



BROADWAY
OR BUST

PRESENTS

PERFORMANCE

TERMS
TO
KNOW

theatre terms

- **blackout:** a complete absence of stage lighting, usually used for transitions
- **blocking:** the exact placement on a stage where an actor needs to be during a scene
- **break a leg:** means "good luck" in the theatre world
- **cast:** the members of an acting company
- **call time:** the time in which an actor must be present at the theatre for an audition, rehearsal, or show
- **character:** a person, creature, or entity in a story or play with specific and distinguishing attributes
- **company:** the cast, crew, and other staff associated with a show
- **critique:** feedback given over what was done well and what was done poorly in performance or rehearsal

theatre terms

- **curtain call:** when a cast bows at the end of a show
- **diction:** the clarity with which you speak or sing
- **director:** individual responsible for the overall artistic vision of a production
- **downstage:** the front of a stage where performers are closest to the audience
- **ensemble:** a group of performers
- **fourth wall:** the conceptual barrier between actors and audience members
- **green room:** room close to the stage for the actors to meet and relax before or after going on stage
- **places:** the positions for all actors and crew at the beginning of a play
- **preset:** any prop or set piece in position before the beginning of a scene or act

theatre terms

- **projection:** the volume at which you speak
- **props:** all items for a show which cannot be classified as scenery, electrics, or wardrobe
- **rehearsal:** a practice or trial performance of a play or other work for later public performance
- **run-through:** when a cast rehearses their entire show from beginning to end
- **scene:** a sequence of continuous action in a play
- **set:** scenery and properties designed and arranged for a particular scene in a play
- **upstage:** the back of the stage farthest from the audience
- **wings:** the area to the sides of the stage

dance terms

- **ball change:** two quick changes of weight from one ball of the foot to the other
- **chassé:** a gliding step in dance in which one foot displaces the other
- **choreography:** the sequence of steps and movements in dance
- **elevé:** a rise onto the toes
- **full-out:** performing with 100% of your energy
- **levels:** how high or low your body gets
- **mark:** dancing a piece of choreography with less energy, usually for practicing musicality, timing, and other tools
- **passé:** position in which the hip is abducted and externally rotated, the knee is bent, the foot is pointed, and the toe touches the knee of the stance limb

dance terms

- **pirouetté:** an act of spinning on one foot, typically with the raised foot touching the knee on the supporting leg
- **plié:** a movement in which a dancer bends the knees and straightens them again, usually with the feet turned out and heels firmly on the ground
- **relevé:** a rise or spring onto the toes from plié
- **three-step turn:** performed by stepping to second position right, turning over the right shoulder to step left, and then turning again over the right shoulder to return to the right foot

musical terms

- **accompaniment:** a musical part that supports or partners a solo instrument, voice, or group
- **chorus:** a repeated portion of a song
- **counterpoint:** when two different melodies are sung by different characters at the same time
- **dynamics:** how loud or soft music is
- **melody:** a sequence of single notes that is musically satisfying
- **overture:** an orchestral piece from a musical that features small portions of numbers from the show
- **pitch:** the frequency of the vibration of sound, creating a high or low sound
- **unison:** the sounding of the same note by two or more musicians or singers at the same time
- **verse:** a portion of a song where where the melody stays the same but the lyrics change

vocal terms

- **belt:** an exciting, dramatic, loud sound that is based on a chest voice vibration
- **head voice:** one of the high registers of the voice in speaking or singing, above chest voice
- **soprano:** the highest of the four standard singing voices
- **mezzo-soprano:** a voice part between soprano and alto in traditionally female voice parts
- **alto:** the second highest of the four standard singing voices
- **tenor:** the second lowest of the four standard singing voices
- **baritone:** a voice part between tenor and bass in traditionally male voice parts
- **bass:** the lowest of the four standard singing voices