

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.