

Movement Notes – Stage Pictures

Stage Pictures and Emphasis

Movement and Stage Pictures

- Besides being meaningful, movement should also be functional. The audience must be allowed to see and hear the important items.
- It is crucial to create focal points that catch and hold the audiences' attention.

Stage Pictures and Tableaus

Stage Picture

- Every moment of a play or scene generates a still image.
 - If at any moment the actors are to freeze the stage picture should be interesting to the eye.

Tableau

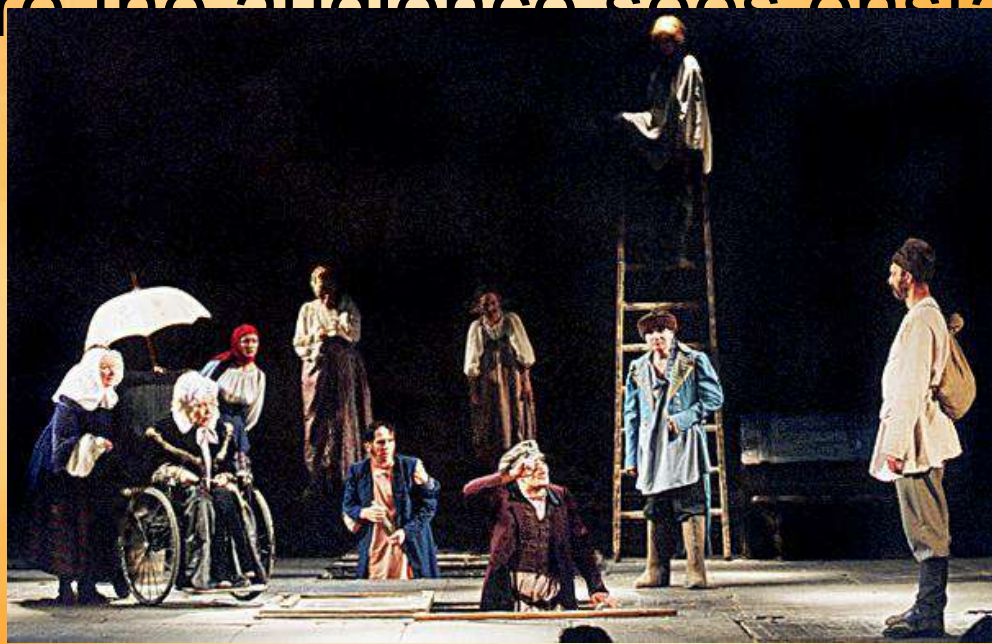
- Motionless figures representing a scene from a story or part of story.
 - A still image on stage. Often used at the opening or closing of a scene.

Emphasis

- Emphasis is used by the director to give focus to the performer or area of the stage the audience should be looking at.
- There are several types and ways this can be done:
 - Stage Pictures (or composition)
 - Levels
 - Planes

Stage Pictures - Composition

- Composition is the way the actors are grouped on the stage in an appealing and meaningful arrangement; it is the picture the audience sees onstage.



Direct Emphasis



The focus of the stage picture is on 1 actor

Duoemphasis

- The focus of the stage picture is on two different actors of equal importance.



Secondary Emphasis



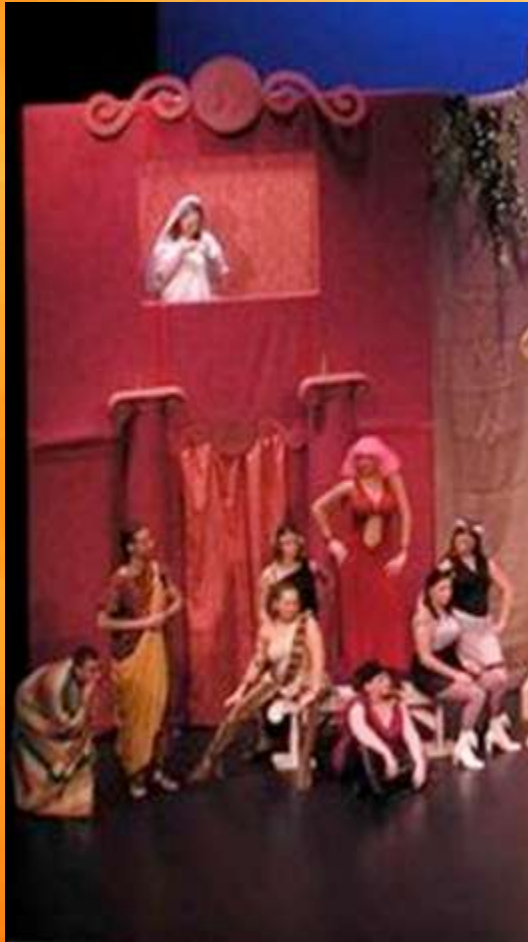
Focus is divided between a group and a main character

Diversified Emphasis



Used when there is a Frequent change in the focus (usually between 5 or more characters)

Levels



- The actual head height of the actor determined by his or her body position
 - sitting, lying, standing, or elevated by an artificial means such as a step unit or platform
- Meaning is created in stage pictures by placing actors at different levels

Levels



The higher/taller the actor, the more emphasis

Planes

- Imaginary divisions giving depth to the proscenium stage;
 - an actor moves through the stage planes as he or she moves downstage toward the audience or upstage away from the audience

Planes



The depth of an actor onstage
(how close an actor is to the audience)

Diagonals



- 📖 Compositions where the actors are not on the same plane.
- 📖 Often used to create a feeling of tension

Triangles



Used where 3 or more
actors of equal
focus are onstage



Emphasis

- Directors often times use WHERE the actor is on stage (location) in order to place emphasis.