



# Theatre Production in America

The variety of production  
experiences and opportunities



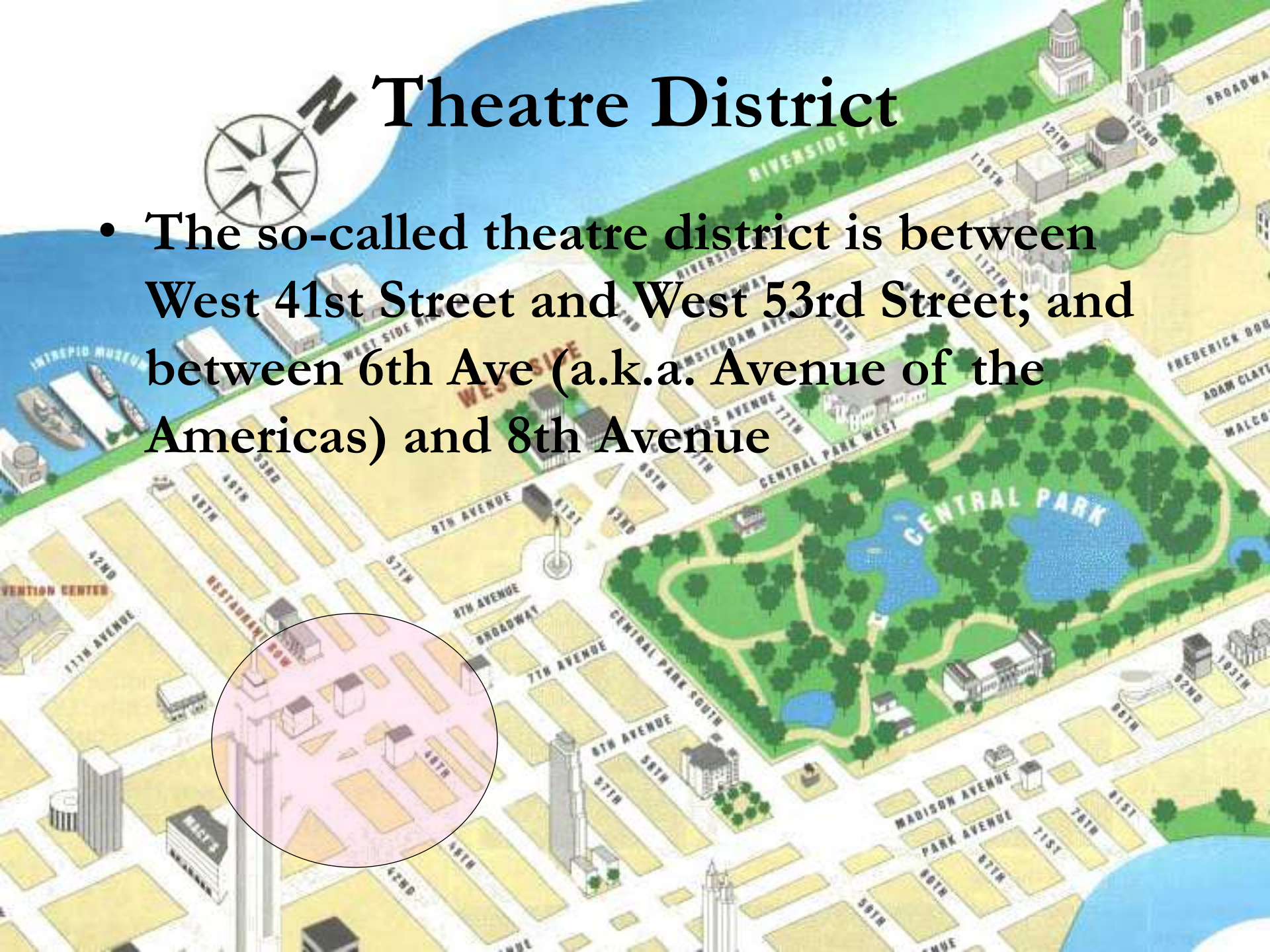
# Broadway

- Broadway is a street running diagonally through Manhattan
- It begins in Battery Park (at the southern tip of the island) and ends in Washington Heights (just before the Bronx)



