

The 3 most common types of theaters and stages being built and used today are proscenium, thrust and arena stages. 4 aspects of each type of theater are:

1. How close is the audience to the actors?
2. Can the audience see the actor's faces?
3. Can scenery be used?
4. Do special effects need to be used?

PROSCENIUM STAGE

A proscenium theater is designed so that the actors are always _____ the audience, unless the director gives them directions to turn for some reason.

One of the other benefits of a proscenium theater is that you have a great deal more options with regard to _____, because the _____ can be to the side and behind the performers, it doesn't block the view of the actors for the _____. So staircases, walls, any number of other types of scenery can be used.

There are a number of _____ that can be used as well, when you're using a proscenium theater. You can have any number of pyrotechnics or other types of effects which just aren't safe in a thrust configuration, but can be managed a lot more effectively with a proscenium stage.

The one drawback can be actually _____, because all the audience is directly in front of the stage, the seats in the back of the theater actually can be very distant, depending on the size of the house.

THRUST STAGE

A thrust stage is kind of a cross between a _____ stage and an _____ stage. A thrust stage has a proscenium arch far upstage, but the main acting area juts, or "thrusts" out into the audience so the actors have audience on _____ sides of them. This allows more members of the audience to get _____ to the actors than on a _____ stage, but not quite as close as on an _____ stage.

Thrust Stage (continued)

If a play calls for a lot of _____, like walls, doors and a second story, that can be done on a thrust stage as long as the scenery is kept far _____, so it doesn't interfere with the sight lines of audience members seated on the sides of the stage. _____ like furniture are about all that can be used in the center and downstage acting areas.

Most of the audience can see the actor's faces _____ of the time on a thrust stage, but audience members in the far _____ bays can have some trouble seeing the actor's faces, much like on an arena stage.

_____ are possible on a thrust stage, as long as they are kept far upstage to keep the tricks out of sight from the audience.

As you can see, a thrust stage has a lot of advantages, and just a few disadvantages.

The audience gets _____ to the actors, and you can use extensive _____ and _____, as long as you keep them _____. The only real disadvantage to a thrust stage is that when actors are downstage on the thrust, it's hard for people on the sides to see all the actor's _____.

ARENA STAGE

The advantage to a black-box theater is that it's so _____.

The great thing about arena style is that you can get the maximum number of audience members in _____.

One thing that you can't do on an arena stage is have a lot of big _____.

The audience is close enough to see that you have exactly the right _____, and will appreciate the details. You can't have an actor standing in one position for a very long time, because people behind the actor can only see the actor's _____, so you want to keep the actors _____.

Another important aspect of arena staging is to _____, so the actors are in their most open positions. With arena staging, you really can't do _____, because the audience is too close.