

Drama Dictionary

Tier 3 Words

Words & Phonetics	Definitions	Examples
Proscenium arch /prow.see.nee.uhm aach/	Audience sat in front of the stage.	The stage had a decorated proscenium arch above the curtains.
Thrust stage /thruhst stayj/	Audience sat around 3 sides of the stage.	The stage was thrust into the audience giving it three sides.
Traverse stage /trav.urs stayj/	Audience sat along either side of stage.	The catwalk was on a traverse stage, where the models walked backwards and forwards.
In the round /in thuh rownd/	Audience surround all sides of the stage.	The audience surrounded the stage. This was theatre in the round.
Blackout /blak.owt/	Lights simultaneously off.	During the performance the lights went to blackout for a scene change.
Colour filter/gel /kul.uh fil.tuh/jel/	Transparent coloured film which covers light.	The stage was flooded with red gels
Cross-fade /kros.fayd/	Gradual change from one lighting state to another.	The lighting changed slowly in a cross fade
House lights /ri.thm/	Main lights in the auditorium.	To start the performance they turned off the house lights
Spotlight /spot.lite/	Beam of light directly on a specific area.	She sang on stage alone in a spotlight.
Gobo /gow.bow/	Slide placed over light to create a pattern.	The gobo projected bars onto the floor showing he was in prison.

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Amplifier /am.pluh.fai.uh/	Speaker to project sound.	They used an amplifier to enhance the sound.
Diegetic sound /dai.uh.jeh.tuhk sownd/	Sound characters on stage can hear.	Diegetic sound was used to show the vase had broken.
Non-diegetic sound /non.dai.uh.jeh.tuhk sownd/	Sound characters on stage cannot hear.	Non-diegetic sound was used to create a sad atmosphere.
Functional sound /fuhngk.shuh.nuhl sownd/	Coincides with action on stage e.g. gunshot.	Functional sound was used to create the sound of the window breaking.
Incidental sound /in.suh.den.tl sownd/	Cover up sounds – often used over transitions.	They played incidental sound to cover the set being moved.
Breaking down /bray.king down/	Purposely distressing costume.	The costume was broken down to look old.
Personal props /puh.suh.nuhl props/	Props carried to identify character.	He walked on stage with his pipe. This was Sherlocks personal prop.
Wardrobe /waw.drowb/	Name for the costume department.	Go and get your dress from the wardrobe department.
Flat /flat/	Black wooden painted frame, creates walls or separation on stage.	Stand behind the flat when you are not on stage.
Platform/rostrum /plat.fawn/rost.ruhm/	Walking surface to provide different levels.	He walked up the rostrum to leave the stage.
Pre-set /pree.set/	Positioning of set or props before the scene or performance.	She walked on in the blackout to her preset position on stage
Revolve /ruh.volv/	Turntable built into stage.	They stood still on the revolve as it moved round the stage.
Gauze /gawz/	Transparent curtain to show separation of time and place.	The lights came up behind the gauze to reveal the nursery.

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Set /set/	Physical surroundings on stage.	Play was set in a gothic castle.
Levels /leh.vlz/	How high or low you are placed, higher the level higher the status.	The level of the character was lowered to show he was a servant.
Proxemics /prok.see.miks/	How close the actors are to each other, this shows their relationship.	We used close proxemics to show Romeo loved Juliet.
Blocking /blo.kuhng/	The process of placing the actors on stage	The agreed blocking was to walk on the stage quickly.
Pitch /pich/	How high or low your voice is.	I raised my pitch to show I was nervous.
Tone /town/	The emotion of your voice.	I used an angry tone to show the frustration of the character
Volume /vo.lyoom/	How loud or quiet your voice is.	I lowered my volume to show I was nervous.
Accent /ak.suhnt/	Shows where you come from.	I used a Scottish accent to show where Macbeth had come from.
Pace /pays/	How fast or slow you talk.	I talked with a fast pace to show my character was excited
Pause /pawz/	Taking a break in speech.	I used pause to show how shocked I was.
Posture /pos.chuh/	The way you stand.	I had an upright posture to show my character was superior.
Body language /bo.dee lang.gwuhj/	Non-verbal communication of emotion.	I closed off my body language to show I was hiding something.
Gesture /jes.chuh/	Using your hands to convey meaning.	I threw my hands in the air in a frustrated gesture.
Facial expressions /fay.shuhl ik.spresh.uhns/	Using your face to communicate emotion.	I changed my facial expressions to show disgust.

Words & Phonetics	Definitions	Examples
Gait /gayt/	The way a person walks.	I walked with a slow sluggish gait to show I was injured.
Writing in role /rai.tuhng in rowl/	Writing a letter/ diary as your character.	I wrote in role to help discover how my character felt.
Role on the wall /rowl on thuh wawl/	Diagram about your character.	I used role on the wall to explore my character.
Hot seating /hot see.tuhng/	An interview in character.	When hot seating I discovered my character was still angry.
Improvisation /im.pruh.vai.zay.shn/	Making up scenarios on the spot.	To create a piece of theatre we use improvisation.
Still images /stil im.ij.iz/	A posed picture.	We stopped on stage in a still image.
Placards /pla.kaadz/	Extra information written on a sign.	The placard showed a change in time.
Thought track /thawt trak/	Actors come out of the scene to say thoughts aloud.	The thought track revealed he was sorry.
Freeze frame /freez fraym/	Pause the action.	The cast used freeze frame to show what had happened to Hamlet.
Slow motion /slow mow.shn/	Slowing down the action.	The fight took place in slow motion.
Direct address /dai.rekt uh.dress/	Talking to the audience.	When they spoke to the audience they did it with direct address.