

The Parts of a Theatre

Front of House [FOH]

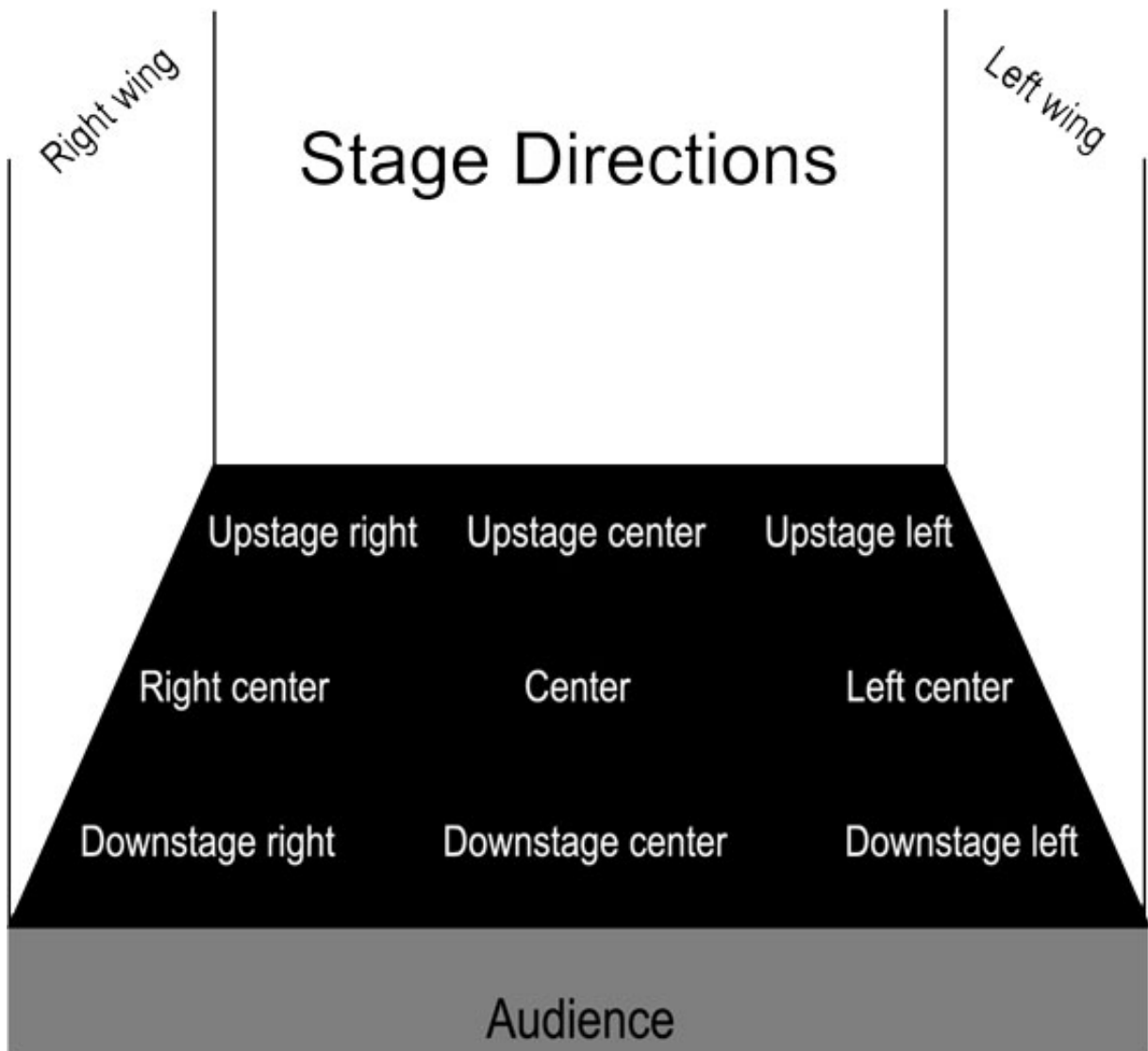
- **Lobby:** A room in a theatre used for public entry to the building from the outside. Ticket counters, concessions and restrooms are all usually located in the lobby.
- **Box Office:** Where tickets are sold to the public.
- **House:** The house can refer to any area which is not considered playing space or backstage area. This includes the lobby, coat check, ticketing counters, and restrooms. More specifically, the house refers to any area in the theatre where the audience is seated. This can also include aisles, the orchestra pit, control booth and balcony.

The Stage

- **Proscenium:** The portal that divides the audience from the stage. The audience directly faces the playing area which is separated by a portal called the proscenium arch. The stage is often raised a few feet higher than the first rows of the audience. The audience is on a rake, getting higher as the seating goes towards the rear of the house.
- **Orchestra:** In productions where live music is required is positioned in front and below of the stage in a pit. Some orchestra pits have lifts or elevators that can raise the floor of the pit up to the same height as the stage. This allows for easier movement of instruments among other things. Often an orchestra pit will be equipped with a removable pit cover which provides safety by eliminating the steep drop off and also increases the available acting area above.
- **Apron:** the part of the stage between the curtain and the orchestra
- **Trap** - an area under the stage that actors can be enter or exit through

Stage Directions

- **Down Stage:** The area of the stage closest to the audience.
- **Center Stage:** The middle of the playing area
- **Upstage:** The area of the stage furthest from the audience.
- **Stage Left:** The area of the stage to the performer's left, when facing downstage
- **Stage Right:** The area of the stage to the performer's right, when facing downstage (i.e. the audience).



Backstage

- **Wings: [Stage left and stage right]** Areas that are part of a stage but offstage (out of sight of the audience). The wings are typically separated using drapes (usually black). Wings consist of a wing curtain (or leg) on each side of the stage and a teaser drape (or border.) It is used for performers preparing to enter, storage of sets for slow changes and as a stagehand work area. Wings also hide technical equipment, such as lights which project from the side of the stage.
- **Dressing Room:** Rooms where cast members apply wigs, make-up and change into costumes.
- **Green Room:** The lounge backstage. This is the room where actors and other performers wait in when they are not needed onstage or in their dressing rooms.

- **Fly Rail:** A fly system is a system of ropes, counterweights, pulleys, and other such tools designed to allow a technical crew to quickly move set pieces, and lights on and off stage quickly by 'flying' them in from a large opening above the stage known as a fly tower/flyspace
- **Catwalk:** A catwalk is an elevated platform from which many of the technical functions of a theatre, such as lighting and sound, may be manipulated.
- **Scene Shop:** Depending on the space available a theatre may have its own storage areas for old scenic and costume elements as well as lighting and sound equipment. The theatre may also include its own lighting, scenic, costume, properties, and sound shops. In these shops each element of the show is constructed and prepared for each production.
- **Stage Manager Booth:** The section of the theatre designated for the operation of technical equipment, followspots, lighting and sound boards, and is sometimes the location of the stage manager's station. The control booth is located in the theatre in such a way that there is a good, unobstructed view of the playing area without causing any (or minimal) distraction to the audience (i.e. preventing distracting light leak or noise), and is generally an enclosed space.

- Working on your own or with a partner, draw and label the KSS Theatre. You'll need to include 2 drawings - one for downstairs and one for upstairs. Try to use as many of the terms as you can – of course, not all will apply.

This should be neat, quality work - you and your partner should have a rough, 'working' copy, and then a final good copy.

- **Evaluation**
Process - Do you use classtime effectively? (day to day marks)

Final Product - How well thought out and drawn is your theatre? Have you correctly labeled it as much as possible?