

Theatre Vocabulary



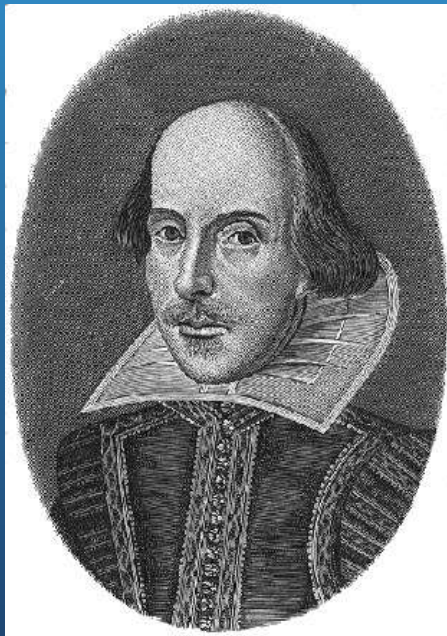
Drama

- The dramatic tradition which began with primitive people nearly 3000 years ago.
- Comes from a Greek word meaning “to act” or “to do.”
- A story written to be played out on stage.



Theatre

- The writing or performing of plays or other dramatic works, as well as the formal study of the art form.



Theatre arts

- The term that covers all parts of training or instruction in the field.



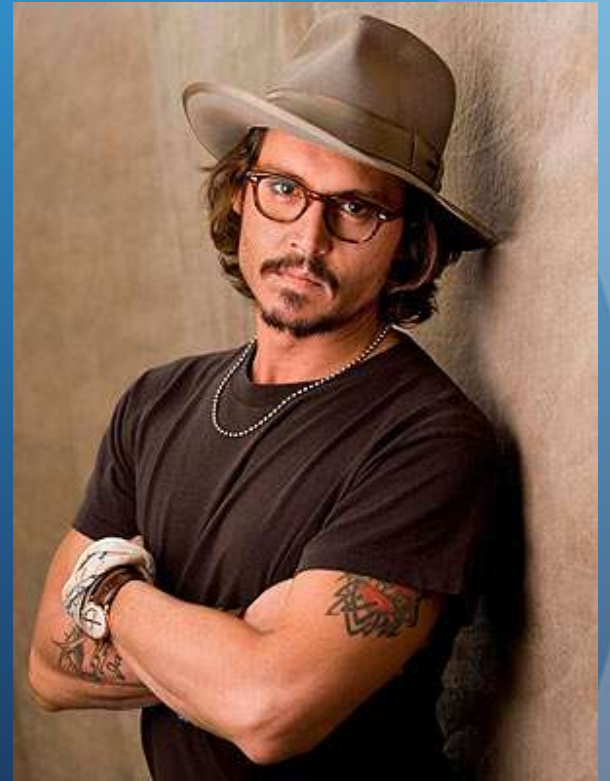
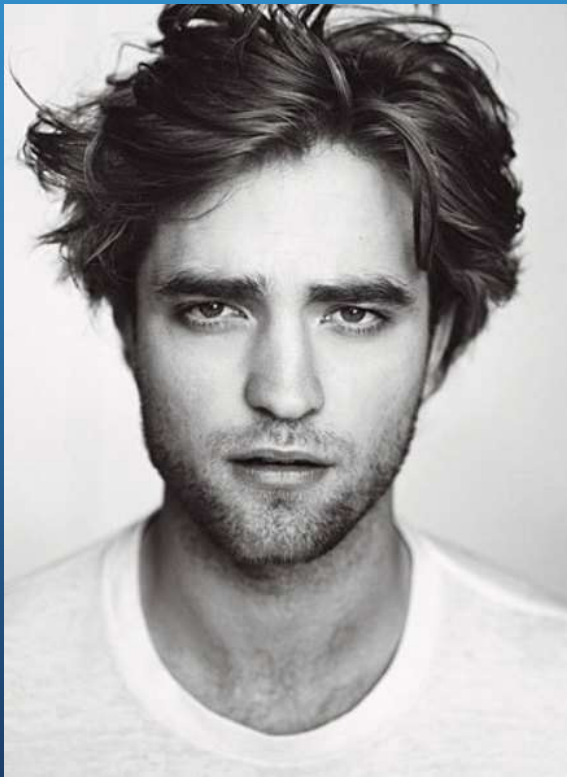
Theater

- A building or structure where plays are performed.



Actor

- A person playing a character role.



