

RESOURCES

ACTOR	A person who performs as a character in a play or musical.
ATMOSPHERE	The environment, mood, and feeling onstage, often created by sound, lighting, design, and movement.
BEAT	1) A small moment of action within a scene. 2) A moment of silence and stillness during which a character reacts to something that has been said or done.
BEHIND THE SCENES	Anything that happens backstage or out of the view of the audience.
BLOCKING	The actors' movement in a play or musical, not including the choreography. The director usually assigns blocking during rehearsals.
BROADWAY	The theater district in New York City that is home to 40 professional theaters and is one of the world's greatest capitals of live theater.
CALL AND RESPONSE	When a person or group – the caller(s) – performs a piece of music or dance, and another person or group – the responder(s) – reply with a movement or musical phrase.
CHARACTER WORK	An actor's process through movement, improvisation, and relationship to discover and perform her character.
CHARACTER	A human (or animal) represented in a play. Each actor plays a character, even if that character doesn't have a name in the script. An actor may play many characters in a play.
CHOREOGRAPHER	A person who creates and teaches the dance numbers in a musical.
CHOREOGRAPHY	The dances in a musical, often used to help tell the story.
COMPOSER	A person who writes music for a musical.
CONTRACT	An agreement between two parties.
CREATIVE TEAM	The author(s), director, choreographer, music director, and designers for a play or musical.
CREW	Short for "stage crew." A team of people who move the set, handle props, or work backstage during a production.

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CUE	A signal that tells the cast or crew what to do next.
DESIGNERS	The people who create the sets, costumes, makeup, masks, puppets, lighting, and sound for a production.
DIRECTOR'S VISION	How a director understands and interprets a particular play; the overall concept for a production.
DJEMBE	A West African drum made of wood and rawhide and played with bare hands.
DOWNSTAGE	The portion of the stage closest to the audience; the opposite of upstage.
DRAMATIZE	To dramatically interpret a moment in a story using theatrical techniques.
DRESS REHEARSAL	One of the final run-throughs of a show which usually includes full costumes, props, and technical elements.
ENSEMBLE	1) A group of people who work together to create a production. 2) The spirit of camaraderie cultivated while rehearsing and performing a show.
FOCUS	1) The part of the stage where the audience is meant to look at any given time. The director manipulates the focus using lighting, sound, sets, and blocking. 2) Concentration used by an actor when rehearsing and performing.
GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES	Facts that the playwright provides about characters, settings, and situations in a play.
HOUSE	The area of the theater where the audience sits to watch the show.
IMPROVISATION	Performing extemporaneously, without a script. Improvisation is a useful tool for developing character, staying "in the moment," and remaining in character should something go wrong on stage.
LYRICIST	A person who writes the lyrics, or sung words, for a musical. The lyricist works with a composer to create songs.
LYRICS	The words of a song.
MONOLOGUE	A large number of lines spoken by a single character. When spoken alone onstage or directly to an audience, a monologue often reveals the inner thoughts of a character.

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MUSIC DIRECTOR	A person who is in charge of teaching the songs to the cast and orchestra, interpreting the score, and maintaining the quality of the music in the production.
NARRATION	Spoken lines that describe what is happening in the story.
NOTES	1) A musical sound with a particular pitch. 2) A suggestion given by the director to an actor.
OBJECTIVE	What a character wants.
OFF-BOOK	An actor's ability to perform her memorized lines without holding the script.
ON ITS FEET	When students or actors experiment with blocking or activating content after looking over an activity or scene.
PHYSICAL WARM-UPS	Exercises performed by an actor to physically warm up the body.
PHYSICALITY	An actor's use of his body and movement to create a unique character.
PLACES	A cue that signals all cast and crew to get in their assigned positions for the beginning of a show, or scene.
PLAYWRIGHT	The author of a play.
PROJECTION	Speaking and singing loudly enough to be understood by the audience.
PROP	Short for "property," any item an actor holds or carries during a performance.
PUPPET	An inanimate object manipulated by someone to portray a specific character.
QUALITIES OF MOVEMENT	Attributes or characteristics of a motion, or series of motions. Often used to describe dance.
RAKED STAGE	A stage angled toward the audience.
READ-THROUGH	An early rehearsal at which the cast reads their parts from the script without blocking or memorized lines.
REHEARSALS	A meeting during which the cast learns and practices the show.

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RHYTHM	A series of beats carefully arranged to form a pattern or phrase.
RITUAL	Something a person does habitually for a certain reason.
SCENE	A section of a play in one particular location and time.
SCRIPT:	1) The written words that make up a show, including spoken words, stage directions, and lyrics. 2) The book that contains those words.
SET	The entire physical environment onstage which may include backdrops, flats, furniture, props, and projections.
SET DESIGNER	A person who designs the set.
SHADOW PUPPETRY	An ancient form of storytelling with roots in Southeast Asia, particularly Indonesia. A shadow projected onto a screen by shining a light behind a cut-out silhouette of an image. Often, small dowels are used to articulate the movement of the puppet.
SOUND DESIGNER	A person who decides how a play will sound to an audience.
STAGE MANAGER	A person responsible for keeping all rehearsals and performances organized and on schedule, and for calling sound and light cues during the show.
TABLEAU	A frozen stage picture made up of students' or actors' bodies, that tells a story.
TECHNICAL REHEARSAL	A rehearsal in which all technical elements are incorporated into the production. Also called "tech."
TONGUE TWISTERS	A type of verbal activity that exercises a person's diction and articulation.
UPSTAGE	The part of the stage furthest from the audience; the opposite of downstage.