

Theatre

Basic Vocabulary

act	The major sections of a play.
actor	The artist portraying a role on-stage.
audience	The group that reacts and responds to a theatrical performance.
audition	An opportunity through which a performer is able to demonstrate talent.
backstage	The area of the stage that is out of sight of the audience.
blocking	Actors' movement on-stage.
cast	The ensemble of actors who portray the roles in a play.
center stage	The center area of the stage.
characterization	The process of creating a character whose words and actions are determined by the elements of the play.
comedy	A light and amusing play that typically has a happy ending.
conflict	The action when two opposing forces meet.
cue	The signal an actor receives or uses to begin a line or movement.
diction	The actor's ability to be understood.
director	The person who oversees the entire process of staging a production.
down stage	The area of the stage closest to the audience.
dramatic mediums	Telling stories through stage, film, television, radio or technology.
dress rehearsal	A full rehearsal with complete technical accompaniment during the final production phase before an opening night performance.
fourth wall	An imaginary wall between the actors and the audience.
house	The area in a theatre/auditorium where the audience sits.

improvisation	The spontaneous movement and speech creating a specific character in a particular situation.
intention	What the character wants from the other character(s) in a scene.
interpretation	Choices the actor, director and designer make together to clarify the role or play.
monologue	Part of a play in which one character speaks alone.
pantomime	Performing without words, expressing meaning through physical actions/gestures.
performance	A live event shared between theatre artists and an audience.
play	A piece of work written in dialogue form usually with a beginning, middle and end, broken into one to three acts.
playwright	A person who writes dialogue in the form of a play.
plot	The sequence of events in a play, generally including rising action, a climax and a resolution.
props	Physical items an actor interacts with on stage.
proscenium arch	An opening in a wall that stands between the stage and the house that becomes the frame through which the audience sees the play.
rehearsal	Time allocated to practice and prepare the actors cast in a a play for performance.
role	A part or character that an actor interprets in a performance.
scene	The basic structural element of a play.
set	Physical environment in which the actors perform.
stage	The acting area.
stage business	Small actions performed by an actor which may enhance character or develop plot.
stage crew	The group of people working on set construction, props, lighting, sound, costumes, and make-up.
stage left	The area of the stage to the actor's left.

stage right	The area of the stage to the actor's right.
stage manager	The person in charge of all elements of a play during the run of a performance.
tableau	A still image, frozen moment, or a "photograph." Created by posing still bodies.
technical theatre	Designers and artists who collaborate to create and produce the visual and aural elements of a play.
theme	The underlying meaning of a play or literary work.
tragedy	A form of a play or theatre where the main character suffers a reversal or downfall.
upstage	The area of the stage farthest from the audience.
volume (voice production)	The actor's ability to be heard.