

ACTING AREAS

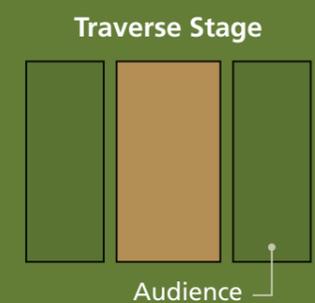
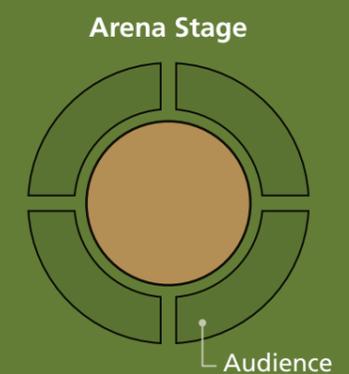
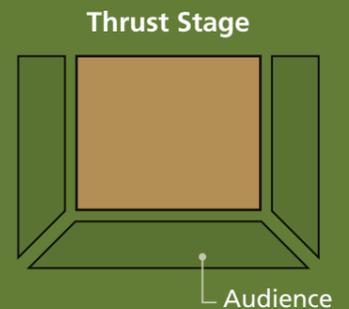
Stages are typically divided into nine zones called 'acting areas'. These are common names that everyone uses to ensure that the directions and locations of actors and scenery are understood by all members of the production team. All these positions are named from the actor's point of view when facing the audience.

Proscenium Stage



The Proscenium stage is the most common form of stage layout in Western theatres. These theatres are easier to light as the entire audience are viewing the show from the same point of view.

Other Common Stage Layouts



STAGE COMPONENTS

Apron: The area of the stage in front of the proscenium arch.

Arena (In-the-round): A performance space where the audience is seated on all four sides.

Backstage: Areas of the theatre adjacent to the stage accessible only to performers and technicians, including the wings, crossover, and dressing rooms. Typically this refers to areas directly accessible from the stage and does not include spaces such as the control booth or Orchestra pit.

Crossover: The area used by performers and technicians to travel from stage left to right out of sight of the audience.

Plaster Line: An imaginary reference line on the playing area that indicates where the proscenium arch is. Typically, the plaster line runs across the stage at the back face (upstage face) of the proscenium wall.

Prompt corner: Area just to one side of the proscenium where the stage manager stands to cue the show and prompt performers.

Proscenium: The portal that divides the audience from the stage in traditional Western theatres.

Rake: A slope in the performance space (stage), rising away from the audience.

Safety curtain: A heavy fireproof barrier placed immediately behind the proscenium which can be lowered in the event of an emergency.

Shell: A hard, often removable surface, designed to reflect sound out into the audience for musical performances.

Thrust stage: A performance space projecting well in front of the proscenium arch, usually with the audience on three sides.

Traverse Stage: A long narrow stage with audience seated on two sides.

Wings: Areas that are part of a stage deck but offstage (out of sight of the audience). The wing space is used for performers preparing to enter, storage of scenery for set changes and as a stagehand work area. Wings also contain technical equipment, such as the fly system.