



BLACKBOX THEATER

Technical Specifications

Director of Operations: Michael Sickles

Office: (240) 912-1069

Fax: (301) 528-2266

Email: msickles@blackrockcenter.org

Loading Entrance Information

The stage is accessible from a set of double doors going directly into the parking lot off stage left. While this is convenient for costumes and props, due to the nature of the paving (alternating pieces of slate and natural mulch ground cover) very large items such as set pieces and wide equipment should come in through the Mainstage Theater loading dock, located across the building. **THE DOCK IS GROUND HEIGHT. A RAMP IS REQUIRED FOR UNLOADING FROM A TRUCK HEIGHT.**

Seating capacity

When set for dance, the BlackBox Theater is typically “proscenium” style, with portable chairs facing straight upstage. Four rows are on collapsible risers; three are on the deck. These chairs are modular and can be moved to conform to the performance needs. Other events—parties, dances—utilize the “black box” capabilities of the theater and place the seating as needed.

STAGE INFORMATION

The theater is a “Blackbox space.” The stage floor is tongue and groove blonde maple, sprung in a “basket-weave”, designed for dance. A black Harlequin brand ‘Marley’ type dance floor covering the full playing area of the stage is available. Due to the finish of the floor, no stiletto heels or other sharp objects are permitted on the floor.

All walls are masked by black curtains on a track that covers over $\frac{3}{4}$'s of the room.

Dimensions of the room, without side curtains or “legs”:

Depth of stage 50'-0”

Stage Width 60'-0”

In this configuration there is no wing space

Dimensions of the playing area with side curtains or “legs”:

Depth of stage 33'-0”

Stage Width 32'-0”

Wing space typically is 8'-0" on each side. Prop tables, if required, are not recommended in the wing space, but rather immediately upstage of a leg.

A total of three legs each stage side is available.

The Grid is 15'-2" above the floor, made up of 5 foot X 5 foot squares.

Dimensions of the audience "alcove":

Width 36'-0"

Height from floor to ceiling is 10'-4"

ELECTRICAL INFORMATION

The BlackBox Theater uses a permanent "house plot" for the stage lights, using color designed for most events. Additional special lights may be hung and color changed depending upon the needs of an event. Lighting control can be from a four-button pre-set station house right, from a slider station in the control booth, or from the main lighting board. Access to the control booth, located house right, is only by a stair-ladder. The lights are hung from a lighting grid. They are accessible from the ground only. An A-frame ladder and a Genie brand personnel lift are available for use by BlackRock crew only to hang and adjust these lights.

Power Distribution

100 amp 3-phase at Front of House for outboard sound equipment

Control

Strand Light Board

186 circuits (plus 6 for house lights, a total 192) – 2.4k dimmers
(ETC sensor racks with D-20 modules)

Circuit Location

1-36 First Electric (FOH) 145-162 Boom Pipes

37-72 Second Electric (1st alley)

73-108 Third Electric (2nd alley)

109-144 Fourth Electric (3rd alley)

163-186 Wall Pockets

187-192 House Lights

Connections for the four Electrics terminate at "raceway" boxes with two stage-pin (2PnG) outlets per circuit. Boom pipe circuits and wall pockets also terminate in 2PnG. Cable and 'two-fers' of various lengths are available to run to the appropriate locations.

Lighting Equipment Inventory

Much is used in the rep light plot, but additional is available. Ask the Director of Operations for information as to what is currently available.

A copy of the scale light plot is available in PDF .

Irises, color frames, "top hats", barndoors, and template holders are available.

Ladders, stage booms (max. height 12 feet) and a 25-foot Genie Personal Lift are also available.

SOUND/AV INFORMATION

The BlackBox Theater is outfitted with a permanently installed system intended for music playback and light public address work. Control is from the light booth up house right, accessible only by a stair-ladder. There is the option of moving the position to the Front of House for non-dance events. Stereo output for the house main speakers is through a Crown XLS 402 amplifier into two (2) JBL MS28's. Two (2) JBL Control 28's are for monitors, powered by a Crown CTs 4200. All speakers are hung overhead. All are controlled by a small Yamaha 10-2 mixer, with two CD players. Other means of playback—mp3 player, iPod—are available if needed.

A Clear-Com intercom system is available, with headset locations available downstage right and left, and in the booth. Additional stations are in each of the backstage dressing rooms. Performance program speakers are located in the Green Room area. BlackRock is stocked with a wide variety of microphones (wired and wireless), cables and stands. Music stands and lights, a lectern, overhead and video projectors, acoustic and digital pianos are also available—just ask.

HOSPITALITY INFORMATION

Dressing Rooms

Two dressing rooms are located adjacent to the Dance Theater. They are accessible through a door located Downstage left (this passageway can be easily masked). They are less than 25 feet away from the stage area. All rooms are equipped with mirrors, lights, chairs, and clothes hanging hooks. Each room can accommodate 10 to 15 people. Three unisex Restrooms are located between the two dressing rooms. Each has a toilet and sink, and one includes a shower, which is handicapped accessible. Two additional dressing rooms, toilets, and a shower (for the Mainstage Theatre) are located on the other side of the building and may be available upon advance request.

Four “Z-Rack” rolling costume racks are available (two from the dressing rooms across the building), as is an iron and ironing board.