



# Theatre Virtual Learning

**Introduction to Theatre Design & Production**

**The Aesthetics of Set Design**

**Date: May 14, 2020**



Lesson: May 14, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target:**

The student will be introduced to types of sets in the design process.

# The aesthetics of set design!

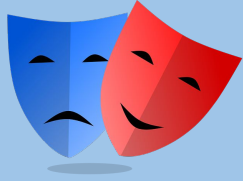
## Let's Get Started / Warm Up Activities:

Have you ever been to see a play or musical or some type of live performance?

Describe the space that you were in. What did you like and dislike about it?



The Fabulous Fox Theatre, St. Louis, MO



# Lesson Steps: Stage/Space/Sets

**Decisions decisions...**



A set designer has too many things to consider when making design decisions for a show.

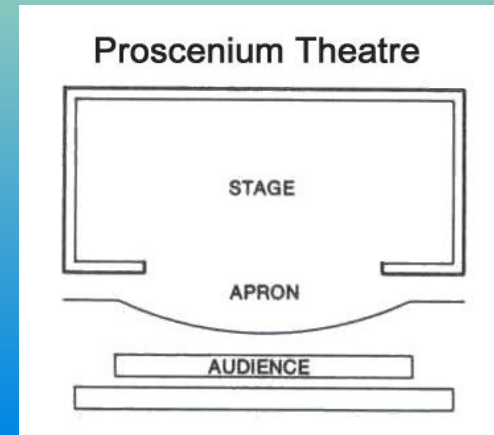
Two practical elements they must consider are:

1. Type of stage/space
2. Location(s) necessary to the story

Today, we will review types of stage/spaces and different types of sets.

# Types of Stages Proscenium Stage

The proscenium stage is like a picture frame. A curtain may be used for scene shifts. Audiences only sit on one side.

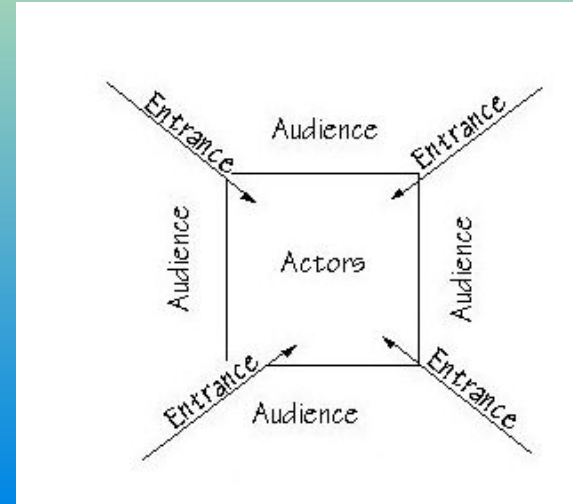


# Types of Stages Arena Stage

An arena stage can also be called *theatre in the round*. The audience sits on all four sides of the stage.

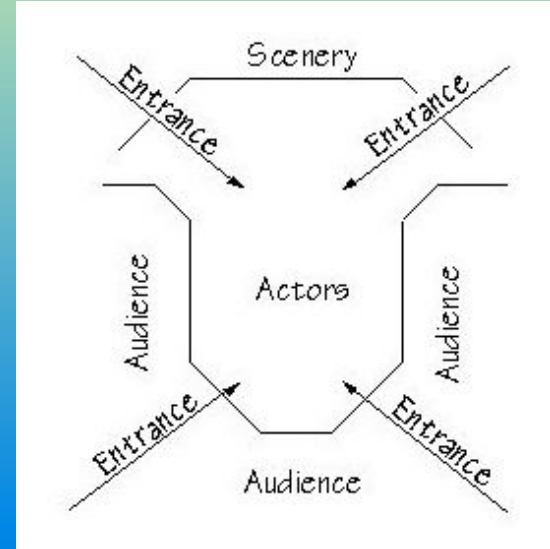
Actors enter down the same aisles the audience uses. This stage works well with an intimate feel, a smaller cast, and a limited number of set pieces.

Scene changes for this set are usually limited because it clutters the stage and blocks the audiences' view.



# Types of Stages Thrust Stage

The downstage area expands the apron so audience sits on three sides. The stage area includes both expanded apron and upstage. Actors may enter from the same aisles the audience uses as well as UL, UR, and UC. This stage offers both an intimate style and flexible stage. Multiple stage sets are possible and cast size may be large or small.

