MOBILE SCENERY ARRANGEMENT

Mobile scenery arrangement comprising a tubular construction (1) forming a substantially vertical left side (5) and a substantially vertical right side (6), the left and right sides being joined to at least one upper front curtain rod (7) and at least one upper rear back-drop rod (8) via corner members (4), wherein at least one of the ends of said rods (7, 8) is provided with a cord-tensioning device (10) arranged to steplessly stretch a cord (11) between the two ends of the rod, said cord (11) being arranged to displaceably carry curtains or back-drop.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AL</td>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>AM</td>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>AT</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>AU</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>BB</td>
<td>Barbados</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BE</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>BF</td>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>BG</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>BJ</td>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>BR</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>BY</td>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF</td>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
<td>CG</td>
<td>Congo</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>CI</td>
<td>Côte d’Ivoire</td>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>CN</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>CU</td>
<td>Cuba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CZ</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>DE</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>DK</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>EE</td>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>ES</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>FI</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GB</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>GE</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>GH</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>GN</td>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>GR</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>HU</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>IS</td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>JP</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>KE</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KG</td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>KP</td>
<td>Democratic People’s Republic</td>
<td>KR</td>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>KZ</td>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>Saint Lucia</td>
<td>LI</td>
<td>Liechtenstein</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS</td>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>LT</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>LU</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>LV</td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC</td>
<td>Monaco</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>Republic of Moldova</td>
<td>MG</td>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>MK</td>
<td>The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ML</td>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MO</td>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>MX</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NZ</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>PL</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>PT</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>RO</td>
<td>Romania</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RU</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>SG</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SI</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>SK</td>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>SN</td>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>SZ</td>
<td>Swaziland</td>
<td>TD</td>
<td>Chad</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TG</td>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>TJ</td>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>TM</td>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TT</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>UA</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>UG</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UZ</td>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>VN</td>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>YU</td>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>ZW</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.
MOBILE SCENERY ARRANGEMENT

TECHNICAL FIELD:
The present invention relates to stages, scenery, curtains, back-drops and decor for theatre productions, particularly for children's theatre productions of fairy-tales and the like, but also for teaching and educational purposes.

BACKGROUND ART:
Previously plays and fairy-tales were performed for children, the scenery, with curtains and back-drops, being made by hand for each occasion and each production. No ready-made stands were normally available for the scenery at nursery or comprehensive schools, etc. and it is difficult to dismantle the scenery and move it to another place.

Simple theatre productions of children's plays should allow for three changes of back-drop, preferably taking place behind closed curtains. There should also be spaces hidden from the public, for assistants, actors with costume changes, prompters, etc.

Such relatively simple scenery is time-consuming and resource-demanding to produce with conventional props and normal work methods.

OBJECT OF THE INVENTION:
The object of the invention is to provide a scenery arrangement that is easy to assemble and dismantle and can easily be transported and stored and used with uniform curtains and a uniform set of back-drops for the same performance.

The object is also to facilitate theatre productions and plays for children by means of the mobile scenery arrangement according to the present invention as defined in the appended claims.
SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:
The present invention relates to a mobile scenery arrangement for theatrical use, which is assembled from connectable rod sections preferably having a length of 1 m. This basic concept allows scenery arrangements of varying sizes to be built in intervals of 1 m. The height is usually 2 m, the width 5 m and the depth 2 m.

The rod sections are also secured in corner members in order to construct a box-like tubular construction forming a substantially vertical left side and a substantially vertical right side, the left and right sides being joined to at least one upper front curtain rod and at least one upper rear back-drop rod, at least one of the ends of said rods being provided with a cord-tensioning device arranged to stretch a cord between the two ends of the rod, said cord being arranged to displaceably carry curtains or back-drop.

A stable tubular construction is thus obtained for curtains and backdrops to be attached on its curtain and back-drop rods. The taut cord at the upper front curtain rod is used to displaceably carry the curtain, while the taut cord of the upper rear back-drop rod is used to displaceably carry scenery back-drops.

A scenery arrangement according to the present invention is also suitable for packing into a suitable case in which each component has its place, for transport and storage.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:
The invention will now be described in more detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Figure 1 shows schematically in perspective, a view of a scenery arrangement according to the present invention.

