

#1 THEATRICAL VOCABULARY DEFINITIONS & SENTENCES STUDY SHEET

1. **MAGIC IF:** The *magic if* is an acting term that refers to an actor imagining what it would be like *if* he found himself in the same situation as the character he is playing in a film or stage play. SENTENCE: I use the magic if to understand and identify with my character's situation.

2. **ACOUSTICS:** *Acoustics* are the features and attributes of a theatre, auditorium, event hall or enclosed space that determine the integrity and audibility of sound in that space. SENTENCE: The theatre's acoustics were so wonderful I could hear every word each actor spoke without the use of microphones.

3. **WINGS:** The *wings* in a theatre are the stage left and stage right backstage areas just off to the side of the main playing area. The *wings* are usually masked by two or three sets of hanging curtains or flats that keep audience members from seeing into the right and left backstage areas where performers are waiting to enter. These side-of-the-stage masking curtains or flats are also referred to as *wings*. SENTENCE: Her understudy is waiting in the wings!

4. **BURLESQUE:** *Burlesque* refers to a type of variety show for the stage that is characterized by bawdy humor, acts of mockery, naughty banter, provocative slapstick comedy and striptease dancing. A *burlesque* is also any dramatic work, playlet, sketch or piece of literature that pokes fun at a somber subject by satirizing it; or it treats a mundane subject with great dignity. *Burlesque* is unlike ordinary farce or comedy because it achieves its effect through distortion and buffoonery. SENTENCE: Gypsy Rose Lee was one of the most successful stars in Burlesque.

5. **VOMITORY:** A *vomitory* is an architectural feature of ancient Roman Coliseums. The *vomitory* was a hallway or passageway like structure located underneath the seating area through which audience members could enter and exit the stadium. SENTENCE: When the show was over the audience exited through the vomitory.

6. **COLLABORATION:** A *collaboration* is when two or more artists work together for a common result, shared goals for an identical objective. For example, when multiple authors write a musical together - one composes music, another writes lyrics and a third writes the script or dialogue - this would be a collaboration or collaborative effort. SENTENCE: The Broadway musical "On Your Toes" is a Rodgers and Hart collaboration.

7. **UNITIES:** In his "Poetics", Aristotle declared that good drama must contain three *unities*. The three dramatic Aristotelian *unities* include: *unity* of action, *unity* of place and *unity* of time, meaning that first-class drama should have only one main action, one location and occur in a 24 hour period or one day. SENTENCE: The three unities, according to Aristotle in his "Poetics", are of major importance to the construction of good drama.

8. **DOWNSTAGE:** *Downstage* is the area of the stage that is closest to the audience. SENTENCE: The director blocked the entire scene downstage center.

9. **STRIKE:** 1. A *strike* is when the stage is returned to its neutral status by stripping the stage of sets, lights and props following the closing of a production. A smaller scale *strike* occurs at rehearsals when props and set pieces are removed for the purpose of setting up a new scene. 2. A *strike* can also be an organized ceasing of work or abandonment of an actor's, or other theatre professional's, services in hopes of coercing producers to give in to demands made by theatre artists. Worker or union *strikes* are usually effective and generally occur in objection to unfair conditions or stipulations dictated by producers. SENTENCE: We have to strike the set immediately following the show's final curtain.

10. **EXTRA:** An *extra* is an actor that has no lines or pertinent stage business and generally is found in the background of a scene. The term *extra* is more often a film term rather than a theatre term. Sometimes in film *extra* actors will be called "background talent". SENTENCE: I was an extra in the Oscar winning film, "Argo"!

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11: **SHTICK:** *Shtick* is typically a bit of comic business or routine that is used to pull focus or gain attention. A characteristic gimmick that is usually employed by star performers for comic effect is *shtick*. SENTENCE: He's a veteran dinner theatre actor so that shtick comes easily to him.

12: **FARCE:** A *farce* is a very humorous play that is characterized by its fast playing pace, mistaken identities, loads of slapstick comedy and physical humor, quick entrances and exits and exaggerated characters operating in improbable storylines. SENTENCE: "A Flea In Her Ear" is a very famous farce.