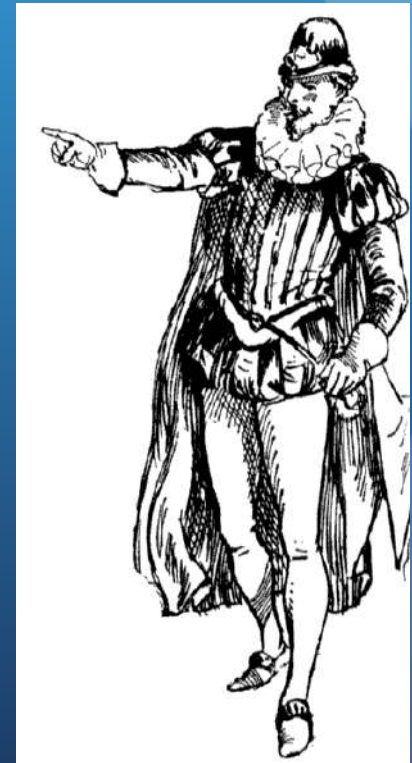
Ensemble

- A group of people working together



Acting

- An actor's assumed behavior for the purpose of projecting a character to an audience.



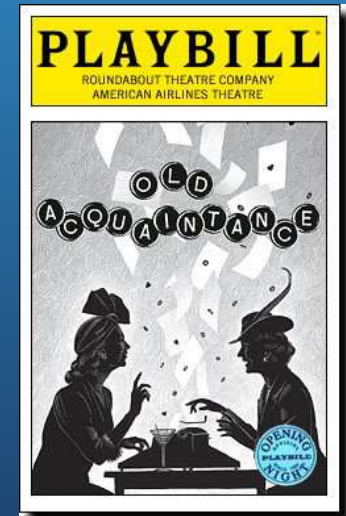
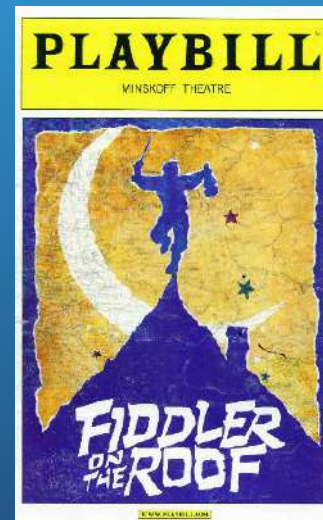
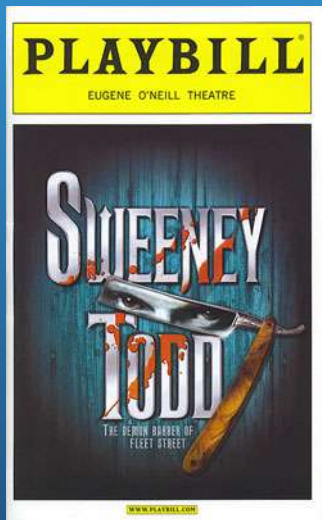
Character

- The personality an actor portrays in a scene or play that is different from his or her own personality.



Play

- A story in dialogue form to be acted out by actors before a live audience.



Dramatic Structure

- The special literary style in which plays are written.

Dialogue

- The conversation between actors on the stage.

Script

- A written copy of the play or dramatic work.

Stage Directions

- Additional information or instructions provided by the playwright, or author of the play.

Player-Audience Relationship

- The special interactive and “live” relationship that exists between the performers and the audience.



Evaluation

- A judgment about your strengths and weaknesses.

Performance Evaluation

- An evaluation of a performance given before an audience.

Critique

- Opinions and comments based on specific criteria.

Types of Stages

- Proscenium Stage - The most common stage in educational theatre. A proscenium stage is a four-sided stage built like a box with one side cut away, enabling the audience to view the production as if it were in a picture frame.
- Arena Stage - A stage constructed so that the audience can sit on all sides of the production. Staging of this type is also known as “central stage” or “theatre-in-the-round.”
- Thrust Stage - A stage that extends, or projects, into the seating area of the audience.
- Flexible Staging - When a performance space does not fit into one of the three basic shapes or categories.

Proscenium Stage Terms

- Stage - the area where the actors perform.
- Grand Drape - the draperies covering the proscenium opening, separating the audience from the stage.
- Wings - offstage spaces to the sides of the acting area.
- Apron - the part of the stage extending past the proscenium arch towards the audience.
- Proscenium Arch - the frame that surrounds the opening of the stage.

Stage Terminology

- The Performance Space
 - Onstage - Anything within the stage setting and visible to the audience.
 - Offstage - Anything beyond the stage setting and not visible to the audience.
 - House/Out Front - The area of the performance space where the audience sits.
 - Backstage - The areas behind the stage and not seen by the audience. These could include any storage rooms, rehearsal rooms, and dressing rooms.

Stage Positions & Arrangement

- Blocking - Planning and working out the movements and stage grouping for a production.
- Acting Areas - nine divisions of the stage floor, used by directors when moving actors or placing furniture or scenery.
- Stage Picture - a visually appealing and meaningful arrangement of performers, props, and scenery on stage.

Stage Directions

- Downstage (D) - the area of the stage closest to the audience.
- Upstage (U) - the area of the stage towards the back, away from the audience.
- Stage Right (R), Center Stage (C), and Stage Left (L) are always given as if the actor were standing on the stage, facing the audience.