



Stage configurations

You need to know the advantages and disadvantages of the practicalities of using the following stage configurations.

Theatre in the round- a staging configuration when the audience are seated around all sides of the stage.

Thrust Stage- In theatre, a thrust stage is one that extends into the audience on three sides and is connected to the backstage area by its upstage end.

Proscenium arch- Proscenium arch is a common form of theatre, popular for larger theatres or opera houses. The proscenium refers to the frame around the stage, which emphasises that the whole audience is seeing the same stage picture. The area in front of the arch is called an **apron**.

End on - End on staging is similar to a proscenium stage, as the audience is seated along one end of the stage, directly facing it. However, it doesn't have the large proscenium frame.

Traverse Stage- the acting area is along, central space with the audience seated on either side facing each other (like a catwalk).

Promenade- promenade means 'to walk' and promenade theatre is when the audience stand or follow the actors through the performance.

Exploring Practitioners

There are many different styles of theatre and many innovative ways of portraying a story/message to an audience. Two contrasting practitioners include:



Bertolt Brecht- A **non-naturalistic** practitioner. He wanted to make the audience think, and used a range of **devices** to remind them that they were watching theatre and not real life.

Konstantin Stanislavski- A **naturalistic** practitioner. Stanislavski's method acting is basically in seven steps, these techniques were developed to help actors to build believable characters.

Stage Directions

AUDIENCE

DSL Down Stage Left	DSC Down Stage Centre	DSR Down Stage Right
SL Stage Left	C Centre (sometimes CS for "centre stage")	SR Stage Right
USL Up Stage Left	USC Up Stage Centre	USR Up Stage Right

Stage directions help the actors as they rehearse the play to move about on stage and behave as the playwright intended. They are guidelines for the director to make the play appear on stage as he or she envisions it.

Stage directions are always from the actor's perspective, looking out towards the audience.



Theatre roles and responsibilities

You need to know the basic responsibilities of the following theatre makers before rehearsals, during rehearsals and during a performance.

Director- A director is in charge of the artistic elements of a production. A director will work with the actors in rehearsal, and will collaborate with designers and the technical team.

Stage Manager- The Stage Manager is in charge of all aspects of backstage. They will oversee everything that happens backstage before, during and after a performance. They are also in charge of the rehearsal schedule.

Theatre manager- This is the person who is responsible for and manages the front-of-house team who deal with the audience during the production.

Performer- A performer is an actor or entertainer.

Playwright- This is the name given to the person who writes the play.

Lighting /Sound / Set / Costume/ Puppet Designer- Separate designers for the production who work closely with the director to ensure the performances aims and intentions are successful.

Technician – These are members of the backstage crew who set up (during the **Get In**) and operate different technical elements of the performance.

Understudy – A performer who learns another performer's lines and blocking should they be needed to cover due to an absence.