

Glossary of Entertainment Industry Inclusive Terminology

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This glossary is intended to promote a shared awareness and understanding of the harmful nature of certain terminology used in the entertainment industry, as we as to offer recommendations of less harmful terms to used instead.

ETNZ recognizes the work that USITT, ESTA, and many other individuals have done in creating this list. It is intended to be a living document so please contact us if you have edits/recommendations that we can add to this glossary. We hope this document helps to create a more inclusive environment for all industry practitioners.

Area/Department	Term to be Changed	Preferred Term	Problematic Nature of Original Term
Industry Wide	"Fresh meat"	Intern, trainee	Sexism / Ageism
Industry Wide	basket case	troubled	Ableism
Industry Wide	Big girl/boy pants/panties (as in "put on your...")	be brave don't be scared take a chance	Sexism, Infantilizing
Industry Wide	Blacks (drapes)	Masking	Racial Reference
Industry Wide	blind seat	obstructed/partially obstructed view	Ableism
Industry Wide	butch up	be brave don't be scared take a chance	Sexism, Ableism
Industry Wide	Cattle Call	Open casting audition	Dehumanising
Industry Wide	Circle the Wagons	Gather	Colonial reference
Industry Wide	Colour blind casting	Cross Cultural Casting?	Racial irreverence / Ableism
Industry Wide	coloured	People of colour, BIPOC	Racial reference
Industry Wide	Drink the Kool-Aid	A constant belief not widely accepted	Religion/Spirituality
Industry Wide	dumb show	pantomime	Ableism
Industry Wide	dummy check	double check	Ableism
Industry Wide	Eenie Meenie Miney Mo	one, two, three, four	Racial reference
Industry Wide	Female Connector	Connector/Socket	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Industry Wide	Gender bender	Turnaround, socket-socket or plug-plug adapter.	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Industry Wide	ghetto rig	ad hoc. Improvise.	Racial reference
Industry Wide	Grandfather Clause, Grandfathering	exemption or exception	Racial reference
Industry Wide	grow a set/pair/some balls	toughen up	Sexism, Ableism
Industry Wide	Hell week	Tech week	Religion/Spirituality
Industry Wide	hose in a twist	upset	Sexism, Ableism
Industry Wide	idiot check	double check	Ableism
Industry Wide	jerry or gerry or jury rig	ad hoc. Improvise, quickly built	Racial reference

Industry Wide	Kid / Boy	The person's name. Their designation (Example: Ageism "hey team scenic") Or even an agreed upon nickname	
Industry Wide	Ladies and Gentlemen	Members of the audience Fellow Theatre makers"Everyone" "Folks" or other non-binary language.	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Industry Wide	lame	Weak or poor	Ableism
Industry Wide	Lesbian or Gay Connector/Coupler	Coupler	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Industry Wide	let's pow wow	let's meet / lets have a conversation	cultural appropriation
Industry Wide	maiden (as an adjective, as in "voyage")	inaugural	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Industry Wide	Male Connector	Plug	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Industry Wide	man hours	work hours person hours	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Industry Wide	man up	be brave don't be scared take a chance	Sexism, Ableism
Industry Wide	manpower	labour	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Industry Wide	Maori Road case	cardboard box	Racial Reference
Industry Wide	Māori Steel Caps	Jandals	Racial Reference
Industry Wide	Men at Work	AT WORK / Work Zone	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Industry Wide	Off the Reservation	Lost control	Racial reference
Industry Wide	overmanning	overstaffing	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Industry Wide	panties in a bunch	upset	Sexism, Ableism
Industry Wide	Peanut Gallery	Hecklers, Top Gallery	Social status reference
Industry Wide	Pecker Head	Motor Junction Box	Sexualization / Vulgar
Industry Wide	retarded	Backwards or incorrect	Ableism
Industry Wide	rule of thumb	standard	domestic violence
Industry Wide	Seminal	Influential	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Industry Wide	Single-man lift	Single-person lift	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Industry Wide	Slave wages	low wages, exploitative wages	Racial reference
Industry Wide	sold down the river	betrayed	Racial reference
Industry Wide	Spirit Animal	inspiration	cultural appropriation
Industry Wide	straight play	non-musical	Homophobic
Industry Wide	Toughen up	"Lets find another solution"	Ableism
Industry Wide	you guys	Folks. Team	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Audio	God Mic / Voice of God (VOG)	Public Address Mic / Announce Mic	Religion/Spirituality
Audio	Master/Slave	Leader/Follower, Primary/Backup, Host/Client, Sender/Receiver (the preferred term is context-specific and may differ in various fields)	Racial reference
Audio	Siamese cable	Combo cable	Racial reference
Audio	sound guy, sound man	Sound person, sound professional, sound mixer, sound engineer	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Lighting	Dikes	Diagonal Cutters / Side Cutters	Homophobic
Lighting	Male Connector	Plug	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization

