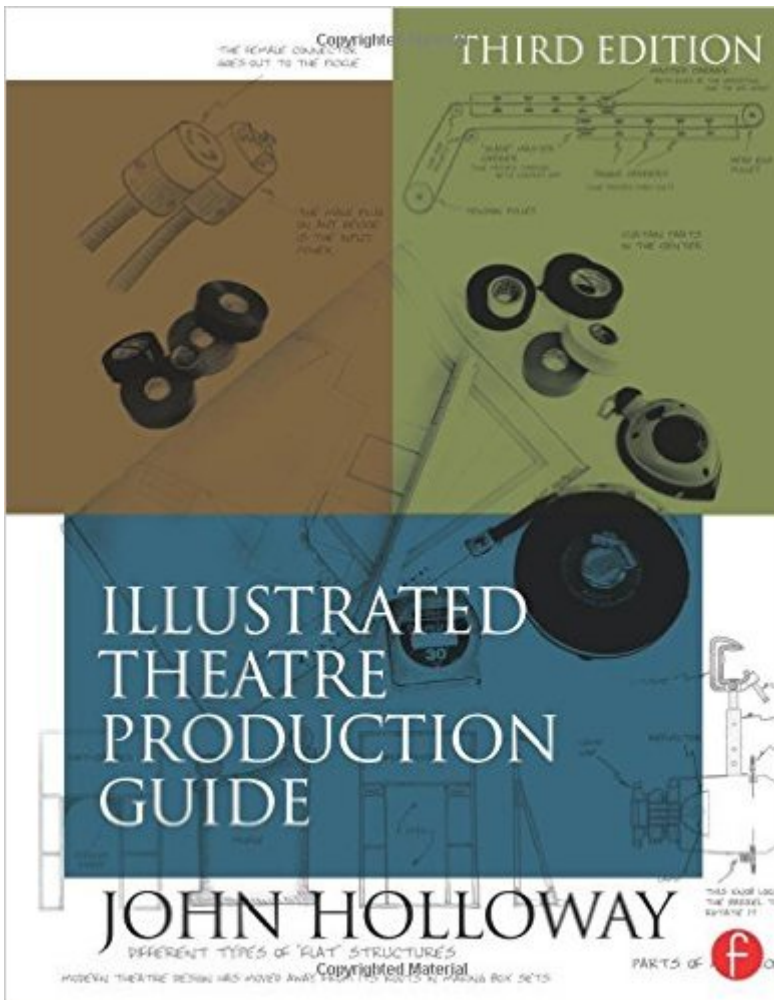


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# Illustrated Theatre Production Guide



## Synopsis

Illustrated Theatre Production Guide delivers a step-by-step approach to the most prevalent and established theatre production practices, focusing on essential issues related to the construction of wooden, fabric, plastic, and metal scenery used on the stage. A must-have resource for both the community theatre worker who must be a jack of all trades and the student who needs to learn the fundamentals on his or her own, it covers the necessities in great detail, without bogging you down. Offering techniques and best-practice methods from an experienced industry expert, it will allow you to create a foundation on which to build a successful and resourceful career behind the scenes in theatre production. This third edition has been completely restructured to more effectively lead you through the basics of stagecraft. Through detailed lessons and hundreds of drawings, author John Holloway offers you solutions to the problems that youâ™ face every day in a production, from rigging to knot tying. New to this edition are guides to jobs in theatre, construction documentation, and video projection methods, with expanded information on Thrust Theatres, lighting, audio and video practices.

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## Customer Reviews

This is highly detailed comprehensive coverage of every step of theater production. It is loaded with easy to understand illustrations and instructions, as well as some photographs and a little history of theater production. This is, literally, a step-by-step guide, with no guesswork required. Comparisons of materials, how long to let the glue dry, how to do the math for construction, it's all here and more.

Although it does take some focus, it's as easy to understand as anyone could make a technical guide. It's very well indexed, too, which can be especially helpful with a book of this nature. Definitely recommended if you're serious about the craft.

