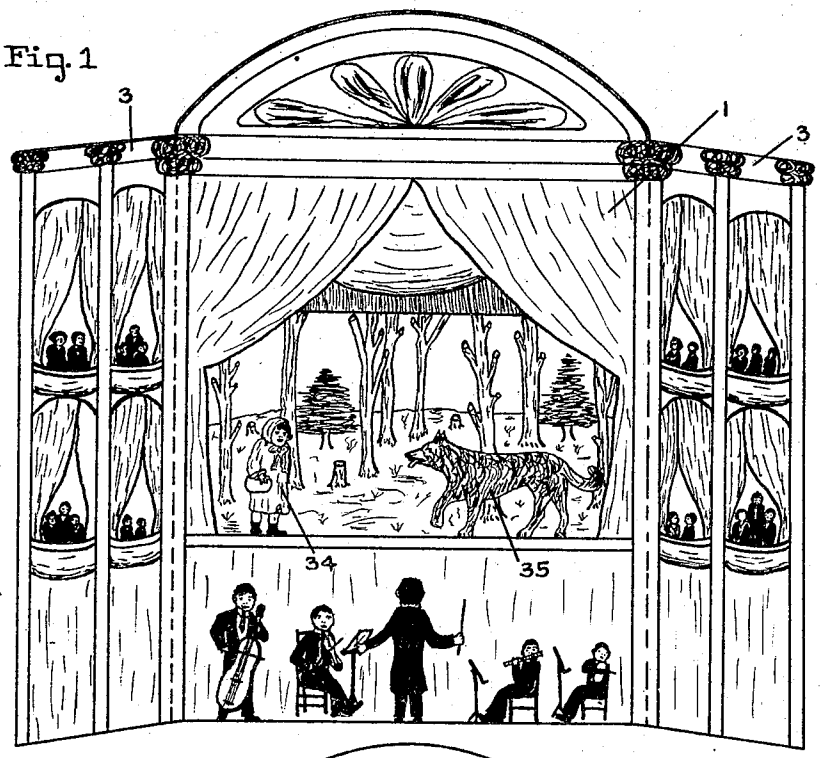
Oct. 21, 1924. 1,512,351

G. M. MABRY

TOY THEATRICAL DEVICE

Filed March 21, 1921. 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1



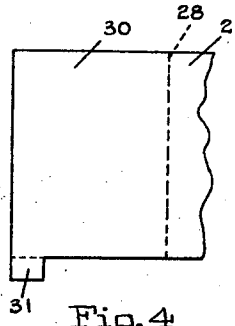


Fig. 4

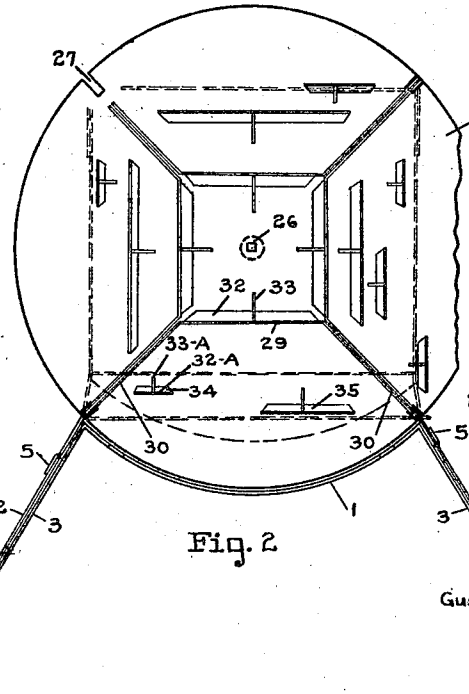


Fig. 2

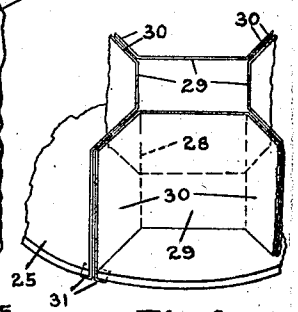


Fig. 3

INVENTOR
Gustrine Milner Mabry.