Figure 2 shows a connector for rods according to the present invention.
Figure 3 shows a cord-tensioning device according to the present invention.
Figure 4 shows a securing device according to the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION:
A mobile scenery arrangement according to the present invention is based on a tubular construction 1 comprising first rod sections 2, preferably aluminium rods with circular cross-section, joined by means of connectors 3 to desired lengths which, with the aid of corner members 4, are fitted together to form a substantially vertical left side 5 and a substantially vertical right side 6, the left and right sides being joined to at least one upper front curtain rod 7 and at least one upper rear back-drop rod 8 so that the tubular construction forms a box-like space. Both sides are also connected with a rear lower spacer 9.

Each corner member 4 is shaped to enable rod sections to be joined together to form a box-like construction. The corner members 4 are preferably identically shaped, each having four rod connections.

A cord-tensioning device 10 is also arranged to stretch a cord 11 between the two ends of the curtain rod 7 and/or back-drop rod 8. The cord 11 thus presses together the curtain or back-drop rod axially at the same time as providing a suspension arrangement suitable for displacement of curtains or back-drops. As can be seen in Figure 1, both ends of the curtain and back-drop rods may be provided with cord-tensioning devices.

The connector 3, see Figure 2, consists of a relatively long connecting piece 12 which can be inserted with relatively tight fit into the ends of the rod sections in order to establish steadiness in the finished construction. The connecting piece 12 is provided centrally with a support flange 13 of the same exterior shape as that of the rod sections. The invention is not limited to the use of only rod sections of circular cross sections and these sections may also have rectangular, square or elliptical cross-section, for instance, in which case the other
components in the construction shall be modified to suit the cross section of the rod.

As can be seen from Figure 1, the curtain rod 7 extends outside the left side 5 and also outside the right side 6 so that, when the curtain is closed it also hides props, actors and assistants outside the actual stage area. When the curtain is fully open a certain amount of space on each side of the actual stage is still hidden.

The back-drop rod 8 also extends past both the left and the right sides so that a back-drop which, similar to a curtain, is suspended on a corresponding cord, can be displaced from the left side across the stage and out to the right. If three back-drops are used, maximally two back-drops are suspended on the cord at the rod section extending outside the left or right side. The cord at the back-drop rod and the extension of the back-drop rod outside the left and right sides thus contribute to facilitating change of back-drop.

The cord-tensioning device 10, in the form of a plug insertable into the end of a rod, see Figure 3, is provided with an attachment part 14 provided with a retaining slit 15 in conjunction with a cord guide 16 in the form of an aperture through the attachment part, parallel with the curtain/back-drop rod 7, 8. The cord 11 is thus guided through the cord guide 16 so that a suitable distance is obtained between cord and curtain/back-drop rod. The retaining slit 15 is designed to perform its function like a simple sheet clamp on a sailing boat so that the cord can be steplessly secured in the slit which has no movable parts. The attachment part 14 is provided with at least one curtain hook 17 on which the end of the curtain is secured to prevent it from being displaced during manipulation.

The scenery arrangement is also provided with a number of securing devices 18, see Figure 4, arranged to be secured by snapping them around a curtain rod 7 or back-drop rod 8. The securing device 18 is provided with an upwardly extending support means 19 in the form of
a curved or bent tongue used as holder for a pelmet. If the securing device is placed on the back-drop rod 8 the primary object of the support member is not to cover otherwise visible parts, but rather to provide hooks for various props or for hanging a permanent back-drop, such as a woodland background while the other back-drops can be exchanged to illustrate a glade, thick forest and a cottage in the forest. Another embodiment is to provide the embodiment shown in Figure 1 with additionally at least one parallel back-drop rod in towards the front end of the scenery arrangement in order to carry additional back-drop covers. The securing device 18 is also provided with a downwardly extending hook means 20 with a hook 21. When the securing device 18 is used around the curtain rod 7 the hook 21 is used to hold up the curtain running along the cord 11. If the curtain is divided one securing device 18 is situated in the middle of the rod 7, one securing device 18 towards each end of the rod, close to each corner member, and one at each end of the curtain rod. Five securing devices are thus situated on the curtain rod. If the securing devices are placed on the back-drop rod 8 they may be turned so that the hook member 20 faces rearwards, enabling props to be hung up.

The tubular construction also comprises other rod sections 22, see Figure 1, constituting support pieces for the construction and located at each of the four lower corner members 4 resting against the support surface, and possibly an additional rod section at each front lower corner member. These rod sections have a length of approximately 20 cm and can be connected to the corner members in the same way as the first rod sections 2.

