



# **Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925**

*R. W. (Rick) Boychuk*

[Download now](#)

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925

*R. W. (Rick) Boychuk*

**Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925** R. W. (Rick) Boychuk

Nominated for the 2016 USITT Golden Pen Award "...a magnificent and very important piece of work for our industry." Richard Pilbrow, author of 'A Theatre Project' "Very nice job, congratulations!" Mike Murphy, President, J.R. Clancy, Inc. "Boychuk has thrown down the gauntlet with bold statements backed up by documentation..." Tim Williamson, Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium "...a very informative and great read." Norbert Muncs, Past President, CITT "Anyone who has ever pulled a rope in the name of theatre will enjoy this revealing back story..." Charles Haines, President, Hall Stage Ltd. ~~~ The counterweight rigging system has dominated the theatre fly tower for the last half of the 20th century. And yet, the history of its evolution has been lost, until now. In this first ever written history of the counterweight rigging system, author Rick Boychuk upends two core theatre myths. Stage rigging did not grow from a nautical tradition and counterweight rigging did not evolve from the hemp system. Boychuk neatly identifies the origins of the myth of the sailor-flyman and leaves no room for doubt. Counterweight rigging emerged from a European tradition of 17th century Torellian stage machinery. Hemp rigging was a side-show. In documenting the evolution of the counterweight system, Boychuk dissects the machine that is the stage house along with its upper machinery – the rigging. He examines the development of the fly tower, gridiron, loft steel, head steel, grid wells, arbor, bricks, blocks, and loft lines; all of those mundane components necessary to make the system work. He deconstructs hemp, counterweight and Torellian rigging into system paths to gain a better understanding of the progression of development and the workings of each system. This is the surprising story of how the counterweight rigging system was developed for an Austro-Hungarian theatre in 1888, then quickly found its way to the American Midwest in Adler & Sullivan's Chicago Auditorium in 1889. But it was the Chicago scenic painting studio Sosman & Landis that capitalized on the system. As Boychuk explains, Sosman & Landis adapted the system to increase the number of painted scenic pieces that they could sell to the well-funded Masonic theatres that were fast emerging across the United States. By 1925, the system had further evolved then to become crystallized in the catalogues of J.R. Clancy of Syracuse, NY. Clancy did for counterweight rigging what Ford had done for the automobile. Counterweight rigging was made affordable, was standardized and, soon, was ubiquitous in theatres around the world. A major takeaway from this book is this: the stage house impacted the evolution of stage machinery, and stage machinery impacted the evolution of the stage house. Today we appear to be witnessing a move from manual to automated stage machinery. If that is so, how will the change in our machinery impact our stage house? And how would we manage such a transition? Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925 is a must-read for all who work in and around technical theatre - stagehands, crew, manufacturers, designers, suppliers, consultants, and most importantly, those who are teaching the next generation of technicians. R.W. (Rick) Boychuk has been student, teacher, technical director, IA stagehand, designer and recently, inventor, and now an author. A graduate of University of Saskatchewan in technical theatre, he has worked in the industry for over 40 years. Rick owns and operates Grid Well, Inc. in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

 [Download Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweigh ...pdf](#)



## **Download and Read Free Online Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925 R. W. (Rick) Boychuk**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Antoinette Holdren:**

In other case, little individuals like to read book Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925. You can choose the best book if you'd prefer reading a book. As long as we know about how is important the book Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925. You can add information and of course you can around the world with a book. Absolutely right, mainly because from book you can recognize everything! From your country until foreign or abroad you will find yourself known. About simple thing until wonderful thing it is possible to know that. In this era, we can easily open a book or even searching by internet unit. It is called e-book. You may use it when you feel bored to go to the library. Let's go through.

#### **Jeffrey Evans:**

The book Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925 can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Why then must we leave a very important thing like a book Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925? A few of you have a different opinion about reserve. But one aim that book can give many information for us. It is absolutely proper. Right now, try to closer together with your book. Knowledge or facts that you take for that, you may give for each other; you may share all of these. Book Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925 has simple shape nevertheless, you know: it has great and massive function for you. You can look the enormous world by open up and read a book. So it is very wonderful.

#### **Thomas Lemos:**

This Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925 book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is actually information inside this e-book incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This kind of Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925 without we understand teach the one who studying it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't become worry Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925 can bring any time you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even telephone. This Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925 having very good arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

#### **Jeffery Herring:**

The event that you get from Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925 is the more deep you looking the information that hide within the words the more you get serious about

reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to recognise but Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925 giving you buzz feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in certain way that can be understood through anyone who read the idea because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this specific Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925 instantly.

**Download and Read Online Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925 R. W. (Rick) Boychuk #GKMQXF9A2YD**

## **Read Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925 by R. W. (Rick) Boychuk for online ebook**

Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925 by R. W. (Rick) Boychuk Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925 by R. W. (Rick) Boychuk books to read online.

### **Online Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925 by R. W. (Rick) Boychuk ebook PDF download**

**Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925 by R. W. (Rick) Boychuk Doc**

**Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925 by R. W. (Rick) Boychuk Mobipocket**

**Nobody Looks Up: The History of the Counterweight Rigging System: 1500 to 1925 by R. W. (Rick) Boychuk EPub**