Lighting	Female Connector	Connector/Socket/Receptacle	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Lighting	Master Electrician	Head Electrician	Racial Reference and Issue with Electrical Trades that have Sexualization
Lighting	Horse-cocks	Cable Drop	Sexualization
Lighting	Horse-cock	Multi-Cable or Feeder	Sexualization
Lighting	Master/Slave in LED/ Mover programming	Host/Client or Sender/Receiver	Racial Reference
Lighting	Master in Console program	Control or Primary	Traditionally masculine term. Racial Reference
Lighting	Grandmaster	Main Controller	Traditionally masculine term. Racial Reference
Lighting	Submaster	Sub Controller Aux Controller	Traditionally masculine term. Racial Reference
Lighting	truss condom	truss protector / truss sock / truss sleeve	Sexualization
Lighting	Chinese finger	mesh grip	Racial Reference
Lighting	camel toe	right angle beam clamp	Sexualization
Lighting	fuck nut / fuck-you bolt / Jesus bolt	pan bolt	Sexualization / Vulgar / Religious
Lighting	sit-n-spin	rotating cable dispenser	Sexualization
Lighting	Linesman's Pliers	combination pliers or side-cutting pliers or wire gripping pliers	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Lighting	China marker	wax pencil, porcelain marker	Racial Reference
Lighting	Twink lights	Fairy Lights	Homophobic
Lighting	Bitch Mittens	Gloves	Sexualization / Vulgar
Lighting	China Ball / China Lantern / Chinese Lantern	Paper Lantern	Racial Reference
Lighting	Master Electrician	Lighting (or electric) Supervisor or Manager	Traditionally masculine term. Racial Reference
Props	Stage Herpes	Glitter	Ableist / Stigmatizing
Props	Props Master / Mistress	Props Supervisor/ Manager	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Props	Prop Master	Prop Coordinator or Prop Designer based upon involvement in the process	Traditionally masculine term. Racial Reference
Props	Slave prop	Stand in or Rehearsal Prop	Racial Reference
Rigging	Wench	Winch	Sexualization / Vulgar
Rigging	Asshole	Temporary Loop	Vulgar
Rigging	Batten Condom	Batten end caps	Sexualization / Vulgar
Rigging	Flyman	Flyperson	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Rigging	Master Rigger	Lead Rigger / Head Rigger	Traditionally masculine term. Racial Reference
Rigging	Pecker-head	Motor Terminal Box	Sexualization / Vulgar
Set / Carpentry	fuck it nut	set screw	Sexualization / Vulgar
Set / Carpentry	gypsy wagon	Stage truck	Racial Reference
Set / Carpentry	Master Carpenter	Lead Carpenter, Head Carpenter	Racial Reference and an issue with Trades that have licenses in construction trades
Set / Carpentry	Draftsman	Draftsperson	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Set / Carpentry	dutchmanning	Seam covering	Promotes gender binarism, Racial Reference
Set / Carpentry	Male/Female fittings (Hydraulic, pneumatic, etc.)	Plug/Socket or Quick disconnect Tube Fittings	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Set / Carpentry	Hanging Blacks (hanging curtains)	Hang/Install Masking	Racial reference

Set / Carpentry	Actor proof	Durable, Useable, Safe	Infantilizing
Set / Carpentry	Master Ground Plan	Combined/Composite Ground Plan	Traditionally masculine term. Racial Reference
Set / Carpentry	Master Section	Combined/Composite Section	Traditionally masculine term. Racial Reference
Set / Carpentry	Master Welder	Lead Welder	Racial reference, Issue with welding trades with licenses.
Theatre Architecture & Engineering	Black List / White List	Restricted List / Approved List	Racial reference
Costume / Wardrobe	top/bottom snaps	Dome Ball/socket	Homophobic
Costume / Wardrobe	male/female snaps	Dome Ball/socket	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Costume / Wardrobe	wife beater shirt	A-shirt / Singlet	Promotes gender-based violence
Costume / Wardrobe	Sewer/Seamstress/Seamster	Stitcher (Sewist)	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Costume / Wardrobe	Wardrobe Mistress / Master	Wardrobe Head / Supervisor	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Costume / Wardrobe	blacks	Show Blacks	Racial Reference
Costume / Wardrobe	dancer diaper	Dance belt	Infantilizing
Costume / Wardrobe	male/female Velcro	hook / loop Velcro	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Costume / Wardrobe	flesh (indicating beige or pink colour)	Pink or beige	Assumption of the majority, racism
Costume / Wardrobe	fat padding	body / character padding	Body-shaming
Costume / Wardrobe	costume herpes	glitter	Ableist / Stigmatizing
Costume / Wardrobe	squish (in corsetry)	weight redistribution	Body-shaming
Costume / Wardrobe	Whites and Coloureds	Whites and Colours	Racial Reference
Costume / Wardrobe	Coolie Hat	Conical Hat	Colonial Reference
Costume / Wardrobe	Ethnic Clothing	Folk or Cultural Styles	Colonial Reference
Costume / Wardrobe	Style Tribe	Style Subculture, style faction	Racial Reference
Costume / Wardrobe	Gypsy	Roma/ Romani	Racial Reference
Costume / Wardrobe	Oriental (referring to people or garments)	Asian	Racial Reference
Costume / Wardrobe	Foreman	Foreperson	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Costume / Wardrobe	Female and male slopers	Darted and non-darted slopers	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization
Costume / Wardrobe	Sweat shop	Costume Shop (or whichever shop they were referencing)	Implies a very serious, dangerous work condition that exploit workers
Costume / Wardrobe	Seamstress	Costume Builder	Promotes gender binarism, sexualization

Additional Resources

Lighting <http://www.electricalslang.co>