BY R. S. Thurston

ATTORNEY

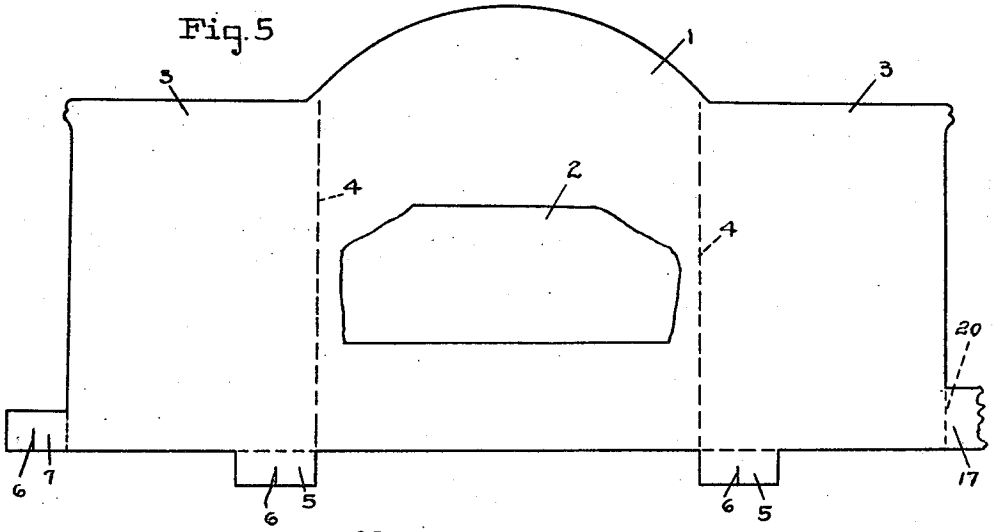
Oct. 21, 1924. 1,512,351

G. M. MABRY

TOY THEATRICAL DEVICE

Filed March 21, 1921 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 5



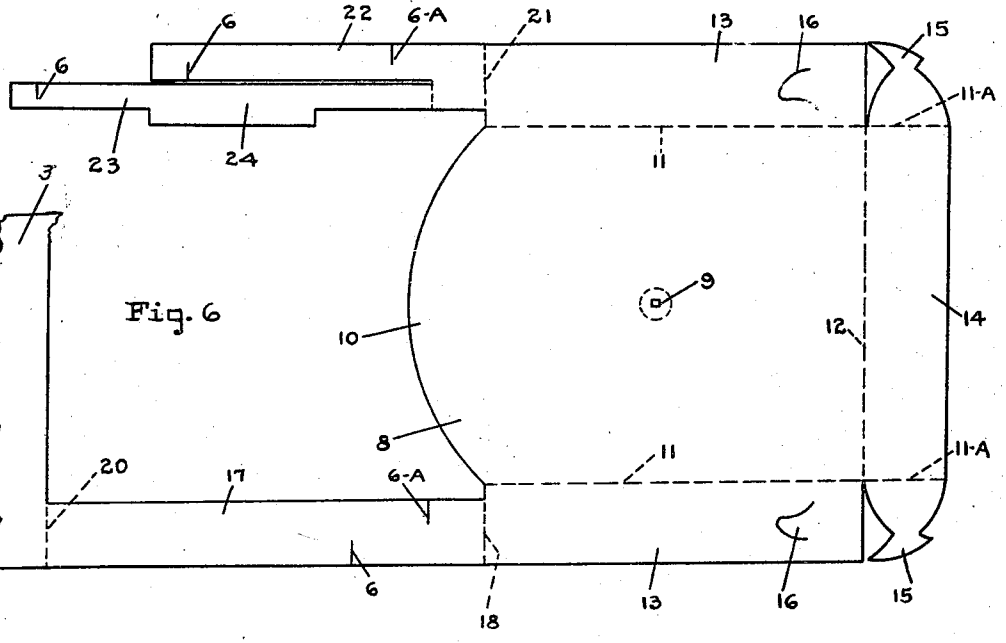


Fig. 6

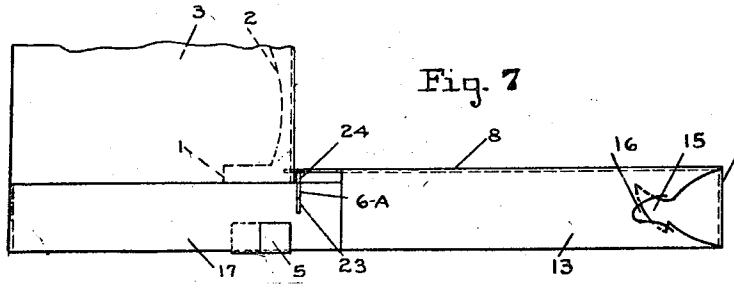


Fig. 7

INVENTOR
Gustrine Milner Mabry
BY
ATTORNEY

Patented Oct. 21, 1924. 1,512,351

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GUSTRINE MILNER MABRY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

TOY THEATRICAL DEVICE.

Application filed March 21, 1921. Serial No. 453,972.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GUSTRINE MILNER MABRY, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at New York city, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Toy Theatrical Devices, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a toy theatre which is characterized by the provision of a proscenium arch in combination with a rotatable stage having about its margin a series of scenes which when successively brought into display position will portray a play or connected sequence of events.

It is contemplated that my invention shall be used in conjunction with small phonographic records which will produce the music, dialogue or other sounds necessary for the interpretation of or as an accompaniment to the scenes, the whole forming a mechanical organization for the production of a play having changing scenes.

It is a further object of my invention to adapt the toy to be collapsed, and, in order that it may be produced at a relatively small cost, I contemplate so designing the parts composing the toy theatre that they can all be printed on sheets of paper or cardboard which will be provided with fold lines and interlocking tabs by means of which the whole may be set up and assembled in operating position.

The advantages of my invention and its method of construction and operation will be best understood by reference to the accompanying drawings which disclose the preferred embodiment of my invention as produced from cardboard or paper, and in which:—

Fig. 1 is a front view of the complete toy theatre.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of Fig. 1 partly broken away.

Fig. 3 is a fragmental detail view in perspective of the rotating stage, omitting the figures and scenery.

Fig. 4 is a detail view of part of a paper blank for forming a section of the stage scenes.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the proscenium blank.

