

Basic Vocabulary



THEATER

- **building where movies are shown**

THEATRE

- a building, part of a building, or outdoor area used for live performances
- dramatic works collectively

DRAMA — GENERAL

- **composition in verse or prose to portray life or character**
- **intended to tell a story**
- **usually involves conflicts and emotions**
- **portrayed through action and dialogue**

THESPIAN

- a person involved with theatre

PLAY

- a written composition intended for performance
- an actual performance

SKIT

- short
- informal
- usually comedic

SCRIPT

- the play in written form

PLAYWRIGHT

- person who writes a play

DRAMA — TYPE OF THEATRE

- **serious subjects**
- **serious tone**
- **may have bits of comedy**

TRAGEDY — TYPE OF THEATRE

- serious subjects
- serious tone
- typically involves death

COMEDY — TYPE OF THEATRE

- lighthearted subjects
- funny

MELODRAMA — TYPE OF THEATRE

- hero, villains, and heroines
- emotions are exaggerated
- think over acting

PANTOMIME — TYPE OF THEATRE

- **without words**
- **actors use only movement and gesture to express meaning**

MIME — TYPE OF THEATRE

- **stylized pantomime**
- **more exaggerated than pantomime**
- **modern mime is performed in black clothing and white make-up**

MONOLOGUE

- work written to be performed by one person
- may be part of a play
- may be an entire play (one-man or one-woman show)

SOLILOQUY

- similar to a monologue in that it is one actor
- part of a bigger play
- a character speaks thoughts aloud

ACTING

- art
- profession
- activity
- perform in stage play, movies

ACTOR

- one who acts
- interprets a character

UNDERSTUDY

- one who knows all aspects of a character
- can step in to replace actor if needed

WALK ON

- a part where the actor walks on and off stage without having any lines to say

CHARACTER

- parts (personalities) actors become in play (movie)
- roles played by actors in a play (movie)

CASTING

- the selection of actors to play characters

CAST

- group of actors in a production

TECHNICAL THEATRE

- non-acting aspects of a production
- includes lights, sounds, props, costumes, sets

COSTUMES

- **clothing worn by actors on stage**
- **represent the characters not the actors**

SETS

- the environment of the play (setting)
- scenery (flats and backdrops)
- furniture

PROPS

- stands for properties
- objects used by characters on stage
- hand prop — object small enough to be carried

STAGE MANAGER

- in charge backstage during performance

REHEARSAL

- preparing a play for performance
- first rehearsal is typically a “read-through”
 - reading the scripts around a “table”

WARM-UP

- physical
- mental
- vocal
- exercise to prepare for performance

STRIKE

- take down the set after the final performance

LOAD IN

- bringing things onto the stage

ARTICULATION

- clear and precise pronunciation of words

MOVEMENT

- **particular manner**
- **style of moving**
- **non-verbal cues that portray a character**

STAGE

- where the actors perform

GREEN ROOM

- actor's lounge when they are off stage
- they are rarely green

DARK

- **days and/or nights when a performance is not scheduled**