STAGE
DIRECT!
Stage Areas
9 basic areas

Stage directions are from the actors point-of-view, facing the audience.
Stage Areas

C = Center
Center Stage (C) is primarily a position of great importance or prominence.
Stage Areas

D = Down/Downstage
The down stage position is located **DOWN** by the audience.
Towards the FRONT on the stage.
Stage Areas

U = Up/Upstage
The upstage position is located near the backstage area.

Upstage is close to the back curtain!
Furthest away from the audience.

Upstage
Raked Stage

• Sloped upwards away from the audience.

• This improves the view for the audience.

• Led to the theatre positions "upstage" and "downstage", meaning, respectively, farther from or closer to the audience.
Stage Areas
R = Right/Stage Right
Stage Directions are seen from the **ACTOR’s** Perspective
Stage Areas
L = Left/Stage Left
How can actors and directors utilize this knowledge of the stage space?
Blocking

- Precise and planned movement of actors on stage
- Always taken from the actors' perspective
ACTORS BODY POSITIONS

- Full Front
- Full Back
- Profile Right
- Profile Left
- 3/4 Right
- 3/4 Left
- 1/4 Right
- 1/4 Left
Flash Game
TYPES OF STAGES

Proscenium or Picture Frame

Arena or Theater in the Round

Blackbox or Flexible Stage

Thrust or Elizabethan
Proscenium
Proscenium

- The most common style of staging.
- Traditionally the playing space is hidden by a curtain.
- The farthest downstage plane is where the imaginary 4th wall is.

4th wall: The opening into the world of the play. If you imagine playing space as a room with 4 walls, 3 of them are visible, but one is invisible, allowing the audience to witness the action of the play.
Thrust Stage
**Thrust staging**

• What does thrust staging require of the actors?

→ If playing on the thrust, actors must remember to turn toward various parts of the audience during the course of a scene.

→ In vocal terms, the actor must *project more* when on the thrust, as there is little acoustic help from the architecture of the auditorium.
ARENAs
Arena staging

The playing space is surrounded on all sides by the audience.

Entrances often consist of aisles through the audience.

Used to give the audience a sense of intimacy/close connection with the production.
A “Black Box” theatre is often big empty boxes painted black inside. Stage and seating not fixed. Instead, each can be altered to suit the needs of the play or the whim of the director.