13: **RAVE:** A *rave* or *rave review* is passionate admiration and exuberant acclaim given by a professional critic or any spectator for a theatrical stage production, TV show or feature film. SENTENCE: The New York Times gave the play a rave.

14: **GALLERY:** The *gallery* is a term that usually refers to seats located in the balcony of a theatre and that are typically the least expensive seats in the house. SENTENCE: We were in the gallery for the first act but moved down to vacant orchestra seats for act two.

15: **HOOFER:** A *hooper* is another word for a dancer - usually a tap dancer. SENTENCE: Fred Astaire is likely America's most famous hooper.

Day 1

#1 WORD SEARCH

FIND AND CIRCLE THE VOCABULARY WORDS BELOW

Words Run: Left To Right - Right To Left - Top To Bottom – Bottom To Top - Diagonally From Left To Right

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | C | Y | B | Y | E | X | A | Z | H | A | S | D | L | K |
| P | C | R | L | N | R | S | X | A | C | R | Z | D | B | J |
| Q | C | O | L | L | A | B | O | R | A | T | I | O | N | L |
| A | O | T | U | S | E | Y | K | B | W | N | Q | W | Q | P |
| R | J | I | V | S | X | R | Q | U | Y | Z | D | N | X | H |
| J | Z | M | X | C | T | V | B | R | N | M | L | S | J | H |
| N | Q | O | W | E | R | I | P | L | O | U | I | T | U | Y |
| U | G | V | F | D | A | S | C | E | D | S | E | A | Z | F |
| W | U | X | E | B | M | N | H | S | W | V | I | G | T | J |
| A | M | P | O | K | G | M | J | Q | E | D | O | E | S | V |
| L | N | B | U | R | L | X | C | U | H | O | O | T | E | R |
| S | B | F | A | R | C | B | H | E | E | W | I | G | N | S |
| K | V | T | X | Q | P | W | O | O | U | H | R | J | C | V |
| D | C | P | G | S | M | Y | N | E | O | D | A | L | K | W |
| F | C | L | M | A | G | C | F | I | E | F | V | U | N | C |
| M | A | G | I | C | I | F | A | R | C | C | E | K | X | Q |
| J | D | R | L | R | E | D | X | P | A | E | H | R | R | N |
| G | X | H | C | Y | B | N | D | Z | J | S | V | S | T | L |
| G | A | L | L | E | R | Y | J | S | Q | J | E | S | D | F |
| H | T | H | M | K | B | C | X | G | A | I | D | G | J | I |
| T | Y | Q | L | I | C | A | B | N | T | W | S | F | H | K |
| Y | O | V | F | R | W | E | R | I | S | H | T | I | C | K |
| V | I | C | K | T | R | B | N | W | A | L | S | Y | U | P |
| Q | W | E | R | S | P | U | O | I | T | G | M | V | F | E |

Day 2

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

BRIEFLY DEFINE THE FOLLOWING THEATRICAL TERMS.

1. MAGIC IF:

2. ACOUSTICS:

3. WINGS:

4. BURLESQUE:

5. VOMITORY:

6. COLLABORATION:

7. UNITIES:

8. DOWNSTAGE:

9. STRIKE:

10. EXTRA:

11. SHTICK:

12. FARCE:

13. RAVE:

14. GALLERY:

15. HOOFER:

Day 3

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

USE EACH OF THE FOLLOWING THEATRICAL TERMS IN A COMPLETE SENTENCE.

