

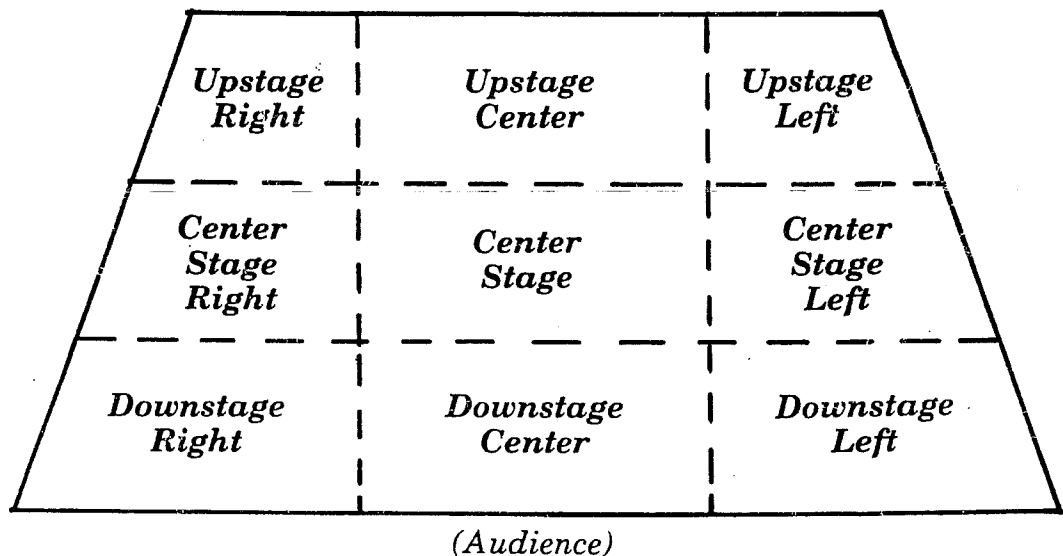
STAGE TERMS

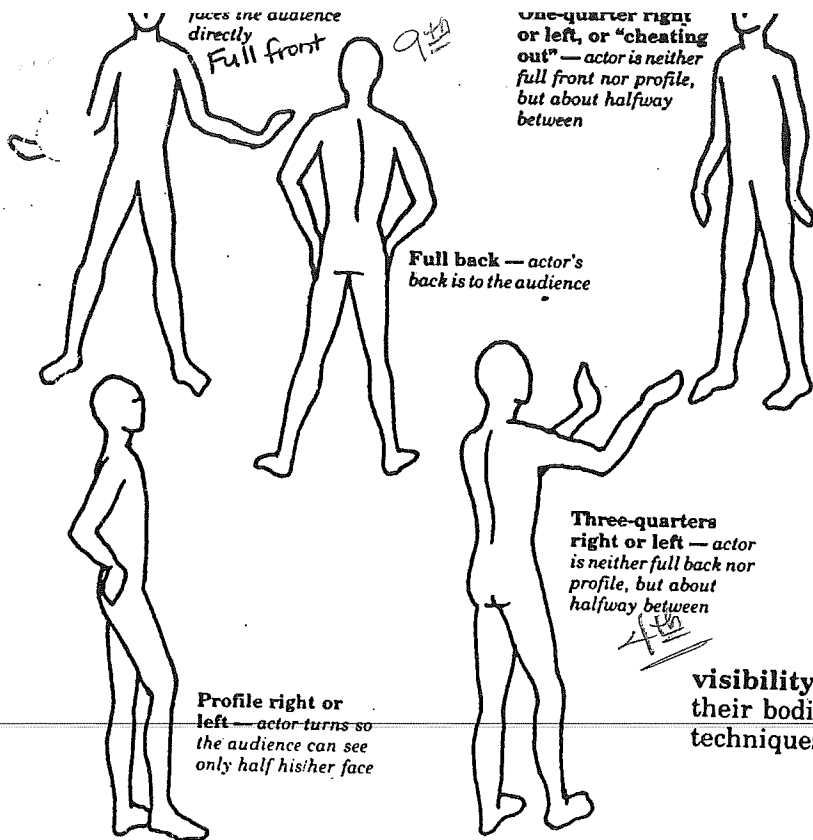
1. **actor / performer:** The "real person" on the stage.
2. **actor positions:** Terms that describe how directly the actor is facing the audience, as shown below.
3. **character / role:** The imaginary person, thing or animal the actor pretends to be on stage.
4. **cue:** A signal to begin action or dialogue.
5. **dialogue:** Spoken words on stage.

6. **downstage:** A movement or area toward the audience.
7. **duet scene:** A scene for two people.
8. **exposition:** Information given through dialogue during a scene that explains events leading up to the action.
9. **gesture:** A movement, usually of the arm, that helps to express an idea or feeling.
10. **hand prop:** A prop that can be easily handled. Examples include books, chalk, dishes, baseball bats. In pantomime, hand props are usually imaginary.
11. **Improvisation:** (often abbreviated *improv*) A scene performed with little or no planning; it usually includes dialogue.
12. **monologue / solo scene:** A scene for one actor who speaks her or his thoughts aloud or talks to an imaginary character or directly to the audience.
13. **pantomime:** A performance that communicates an idea or an action without using dialogue.

14. **set:** The actual pieces of furniture, platforms or other items on the stage.
15. **set prop:** A large prop, such as a piece of furniture, that is not easily moved. Examples include chairs, tables, fireplaces, platforms. In pantomime, set props like chairs are usually real; all others are imaginary.
16. **setting:** The imaginary time and place the stage area represents.
17. **sight cue:** A visual signal for actors to begin action or dialogue, or for the audience to quiet down for a performance.
18. **stage areas:** For convenience, the acting area is divided into nine areas, as shown below.
19. **stage left:** A movement or area on the actor's left as he or she faces the audience.
20. **stage property:** (usually abbreviated prop) Any item used on stage.
21. **stage right:** A movement or area on the actor's right as she or he faces the audience.
22. **upstage:** A movement or area away from the audience.

STAGE AREAS:





visibility: If actors hope to communicate ideas to their audience, their bodies and faces must be seen; they must be visible. These techniques help:

hair:

b. face and body:

c. Cheat out,

d. gestures:

e. turns:

f. crossing stage:

or open up, as much as possible. Certainly, in real life, two people would face each other directly across a table, or they would cluster in a circle. On the stage, however, the table chairs would be angled out toward the audience, and the group would form a semi-circle or stand in an angled line. On stage, actors should try to use one-quarter positions instead of profile or three-quarter positions.

Use the arm farthest from the audience (upstage arm) for gestures or reaching. If you kneel on one knee, kneel on the upstage knee.

When you turn, turn so you face the audience during your turn.

Keep long bangs and hair out of eyes.

Position these toward the audience as much as possible. In pantomimes, imaginary props can be placed between the performers and audience; real props can be placed to the side of the actors.

When two or more actors cross the stage, the actor closest to the audience (downstage actor) should slightly trail the other actor, so as not to block that actor, as shown below.

