**Theatre Vocabulary 1**

1. **Act**- the division in the performance of the play. Each act has several scenes. Intermission usually happens between acts.
2. **Actor/Actress**- a performer in a play.
3. **Apron**- any part of the stage that extends past the proscenium arch and into the audience or seating area.
4. **Backdrop**- a large drapery of painted canvas that provides cover for upstage.
5. **Backstage**- the area behind and around the stage that is unseen by the audience. Also known as Wings or Offstage.
6. **Blacks**- the clothing any backstage crew wears during show consisting of black from head to toe. Worn to make crew “invisible”. There are two types: Audition Blacks and Crew Blacks.
7. **Black box-** a simple indoor performance space with plain black walls and a level floor, typically designed to provide flexibility in the configuration of the stage and the audience seating.
8. **Blackout**- a sudden darkening of the stage.
9. **Blocking**- stage movements and positions that the director works out with the actors in rehearsal.
10. **Call**- a notification to cast and crew of a rehearsal, performance or meeting.

**Theatre Vocabulary 2**

1. **Cast**- the troupe of actors in a play.
2. **Character**- A personality or role an actor re-creates on stage.
3. **Characterization**- the process, development and portrayal of a personality through thought, action, dialogue, costuming and makeup.
4. **Cheating**- automatic placement of an actor on stage, showing 3/4 of their body
5. **Cold Reading**- a reading of a script done by actors who have not previously reviewed the play. Also used for auditions. Actors are expected to read scenes “cold”.
6. **Comedy**- a theatrical work that is humorous.
7. **Company**- An organization of performers and associated personnel who put on plays.
8. **Costume**- the clothing an actor wears to evoke the appearance of a particular character.
9. **Crew**- the team of theatre workers who take care of the physical aspects of a production such as set, lights, sound, etc.
10. **Cue**- a prearranged sign that indicates it is time to proceed to the next line or action.

**Theatre Vocabulary 3**

1. **Cue-to-Cue rehearsal**- rehearsal when the sound and lights are run with certain parts of scenes within the production.
2. **Curtain call-** at the end of the play when the performers acknowledge the audience’s applause and bow.
3. **Cyclorama** (**Cyc**)- background device employed to cover the back of the stage and used with special lighting to create the illusion of sky, open space, or great distance.
4. **Design**- the creative process of developing and executing the look of a show such as costuming, set, and lights.
5. **Director**- the major interpretive figure, the artistic visionary whose job it is to bring to life the playwright’s script. The director’s primary objective is to provide artistic meaning to the theatre experience.
6. **Down/Up**- words used to indicate the stopping/starting of a cue or indicate a direction
7. **Downstage/Upstage**- the part of the stage closest to the audience as you face the audience and the part of the stage closest to the backwall.
8. **Dressing room**- a space for performers to hang costumes, put on makeup, and otherwise prepare for their show
9. **Dress rehearsal**- final rehearsal in which all visual elements of production, including costumes, are used.
10. **Emotional memory-** the technique of calling on your own memories to understand a character’s emotions.

**Theatre Vocabulary 4**

1. **Ensemble**- sense of “family” unity developed by a group of performers during a play; the willingness of actors to subordinate themselves to the production. Also known as the group of performers on stage which makeup the extra dancers, townsfolk, etc.
2. **Entrance/Exit**- Both are noun and verb. Any place an actor can enter or exit the stage, might be a door, window or an opening between flats. Also known as the physical entering and leaving of the stage.
3. **Escape Stair**- any staircase out of the audience's view that is used to help actors get off the set
4. **Exit Line**- a line delivered just before or just as an actor leaves the stage
5. **Fast/Quick Change**- a costume change that must be done very quickly, and is therefore done in the wings instead of in the dressing room
6. **Feed Lines**- deliberately given so that the responding actor can get the maximum effect out of his return line
7. **Flat**- frame constructed of 1-by-3 boards, covered with canvas, painted, and used most often for interior or exterior walls of a building in a stage setting
8. **Fly Gallery** - the area above the floor level of the stage used for tying fly lines and flying actors who wear harnesses for safety
9. **Focus**- controlling the audience’s attention. A director may have to ask an actor not to steal focus with excessive movement on another actor’s line.
10. **Fourth wall (curtain)**- imaginary wall filling in the proscenium arch through which the audience can see in and observe the action

**Theatre Vocabulary 5**

1. **Full back**- performer has his/her back to the audience
2. **Full front**- performer is facing the audience
3. **Gear**- the equipment used by sound or lighting.
4. **Gesture**- the use of hand, body and facial movement to make the actor’s dialogue more meaningful or to make a point without dialogue, always above the waist
5. **Grand drape-** The front curtain, which is behind the proscenium arch. It is typically opened and closed during performances to reveal or conceal the stage and scenery from the audience.
6. **Greenroom**- traditional name of the room in which actors gather to wait for entrances and hear announcements, not actually green.
7. **Go**- word used by crew only to indicate the starting of a technical cue such as lights, sound, set changes.
8. **Go dark-** this term has two meanings: call for a blackout and/or the temporary closing of a show between run weeks. For example: a show runs Friday through Sunday it is typically said to “go dark” between Monday and Thursday.
9. **Hold**– to pause for laughter or applause to die down or to wait for the scene to start again.
10. **House**– rows of seats in which the audience sits to watch a performance