Fig. 6 is a plan view of the blank for the stage support; and

Fig. 7 is a side elevation of the assembled theatre with the revolving stage removed and the proscenium broken away.

Similar reference numerals refer to similar parts throughout the drawings.

The toy theatre as shown comprises three main portions, namely, the proscenium, the stage support and the rotatable stage. The proscenium is indicated by the reference numeral 1 and has an opening 2 (Fig. 5) therein through which the scene on the stage can be viewed. The proscenium is flanked on each side by wings 3 which diverge outwardly and upon which I place a suitable display preferably indicating boxes for the audience viewing the play. The proscenium is suitably decorated to indicate the curtain and drop and if desired the orchestra below the stage opening. The blank from which the proscenium is formed is shown in Fig. 5 and is creased to fold along the dotted lines 4, which line is the line of division between the wings 3 and the proscenium, and each wing adjacent to this line of fold, is provided with a bottom interlocking tab 5 having one edge cut partway to form a slit 6. One wing 3 at the bottom of its free edge is provided with a side tab 7 with a slit 6 therein.

The support for the stage and proscenium will be best understood by reference to Figs. 6 and 7, the former of which shows the blank from which the support is made. This blank comprises a center portion 8 provided with a central pivot opening 9 and having its forward edge 10 struck on the curve substantially conforming to that at which the proscenium proper will be set when in operating position. This central portion is divided by longitudinal weakened fold lines 11 and a transverse fold line 12 which define about the margin of the support 8 the side wings 13 and the back wing 14. The back wing itself is provided with fold lines 11^a forming continuations of the fold lines 11 and beyond these fold lines 11^a each end of the wing 14 is cut to form an interlocking tip 15. The side wings 13 are slotted at 16 to receive and interlock with the tips 15 when inserted therethrough after the side and end wings have been folded down at right angles to the platform 8 and the ends of the wing 14 bent forward on the lines 11^a. This is illustrated in Fig. 7. One side wing 13 is

adapted to be connected to the wing 3 of the proscenium which is not provided with a tab 7.

