

Acting is a profession notoriously addicted to superstition and members of most theatre companies believe it to be unlucky to have candles on stage, or in the dressing room, and equally unlucky to look in a mirror over the shoulder of another. No actor in his senses would ever kick a cat, for it is a sign of good fortune to have one around the theatre. But for a cat to run across the stage during a performance is a certain indication of misfortune to follow. Rehearsals, too, have their special superstitions, and as perfect ones are thought to prejudice the success of the first night, the last line of the dialogue or the last bar of music is often left unsaid or unplayed just for luck. Many actors believe that real flowers on stage are unlucky and prefer imitations. Peacock feathers or any representations of a peacock on stage are to be avoided at all costs, but should an actor's shoes squeak as he steps on stage, he can count upon a good reception.

(175 words)

Superstitions and the Theatre

There are many superstitions that ^{are associated with} belong in the theatre world. For instance, candles, flowers, or any peacock ornament are considered ~~as~~ bad luck. Whistle, cello on the set, and shoe noises are taken as signs of good luck. Sometimes, last lyric of the song or last dialogue is left unsung or unsaid for the luck.

(55 words)

Generally, examples are not made part of the precis. However, this passage is an exception, as it contains only examples.