

Stage Configurations



Year 10/11 Drama FOCUS: WRITTEN EXAM SECTION A - Stage Configurations and Stage Positioning

THRUST

✓ The audience might feel closer to the stage and more involved in the action as there are three front rows.
A backdrop and larger items of set and scenery can be used upstage.

✗ The audience on the right and left sides are facing each other which some audience members may find distracting.

END ON

✓ A backdrop and larger items of set and scenery can be used without blocking sightlines.
It is easier to have control of audience sightlines.

✗ Audience members in the furthest rows might feel distanced from the action.

IN THE ROUND

✓ Actors enter and exit through the audience making the audience feel more involved in the action.

✗ Actors and designers have to be careful not to block the audience's view - actors may need to move more to achieve this.

TRAVERSE

✓ The audience feel very close to the performance as there are two long front rows.

✗ The acting area is long and thin which can make blocking challenging.
The actors need to ensure they are visible from both sides of the audience.

PROSCENIUM ARCH

✓ A backdrop and larger items of set and scenery can be used without blocking sightlines.
The frame around the stage adds to the effect of the fourth wall giving the impression of a self-contained world which is particularly suitable for naturalistic plays.

✗ The audience may feel distant from the action and audience interaction is difficult.

PROMENADE

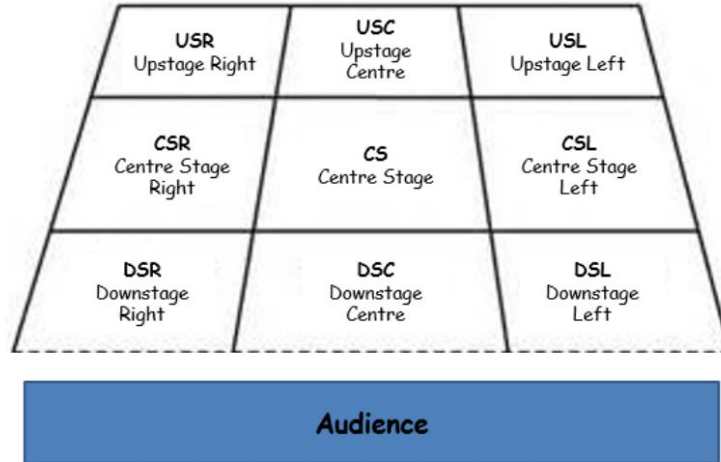
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✓ This is a creative, interactive stage configuration and the audience feel very involved in the action.

✗ Actors and crew need to be skilled at moving the audience around the space and controlling their focus.
The audience may get tired of standing and moving around.

Stage Positioning

Proscenium Arch and Thrust staging both use the following labelling system:



The stage is labelled according to the **actor's point of view**.

The words 'upstage' and 'downstage' are used because traditionally stages sloped downwards from the back towards the front. This is known as a 'rake' and is used so the audience have a better view of the actors at the rear of the stage.

Centre stage is usually the most important position as it is the area of central focus.

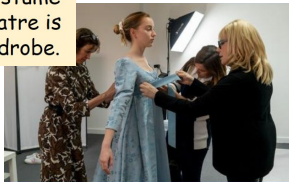
Downstage is closest to the audience making intimacy easier.

Upstage is a position that allows an actor to do things which a character in front of them cannot see.

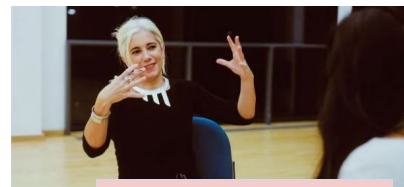
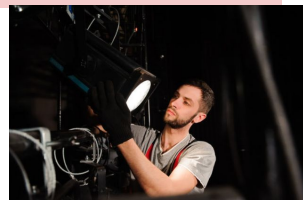
Playwright -
The person who writes a playscript.



Costume Designer -
The person who designs the costumes (clothes and accessories) for a performance. The costume department of a theatre is often called the wardrobe.



Technician -
A person who works backstage either setting up technical equipment such as microphones or rigging lights before a production or operating technical equipment during a performance.



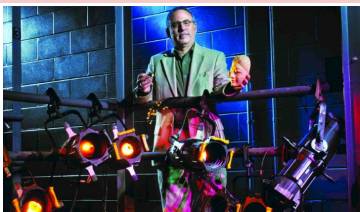
Director -
A director is in charge of the artistic elements of a production. A director will often have the initial creative idea ('concept') for a production, will work with the actors in rehearsal, and will collaborate with designers and the technical team to realise (make happen) this idea in performance.

Lighting Designer -
The lighting designer is responsible for designing the lighting states and, if required, special lighting effects for a performance. The final design will result in a lighting plot which is a list of the lighting states and their cues.



Puppet Designer -

The person who designs the puppets for a performance.



Year 10/11 Drama

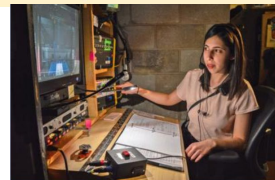
FOCUS: WRITTEN EXAM SECTION A - Roles and Responsibilities of Theatre Makers



Stage Manager -
They will oversee everything that happens backstage before, during and after a performance, including managing the crew. During the rehearsal period, the Stage Manager and their team will make sure that all props are found or made, scene changes are rehearsed and smooth, and all other aspects of backstage are prepared. They are also in charge of the rehearsal schedule.

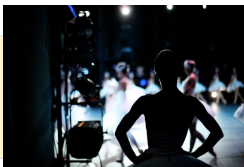
Theatre Manager -

The person who is responsible for and manages the front-of-house team who deal with the audience during the production.



Understudy -

An actor who studies another's role so that they can take over when needed.



Set Designer -

The set designer is responsible for the design of the set (scenery and furniture on stage) for a performance. They will work closely with the director and other designers so that there is unity between all the designs and the needs of the performance.



Performer -
A performer is an actor or entertainer who realises (performs) a role or performance in front of an audience.



Sound Designer -

The sound designer is responsible for designing the sound required for a performance. This may include underscoring, intro and outro music as well as specific effects. The final design will result in a sound plot which is a list of the sounds required and their cues.