1. MAGIC IF:

2. ACOUSTICS:

3. WINGS:

4. BURLESQUE:

5. VOMITORY:

6. COLLABORATION:

7. UNITIES:

8. DOWNSTAGE:

9. STRIKE:

10. EXTRA:

11. SHTICK:

12. FARCE:

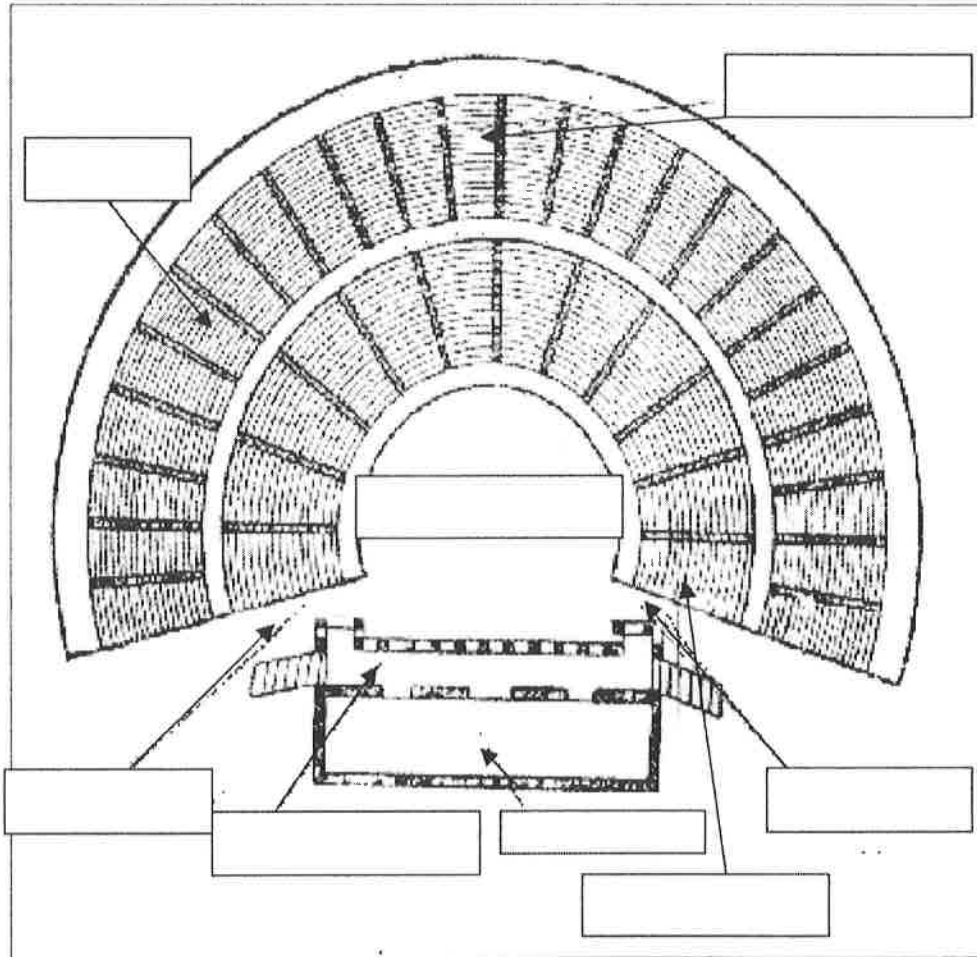
13. RAVE:

14. GALLERY:

15. HOOFER:

Day 4

A Day at the Theatre



Different Sections of the Amphitheatre

Orchestra: The circular area, about 65 feet in diameter in Athens, where the chorus sang and danced. (The word chorus derives from chorea, to dance)

Theatron The area where the spectators sat to watch the performances. During the 5th century there were no permanent seats. Theatron means viewing place in Greek. It has the same root as the word teatro, which suggests a view. Our word theatre, of course, is derived from theatron.

Skene Behind the orchestra, a wooden building called a skene was erected. It had at least one central door, through which actors made their entrances and exits. There might have been two other doors in the wall of the skene facing the spectators.

Day 5

Name

Greek Gods and Goddesses



AEOLUS
ALEA
APHRODITE
APOLLO
ARA
AREX
ARIADNE
ARTEMIS
ASTARTE
ATE
ATHENA
BACCHUS

CRONUS
DEMETER
DIONYSUS
DIS
EIRENE
EOS
ENYO
EROS
GAIA
HADES
EUNOMIA

HEBE
HEKATE
HERA
HERMES
HESTIA
KRONOS
LETO
METIS
MOMUS
NEMESIS
NEREUS
NIKE

NIOBE
NOT
NYX
OPS
PAN
PLUTO
POSEIDON
SELENE
TRITON
VESTA
ZEUS