This is the absolute Bible of theater production, featuring hundreds of detailed illustrations and exhaustive explanations of every part of the stage and the role of every person who you don't see on the stage. An absolute must-read for anyone who wants to work in a theater but also a fun insider's view for anyone with an interest in the art, it's enthusiastically written by a writer who clearly has detailed knowledge of how performances are brought to the audience. You won't find a better guide to productions than this.

For anyone who has ever thought the "real" action of a theatrical production takes place on the stage, this book gives an eye-opening look at the role of the theater production crew and the myriad skills required to create a successful stage production. It begins with a detailed overview of the different jobs in theater production, including shop carpenter, stage carpenter, flyman, electrician, prop guy, spot operator, and stage manager. The different environments one might work in in theater production, the first meeting with the director, production meetings, preparing for rehearsals, tech rehearsals, as well as the different types of theatres, curtains and backdrops, ropes, knots, and rigging, are all included in this initial overview. This first section, *Working in a Theatre*, "sets the stage," so to speak, for the chapters which follow. It's all laid out and illustrated with photographs and detailed drawings. Subsequent sections include *Things in a Scene Shop*, *Building Scenery*, *Stage Lighting*, and *Audio and Video*, each with several subsections. Every tool you will use, every option for achieving a particular result, every skill you will need, and all sorts of tricks of the trade, are described and profusely illustrated with both photographs and well-labeled drawings and diagrams calling the reader's attention to the most important details. This is by no means a dry manual, but one which you will have lying open before you as you work, well-marked, thumbbed, and highlighted. It reads very much like a master speaking directly to an apprentice as you work side by side. The book is encyclopedic yet easy to understand; John Holloway has a knack, drawing upon his many years of experience, of knowing just what questions or confusions might come to mind, what technical quandaries the reader will encounter, and guides you through them. The book is replete with helpful little details, cautions, and tips. I wish other technical manuals would follow the example of this excellent, incredibly useful and user-friendly resource.

This guide is not just how to build stuff for a stage, it goes into basic detail on everything one would find in a stage shop, from equipment pieces, tools and the necessary accessories. It also discusses building scenery, stage lighting and audio/video wiring. Carpenters, electricians, designers, stage producers and actors will all find usefulness with this guide. Working with wood, fabric, plastics and metals are all introduced in this guide. The necessary tools are then matched with the proper materials. There are black/white photos and/or diagrams on every page. Every chapter ends with a helpful list of terms that were introduced in said chapter. Safety tips are outlined in boxes and green tips are highlighted with a light grey background. One such green tip is about compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) not being dimmable and therefore not very useful for the stage. The language used in this guide is written at a senior high school level. The author is a full professor in the Theatre Department at the University of Kentucky. All technical terms are well-defined and illustrated. The stage lighting section is a bit more technical, and that is assuming that people working with the lighting equipment have a basic understanding of electrical wiring and its many functions. While this guide does not offer blueprints for creative designs, reading each chapter will give a beginner stagehand the basic knowledge necessary for the important things that go on behind the curtain.

Focal Press publishes high quality print materials which I've used in classes I taught in the past, so I knew that *Illustrated Theatre Production Guide* would be a good looking book. More importantly, this is a comprehensive encyclopedia of theater (or theatre) production basics. John Holloway very briefly mentions roles and methods of creating a theater set with sketches that demonstrate items. In a Wikipedia society, students often tend to think in brief, visually demonstrated bits, so this book will not overwhelm them with the amount of information it provides. There is no mention of either budget or the business aspects of theater other than a single picture of a budget report. This, the third edition, provides a chapter on video projection and bits on audio and video. As a film and video professional, I find this to be a very good introductory book that would have potential in an introductory class because the text is broken up with many drawings and photographs which would not overburden a novice while at the same time, it hopefully would spark interest in one aspect or another. I think this also would be a good addition to a school library and community theater arsenal.

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