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

1

performance.