The lower wing is provided with an extension strip 17 (Fig. 6) which continues from a fold line 18 at one end of edge 10 and is provided near the wing 13 with reversely facing slits 6 and 6a. This strip 17 connects as an integral port with the right hand wing 3 (see Fig. 7) having a fold line 20 at its line of junction. In order to provide means for cross bracing the side wings 13 at their forward end and also to connect the base to the left hand proscenium wing 3 (Fig. 5), the other side wing 13 is provided beyond its fold line 21 with an extension in line with its outer or bottom edge, which extension is divided by a longitudinal cut into the wings 22 and 23. The wing 22 has near its ends reversely disposed slits 6 and 6a and the wing 23 has near the center of its inner edge (Fig. 6) a shoulder 24, the inner edge of which is in line with the fold line 11 of the adjacent wing 13. The free end of the wing 23 is provided with a slit 6.

In assembling the proscenium and stage support, as described, the proscenium wings 3 are bent forward from the fold lines 4 to an appropriate angle and the tabs 5 are folded back and up against the rear face of the wings. The wings 13 of the support are then folded down, the wing 14 is folded to a similar position and its ends folded about the rear ends of the wings 13 and the locking tips 15 are engaged in the slits 16 to lock the wings 13 and 14 in assembled position. This will bring the wing 23 in vertical position above the wing 22 and this wing 23 is then folded at line 19 across at right angles to the wing 22 and its down turned slit 6 will interlock in the upturned slit 6a of the wing 17, thus bracing the forward ends of the wings 13 together and presenting the shoulder 24 in position to form a support across the center of the forward edge of the platform 8. The wing 22a is inserted between the adjacent wing 3 and its tab 5 and the wings down turned, slit 6a is caused to interlock in the upturned slit 6 of said tab, while the upturned slit 6 at the end of the wing 22 is interlocked with the slit 6 of the tab 7. In like manner the wing 17 is interposed behind and interlocked with the tab 5 of its respective wing 3 (see Fig. 7). The cross wing 23 is of such length relatively to the width of the proscenium 1 that the latter is caused to assume a convex shape and is held in this position between the wings 17 and 22 and the parts are all so disposed and interlocked as to form a relatively firm support.

The stage proper is formed by a circular member 25 of cardboard or suitable material having a central opening for the reception of a pivot pin 26 adapted to work in the center hole 9 of the stage platform 8 in which position the periphery of the disk will conform substantially to the curvature of the platform edge 10 and of the proscenium and will move in close juxtaposition to the latter. This stage is provided with a series of equi-distantly spaced peripheral notches 27 which are disposed radially and spaced on an arc substantially equal to the arc subtended by the proscenium opening 2. As shown, there are four of these notches and I therefore intend to subdivide the rotary stage into four stage scenes, but any number may be used according to the diameter of the stage and the width of the opening 2. These stage scenes are defined by walls decorated to form scenery and each formed from a blank of paper, cardboard or suitable material provided with vertical fold lines 28 which subdivide the back center 29 of the scene from its similar divergent end wings 30. These latter wings at their bottom edges are provided with tabs 31 (Fig. 4) which are adapted to be received in the stage slots 27 and to be bent to interlock the outer ends of the walls 30 to the stage. Each center wall 29 is provided on its rear along its bottom edge with a strip 32 which is pasted thereto and to the stage so as to hold the wall 29 at its center securely in position on the stage. I provide four of these stage scenes, each similar to the other and similarly mounted on the rotating stage, their center walls 29, as seen in Fig. 1, forming a rectangular square about the center of the stage and their side walls 30 forming abutting pairs which are interlocked by means of the tabs 31 and slots 27 to the margin of the stage. On all of the scene walls may be portrayed similar or changing scenery. Each scene wall is preferably initially attached to the stage by pasting its attaching strip 32 to the stage and its walls 30 are folded together to overlap each other and the whole is then folded down upon the stage so that the stage and its scenery can be shipped collapsed. Each rear attaching strip 32, which is pasted in part to the stage and in part to a scene wall 29, preferably carries a center brace leg 33 which can be folded out at right angles to wall 29 so as to engage the stage like a prop, when the wall 29 has been folded up to vertical position.

