



THEATER TERMS & DEFINITIONS

1. **Act:** a major division of a play. Acts may be further divided into scenes. May be used to indicate a change in time or place.
2. **Action:** the movement in the play from the initial entanglement through the rising action, climax, and falling action to resolution
3. **Actor:** one who performs a role or represents a character in a play
4. **Angel:** the financial broker of a production. Formerly a single wealthy person or small group of people. Now producers look to large corporations for backing
5. **Antagonist:** the character who provides the obstacle to the protagonist's objective in the play. The antagonist sets the conflict in motion
6. **Apron:** the area of the stage in front of the curtain line
7. Aristotle's Six Elements of drama: character, diction, music, plot, spectacle, thought
8. **Audition:** the opportunity to read for a part in a play
9. **Auditorium:** the part of the theater building that holds the audience, also called the house
10. **Backdrop:** a flat surface the width of the stage, usually made of canvas hanging from the flies at the rear of the staging area and painted to represent the desired setting
11. **Backing:** flats, screens, and drops used backstage to mask the audience's sight lines through the door and windows of the set
12. **Backstage:** the area behind the set or backdrop that is not seen by the audience
13. **Bit, bit part:** a small role consisting of very few lines and a brief stage appearance
14. **Blocking:** determining the basic movements of the actors during a play. Some is provided by the playwright; some develops by actors; but a majority is supplied by director and includes entrances, exits, and crosses
15. **Booked flat:** two flats lashed together and opened at an angle for form a "V"
16. **Boom:** also called a boomerang; a vertical pipe used to mount a spotlight. Also a pole used to extend a microphone over a set