A divided curtain has been indicated in broken lines in Figure 1, to illustrate the function of the invention. A single curtain may also be used and is then operated all the way from the left side to the right side. Three backdrops with decor have also been indicated in broken lines in the figure in order to show their function.

The components forming the construction can be varied infinitely within the scope of the invention.
CLAIMS

1. Mobile scenery arrangement comprising a tubular construction (1) forming a substantially vertical left side (5) and a substantially vertical right side (6), the left and right sides being joined by means of corner members (4) to at least one upper front curtain rod (7) and at least one upper rear back-drop rod (8), characterized in that at least one of the ends of said rods (7, 8) is provided with a cord-tensioning device (10) arranged to steplessly stretch a cord (11) between the two ends of the rod, said cord (11) being arranged to displaceably carry curtains or back-drop.

2. Scenery arrangement as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that both ends of both the curtain rod (7) and the back-drop rod (8) are each provided with a cord-tensioning device (10) arranged to stretch a cord (11) between the two ends of each rod.

3. Scenery arrangement as claimed in claims 1-2, characterized in that the cord-tensioning device (10) is arranged to be threaded into a rod end and provided with a retaining slot (15).

4. Scenery arrangement as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the cord-tensioning device (10) is provided with at least one curtain hook (17).

5. Scenery arrangement as claimed in any of claims 1-4, characterized in that both ends of both the curtain rod (7) and the back-drop rod (8) extend beyond the left and right sides (5, 6), respectively.

6. Scenery arrangement as claimed in any of claims 1-5, characterized in that the left and right sides (5, 6) are joined to at least one rear lower spacer (9).
7. Scenery arrangement as claimed in any of claims 1-6, characterized in that the front and rear lower corners of the left and right sides (5, 6) are provided with at least one support piece (22).

8. Scenery arrangement as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the front lower corners of the left and right sides (5, 6) are provided with two support pieces (22).

9. Scenery arrangement as claimed in any of claims 1-8, characterized in that a securing device (18) is arranged to be secured around a curtain rod (7) or a back-drop rod (8).

10. Scenery arrangement as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the securing device (18) is provided with an upwardly extending support means (19).

11. Scenery arrangement as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the securing device (18) is provided with a downwardly extending hook means (20) having a hook (21) to carry a cord.

12. Scenery arrangement as claimed in any of claims 1-11, characterized in that the tubular construction (1) includes eight corner members (4), each with four pipe connections.

13. Scenery arrangement as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the tubular construction (1) includes eight identical corner members (4), each with four pipe connections.

14. Scenery arrangement as claimed in any of claims 1-13, characterized in that the tubular construction (1) comprises first rod sections (2) constituting left and right sides (5, 6), upper front curtain rod (7), upper rear back-drop rod (8) and spacer (9), all first rod
sections (2) having a uniform first length of preferably 1 m, and second rod sections (22) constituting support pieces having a uniform second length of preferably 20 cm, all rod sections being connectable to each other and to the corner members (4).

15. Scenery arrangement as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that a connector (3) is arranged for connecting together two rod sections (2, 22).
# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

**International application No.**
PCT/SE 97/00603

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

**IPC6:** A63J 1/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC.

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

**IPC6:** A63J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE, DK, FI, NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 1533337 A (E. T. PURDY ET AL), 14 April 1925 (14.04.25)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 2846221 A (C. E. SKINNER), 5 August 1958 (05.08.58)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>GB 2240047 A (MARK ALAN POVEY), 24 July 1991 (24.07.91)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. [See patent family annex.]

- **A**: Document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance.
- **E**: Earlier document but published on or after the international filing date.
- **L**: Document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified).
- **O**: Document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means.
- **P**: Document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed.
- **T**: Later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention.
- **X**: Document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone.
- **Y**: Document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- **&**: Document member of the same patent family.

Date of the actual completion of the international search: 8 July 1997

Date of mailing of the international search report: 21 July 1997

Name and mailing address of the ISA/Swedish Patent Office Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM

Facsimile No. +46 8 666 02 86

Authorized officer: Manfred Weiss

Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patent document cited in search report</th>
<th>Publication date</th>
<th>Patent family member(s)</th>
<th>Publication date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US 153337 A</td>
<td>14/04/25</td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US 2846221 A</td>
<td>05/08/58</td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GB 2240047 A</td>
<td>24/07/91</td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>