Upon each stage scene I arrange figures, articles of furniture and the like as may be required for the scene. As illustrative of this phase of my invention the scene portrayed in Fig. 1 will comprise two figures mounted on the stage, the figure 34 at the left representing "Little Red Riding Hood" and the figure 35 at the right representing the wolf. In each case these figures are attached by pasted strips 32a, similar to 32,

to the stage and are provided with prop wings 33a, similar to 33, this arrangement permitting these figures to be folded down on the stage for shipment. The other scenes are provided with the figures according to the different scenes to be portrayed which are mounted in such relation that as the stage is rotated and the successive scenes presented before the proscenium opening 2, there will be a sequence of events which will in a fashion present mechanically a moving picture or automatic change of scene.

I have not illustrated the phonograph which I contemplate using with this invention, but it is to be understood any mechanical means may be provided which will serve to explain or in any way increase the interest of the successively displayed scenes. For instance appropriate phonographic records may be furnished with each set of scenes.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. A toy theatrical device comprising a stage support, a convex proscenium arch, and a circular rotatable stage mounted on said support concentric with and juxtaposed to the rear surface of the arch, said stage being subdivided by upright radial walls into a series of separate stages, each stage at its outer margin being adapted to occupy the space between the sides of the proscenium arch.

2. A toy theatrical device comprising a stage support, a proscenium arch having a convex portion between divergent walls, and a series of complete stages formed by sectors of a circular rotatable stage element mounted on said support concentric with and juxtaposed to said rear face of the proscenium and having vertical radial walls which divide the several stages and are adapted by juxtaposition to and aligning with the walls of the proscenium arch to completely define the stage in use.

3. In a toy theatrical device, a proscenium comprising lateral divergent wings and a convex intermediate portion, a stage support connected to the proscenium and disposed below the proscenium opening, and a horizontal stage rotably mounted in said stage support and comprising a series of complete scenes adapted to be moved successively into display position behind the proscenium opening and each scene having side walls which at their outer ends are juxtaposed to the proscenium wings so as to define the stage.

4. A toy theatrical device, a stage support, a proscenium arch, a circular stage mounted on said support with its peripheral edge in proximity to the sides of the arch and projecting forwardly thereof to form the proscenium stage, said rotatable stage having mounted thereon a series of stage settings, each comprising upright walls extending radially in alignment with the sides of the proscenium arch opening, and each pair being formed by the outwardly bent ends of a back wall mounted on the stage.

5. A toy theatrical device in accordance with claim 4, in which the side walls of adjacent stage scenes abut and at their outer ends are connected to the stage in position to brace each other.

6. A toy theatrical device comprising a proscenium with divergent wings, a collapsible box-like support disposed in the rear of the proscenium, interlocking tabs to connect the support to the proscenium and its wings, and a stage mounted on said support, said support comprising a cross member extending from wing to wing of the proscenium and adapted to hold the proscenium bowed outwardly, the stage being curved to substantially correspond with the curvature of the proscenium.

7. A toy theatrical device comprising, in combination, a proscenium having lateral wings with a bottom tab on each wing and an end tab on one wing, a stage support comprising foldable interlocking marginal supports, connecting members at each side adapted to interlock with said tabs, a cross connection for the front end of said marginal stage supports, and a stage comprising foldable elements forming a stage setting.

8. A toy theatrical device comprising a proscenium of arcuate form and a circular stage having a circumferential series of vertically disposed radial and transverse walls thereon forming separate stage settings occupying equal sectors of the circle, said sectors subtending an arc substantially equal to that of the opening in the proscenium arch, the adjacent radial walls of adjacent stages being disposed to abut and brace each other.

9. In a toy theatrical device, a proscenium, a circular stage having radial marginal slots, foldable walls forming the sides and background of scenes, end tabs on the side walls adapted to interlock in the marginal slots of the stage, means to connect the background portion only of said walls to the stage free to fold downwardly on the stage, and foldable pictures on each stage of objects forming a stage setting.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

GUSTRINE MILNER MABRY.

Witness:
JAS. H. TAYLOR.