



# Theatre Terms

Find your way around a theatre and stage (if you don't know this already!)

**BLOCKING** – The director of the performance will 'block' a song or a show during rehearsal, giving performers their exact placements on a stage.

**CALL TIME** – The time in which a performer must be present at the theatre for an audition, rehearsal or show. Never be late!

**CURTAIN CALL** – Classical singers know this one! That call at the end of a production when the cast comes out for a bow and applause.

**DOWNSTAGE** – The front of a stage where performers are closest to the audience. (see the diagram)

**DRAMATURGY** – A study of the context in which a production takes place - specific era, location, societal beliefs, traditions, etc. - to gain a better understanding of the world where the story is set.

**DRESSERS & MAKE UP** – Stagehands who help in keeping costumes neat and tidy, as well as helping performers during costume changes, and those who help performers do the specialist make up required.

**ENCORE** – Closely related to a curtain call! That epic musical number that you perform after audiences haven't stopped applauding or stomping ... and want more.

**FOURTH WALL** – The imaginary barrier between actor and audience. Performers that "break the fourth wall" address the audience.

**FRONT-OF-HOUSE** – Areas of a theatre or performing arts venue where the public can be. Also refers to the staff who work in the area selling tickets, ushering etc

**PROSCENIUM** – The arch or border that frames a stage. For singers, it can also stop a lot of your sound going out to the audience.

**RUN THROUGH** – When a cast rehearses their entire show from beginning to end.

**SITZPROBE** – A special rehearsal where singers and musicians work together to run through musical numbers (and find out where any glitches and awkward set ups need sorting out).

**STAGE DOOR** – The door to where the magic is made! This is entrance to the back of the stage and dressing rooms for performers, and the public generally should not be admitted.

**STAGE MANAGER** – The person who directs lighting, curtains and performers, and manages the safety of people on stage - and during a performance they are the BOSS and you do what they ask!

**STALLS & CIRCLE** - Audience seating either on the floor of the theatre or the balcony (Circle). There are often seats 'in the Gods' - up near the ceiling!

**TECHIES** – The clever theatre technicians who work offstage to make the magic happen with lights, props, sets, etc. so you can do your best work!

**UPSTAGE** – The back of the stage furthest from the audience (see the diagram).

**UPSTAGING** – When you become more noticeable than the lead performer - to be avoided if you don't want to annoy the star or the director, and want another job.

**WINGS** – The area to the sides of the stage where performers enter/exit onstage, collect props and might make a fast costume change.

### Know your way round the stage

When the stage director is blocking a performance, they will give you directions based on this map. All directions are based on performers facing out into the audience.

