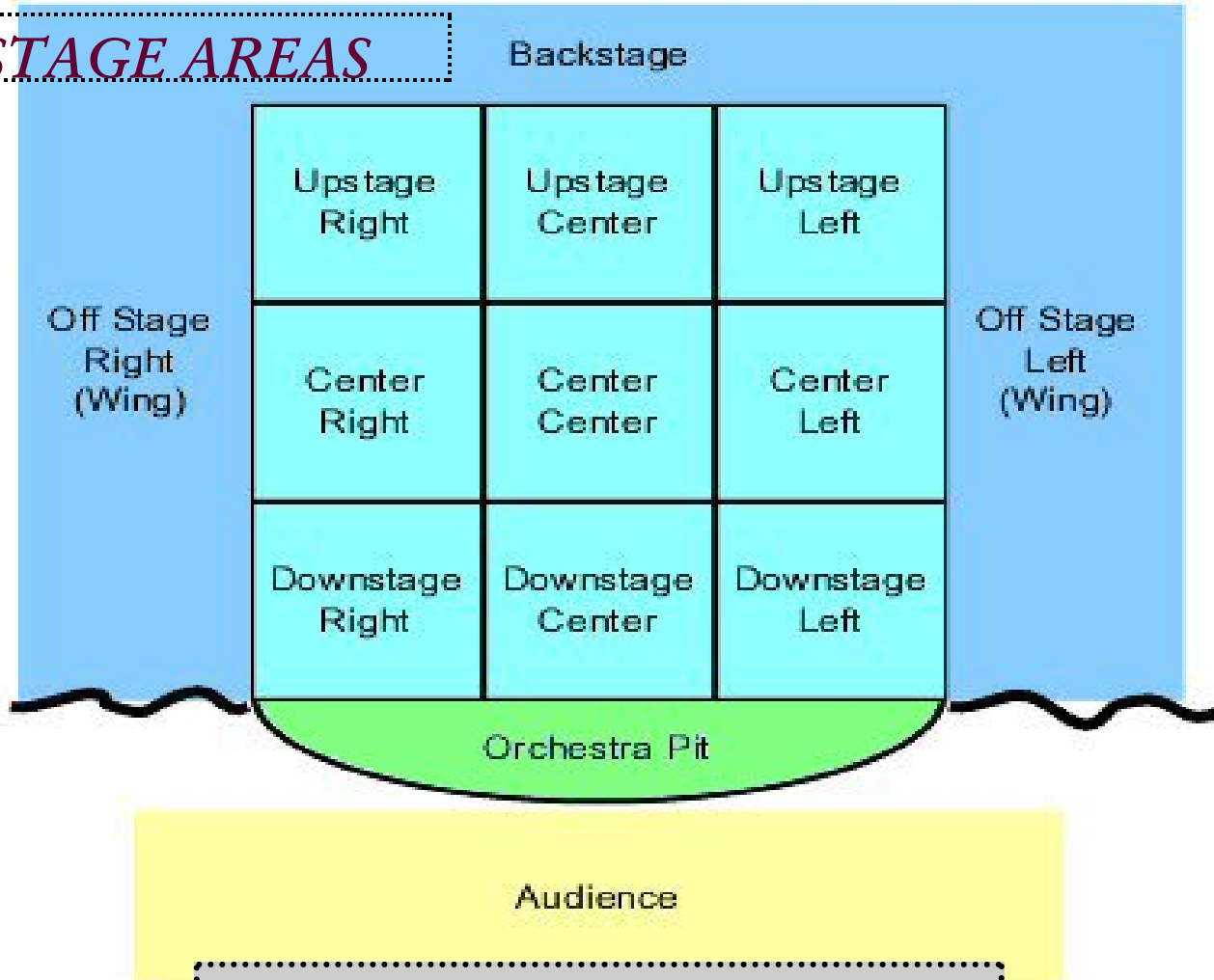


STAGE AREAS



ACTOR'S STAGE POSI-

One quarter - The body is a quarter turn away from the audience.

This position is the most frequently used when two actors “share” a scene, because it places each of their bodies so that the audience can easily see them.

Full front - The actor faces directly front. This position is used for important lines.

Profile - Two actors face each other with the upstage foot advancing slightly toward center.

This position is used for intense scenes such as quarreling, accusing, etc.

It is sometimes used to achieve comic effects.

Three quarter - The actor turns away from the audience so that they see three quarters of his back and only one quarter of his face.

This position is used when it is necessary for an actor to “give” a scene, or turn all attention to another actor upstage who “takes” the scene.

Full back - The actor stands with his back to the audience.

A Glossary of Theatre Terms Used by Playwrights



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Do you know what these people have in common?

1. Sophocles
2. Samuel Beckett
3. Anton Chekov
4. Noel Coward
5. T.S. Elliot
6. Arthur Miller
7. Molière
8. Harold Pinter
9. William Shakespeare
10. Tennessee Williams

**These people are
PLAYWRIGHTS.**

SO, WHAT IS A PLAYWRIGHT?

A playwright is
someone
who writes plays

THEATRE TERMS USED BY PLAYWRIGHTS

ACT - a major division of a play; modern plays usually have two or three acts; audiences are usually given an intermission between acts.

ASIDE - a line spoken in such a manner as to suggest that other actors onstage do not hear it.

BACKSTAGE - all areas used by the actors and technicians which are not visible to the audience; behind the scenery.

BLACKOUT - a sudden dimming of all stage lights; sometimes used instead of a curtain falling at the end of a scene.

BUSINESS - bits of actions onstage; such as, dialing a phone.

CROSS - to move from one stage position to another; to move to the opposite side of another character.

DIM OUT - a slow dimming of lights ending in complete darkness.

DISCOVERED - already onstage when the curtain rises.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE - Latin for "cast of characters."



EXIT - Latin for "he goes out."

ExTRAS - characters who speak no lines.

OFFSTAGE - not visible to the audience.

ONSTAGE - in view of the audience; movement into view of audience.

OUT FRONT - where the audience sits.

PLAYING AREA - the part of the stage on which the actors perform and are visible to the audience.

PROPERTIES (Props) - furniture or objects which help decorate a set, or items which actors use while playing a role.

SET - the scenery created for a play.

STAGE - that part of a theater which holds the actors and scenery.

TOP - to speak louder than another character.

UPSTAGE - the acting area of the stage farthest from the audience.

WINGS - the areas at either side of the stage not visible to the audience.