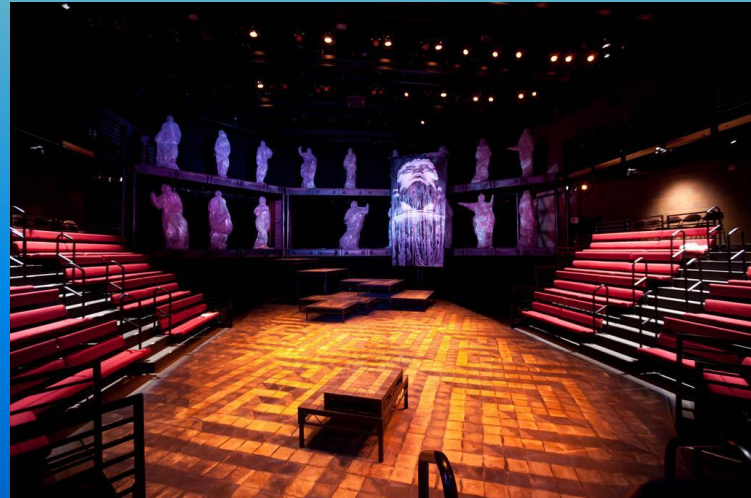
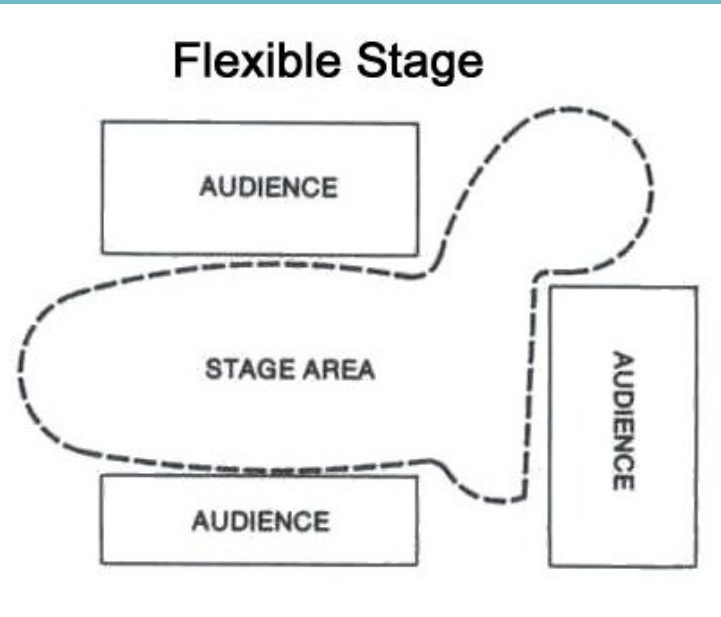


# Types of Stages Flexible Stage

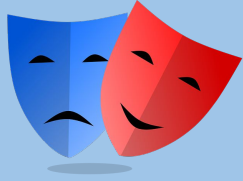
A stage can take many forms. The audience and performers can remain separate or be intermingled.

The configuration of the stage can change during the course of the performance.

**ALSO KNOWN AS A BLACKBOX!!!**





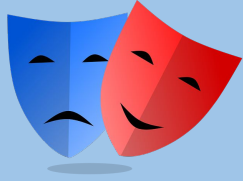


# Lesson Steps: Stage/Space/Sets

## One set:

- Main characteristic: It is one location and it never changes.
- Nothing moves!



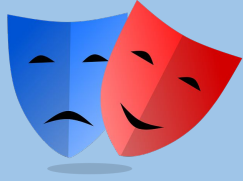


# Lesson Steps: Stage/Space/Sets

## Box Set:

- Trying to recreate a room
- Have two or three sides of the wall
- Always opened up at an angle



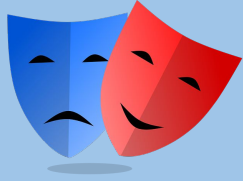


# Lesson Steps: Stage/Space/Sets

## Multi Set:

- Props and things can get wheeled on and off stage
- Can have various scenes



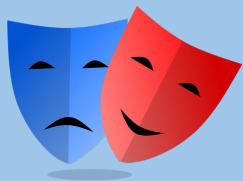


# Lesson Steps: Stage/Space/Sets

## Unit Set:

- More or less one set, but there are small things that you can add on to change the location
- You can show various locations without having to move the whole set out.





# Practice: Design of a Fairytale

You have been asked to set design for a children's show, THE THREE LITTLE PIGS in a blackbox theatre. You have a production meeting where each designer has been asked to bring initial ideas and renderings for the meeting. You need to complete the following before the meeting:

1. Since the blackbox theatre is a flexible space, how would you set up the stage deck and audience seating?
2. What locations are part of the storyline of The Three Little Pigs?
3. What type of set would you use: one, unit, multi, etc.? Why?
4. Draw a front view rendering of one of the locations.



**Example Rendering**