**Theatre Vocabulary 6**

1. **Houselights**– lights that illuminate the auditorium of a theater; all the lights in the auditorium except the “exit” lights. These lights usually dim and are controlled from the light booth
2. **Improvise**- to ad lib or invent dialogue not in the script
3. **Instincts**- the feeling an actor has to perform a movement or reaction
4. **Intermission**- intervals between the acts or scenes allowing for set changes, costume change, etc. Usually 10-15 minutes.
5. **Kill**- to remove a prop or set piece permanently from the show
6. **Lead**- the starring role in a performance or the head of a crew
7. **Legs**- tall, narrow stage drapes that are used to mask the wings on either side of the stage.
8. **Levels**- steps, platforms etc., that raise the actor from the stage, or when an actor sits or kneels
9. **Line rehearsals**- actors are expected to be “off book” and line perfect when these rehearsals are called.
10. **Load in/out**- the moving in or out of the set for performances

**Theatre Vocabulary 7**

1. **Makeup**- covers the face of all actors regardless of gender on stage to be seen through the lights
2. **Monologue**- uninterrupted speech delivered by one character in a play, used most often for auditions
3. **Motivation**- the reason behind an actor speaking a line or making a movement
4. **Musical**- a play which has singing in it or a play which is primarily singing
5. **Notes**- the corrections written down by the director during a rehearsal and given to the cast either during or after a rehearsal
6. **Objective**- the goal every character has in each scene to achieve their Super Objective.
7. **On/Off Book**- When “on book” an actor is not memorized. When “off book” an actor is memorized. The stage manager and assistant stage manager following along in the script during rehearsal is also said to be "on book"
8. **Open/Closed**- actor is to turn front and face the audience. When an actor is not cheating or facing the audience.
9. **Orchestra pit**- the front part of the stage that can be lowered to provide a playing area for a band.
10. **Pacing**- rate of performance. Speed is not the only factor of pacing; equally important are intensity, precision, clarity, and frequency of new impressions.

**Theatre Vocabulary 8**

1. **Physical(s)-** the ability of an actor to use body movement
2. **Plane**- the area on stage where an actor is standing, usually with others.
3. **Practical**- any item on stage that needs to be electrified whether it is considered scenery, properties, or costumes.
4. **Projection**- actor’s technique for making voice, movements, and gestures clear to all parts of the house
5. **Prop**- article or object that is carried by performers or is used on the set.
6. **Proscenium arch-** the archway framing the stage. Can be permanent structure or the curtain.
7. **Read**- whether a prop, accessory or costume can be seen from stage, or how an item is perceived from stage
8. **Read-through**- cast reads through the play to clarify meaning and pronunciations and to gain greater insight into character development and interpretation
9. **Rehearsal**- the time for discussion and analysis of the play, a time for the performers to learn their parts and their blocking
10. **Rig**- to put sound equipment on an actor or to place lights.

**Theatre Vocabulary 9**

1. **Royalty**- the money paid to a copyright company for the right to perform a play.
2. **Run-through**- a rehearsal moving from start to finish without stopping for corrections or notes.
3. **Running Crew**- collective term used to describe the members of the technical crew who supervise and run the various technical aspects of the production during a performance.
4. **Scene**- division of an act, usually denoting a change in time or place; can also be the descriptor for the locale of a play
5. **Script**- dialogue, lyrics, and stage directions of a musical or play
6. **Set, setting**- indicates the place where the action of a play occurs, time and place. Also, the set pieces which show the place.
7. **Sightlines-** locations in the House where the audience will see on stage.
8. **Spike/Stake**- a mark, usually made with a piece of glow tape put on or around the stage. Marking is the term for placing a spike.
9. **Stage**- the area where an actor performs.
10. **Strike**- cast and crew come together to break down the set, put away all costumes and props.

**Theatre Vocabulary 10**

1. **Super Objective-** a character’s goal in the entire play
2. **Tableau**- a silent and motionless depiction of a scene created by actors
3. **Tech rehearsal**- rehearsal that focuses on the technological aspects of the performance. It runs through the entire production, either in its entirety or cue-to-cue.
4. **Thespian**- the official word for an actor, based on the first actor from Greece Thespis.
5. **Thrust**- part of the stage that extends into the audience
6. **Tragedy**- the type of show which focuses on sad themes
7. **Trap door**- an opening in the stage that allows actors to move below the stage, also known as Hell.
8. **Traveler**- is the most common type of curtain. Usually the front, middle and back curtains. Move horizontally to reveal or hide parts of the stage.
9. **Under Contract**- when an actor is cast in a show their appearance is considered “owned” by the production company. An actor must not cut their hair, paint their nails, color their hair or change their appearance without permission.
10. **Verbal(s)**- the words an actor uses