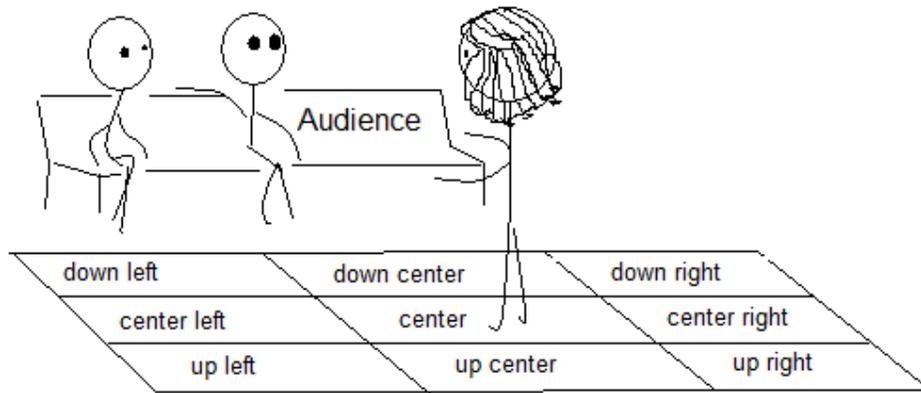


## Some Basic Stage Terms

**STAGE AREAS:** The stage is divided into areas to help performers know where to be on certain lines. Although the scripts may have stage directions, you can always choose to do it differently.

- DOWN is that part of the stage closest to the audience.
- UP is farthest from the audience.
- RIGHT and LEFT are from the actor's viewpoint, as he or she is facing the audience.
- CENTER is center of the stage.
- From those main areas come the nine stage areas: down right, down center, down left; center right, center, center left; up right, up center, up left. There is also off left and off right, meaning an actor is no longer on stage.



**SET:** The set is items on the stage that are not usually carried around by the performers, such as stools, couches, tables, etc. Set pieces also create an environment for the play—trees for a forest; cactus for a desert, etc. These two-person scripts are written to be easily performed in a home, with very little in the way of set. But, if desired, a set can still be created from things around the house. For instance, chairs can be used as tree stumps; a pond can be represented by a blue piece of cloth; forest trees can be represented by ficus trees or painted cardboard cutouts attached to the backs of chairs. Use your imagination.

**COSTUMES:** Like the set, they can be simple or more elaborate. Have fun creating the look you want for your character by using brightly colored shirts, hats, vests, gloves or other articles of clothing; pieces of cloth will also work by draping it on the body or pinning it.

**PROPS:** Also known as Properties, props are items that actors hold in their hands—bowls, food, watches, magazines, toys, and whatever else the script requires. Before a play, the actors should read through the script and make a list of the props they'll need for the performance.

### IN THE SCRIPT:

- "SETTING" is where the play takes place and how the stage might be set up.
- "AT RISE" means at the rise of the curtain, or at the start of the show.
- Information in parenthesis ( ) are directions for the actor.
- "END" and sometimes "CURTAIN" means the show is over and the actors take a Curtain Call (which means they come to center and bow to the audience).

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