# Theatre District

- The so-called theatre district is between West 41st Street and West 53rd Street; and between 6th Ave (a.k.a. Avenue of the Americas) and 8th Avenue



# Broadway Theatre

- A professional theatre located in Manhattan
- Designated for theatrical presentations (as opposed to opera, dance, concerts, standup, etc.)
- Contains 500 or more seats
- Maintains a union-friendly contract with Actor's Equity Association
- Not necessarily located on the street called Broadway
- Most, however, are located in the theatre district. The exception is Lincoln Center's Vivian Beaumont Theatre (West 65th Street)

# Who Owns Broadway?

- Most of Broadway's 39 theatres are owned by one of three major production companies: The Nederlander Organization, The Jujamcyn Amusement Corporation, or The Schubert Organization.
- Some are owned by not-for-profit theatre companies such as Manhattan Theatre Club or the Roundabout.
- Some are independently owned
- Some are owned by a corporation such as Disney.

# A Brief History of B'way

- Professional theatre in New York City began in 1750 with the Theatre at Nassau Street
- Other downtown theatres followed: Park Theatre, The Bowery Theatre, Astor Place Theatre
- Due to real estate prices, by the late 1800s, theatres emerged around Times Square
- With the formation of AEA (Actor's Equity Association) in 1913, the official contracts were established, defining the classification of a "Broadway" theatre

# Off-Broadway Theatre

- Commercial and not-for-profit theatre productions in Manhattan
- Contains 100 to 499 seats
- Mostly located outside the “theatre district”
- Developed in the 1950s
- The plays are often more experimental, less mainstream, and/or in need of a more intimate setting than large Broadway houses
- Sometimes when a play succeeds commercially Off-Broadway, it is moved to a Broadway theatre

# Off-Off Broadway

- Developed in 1958 as a reaction to Off-Broadway's growing commercialism
- Notable pioneer theatres: Café Cino, LaMaMa and The Village Gate
- Off-Off Broadway spaces include coffeehouses, warehouses, church basements, lofts, etc.
- Off-Off Broadway spaces are defined as having fewer than 100 seats
- Productions usually have very short runs
- Overall, Off-Off Broadway productions have no contractual agreement with Actor's Equity



# Resident Theatre

- Professional, not-for-profit theatres outside of New York City
- Also known as *Regional Theatre*
- Maintains a union-friendly agreement with AEA
- LORT (League of Resident Theatres)
- Notable LORT theatres: Barter Theatre, South Coast Repertory, The Goodman Theatre, The Guthrie Theatre, The Actor's Theatre of Louisville, LaJolla Playhouse, Arena Stage, George Street Playhouse, Long Wharf Theatre, Yale Repertory, The Alley Theatre, The Goodspeed Opera House, etc.

# Community Theatre

- Amateur productions by residents of a locality
- Cast, run, and produced by a team of local volunteers
- Usually nonprofit
- Tendency to produce popular favorites as opposed to new and/or less mainstream work

# Bus & Truck Companies

A blue and white tour bus is shown from a side profile, facing right. It has a large rainbow-colored graphic on its side. The bus has multiple windows and a large front windshield. The background is a light, hazy sky.

- Producers of popular Broadway plays and musicals often remount these productions with a new cast and crew for the Broadway national tour, which travels to theatres in major cities across the country
- Bigger, more successful shows may have multiple touring companies with productions “sitting down” in major cities for an extended period of time

# Academic Theatre

- Theatre connected with a school
- Performers and production staff are comprised of students, under the leadership of educators
- Works performed are selected with educational objectives and cultural enrichment goals taking priority over commercial draw
- The physical plant may be anything from a classroom to a found space to a formal proscenium theatre