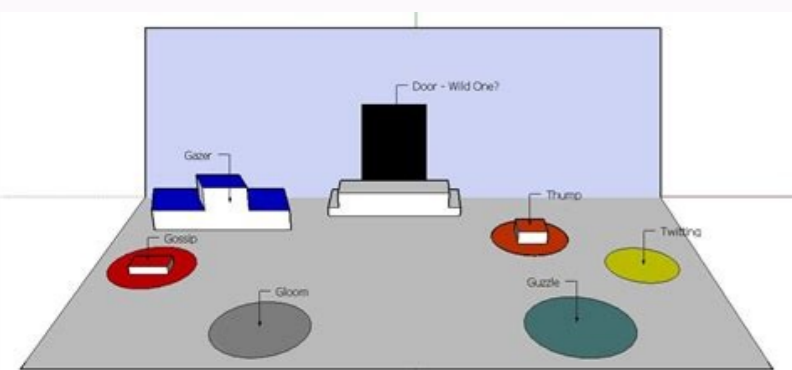
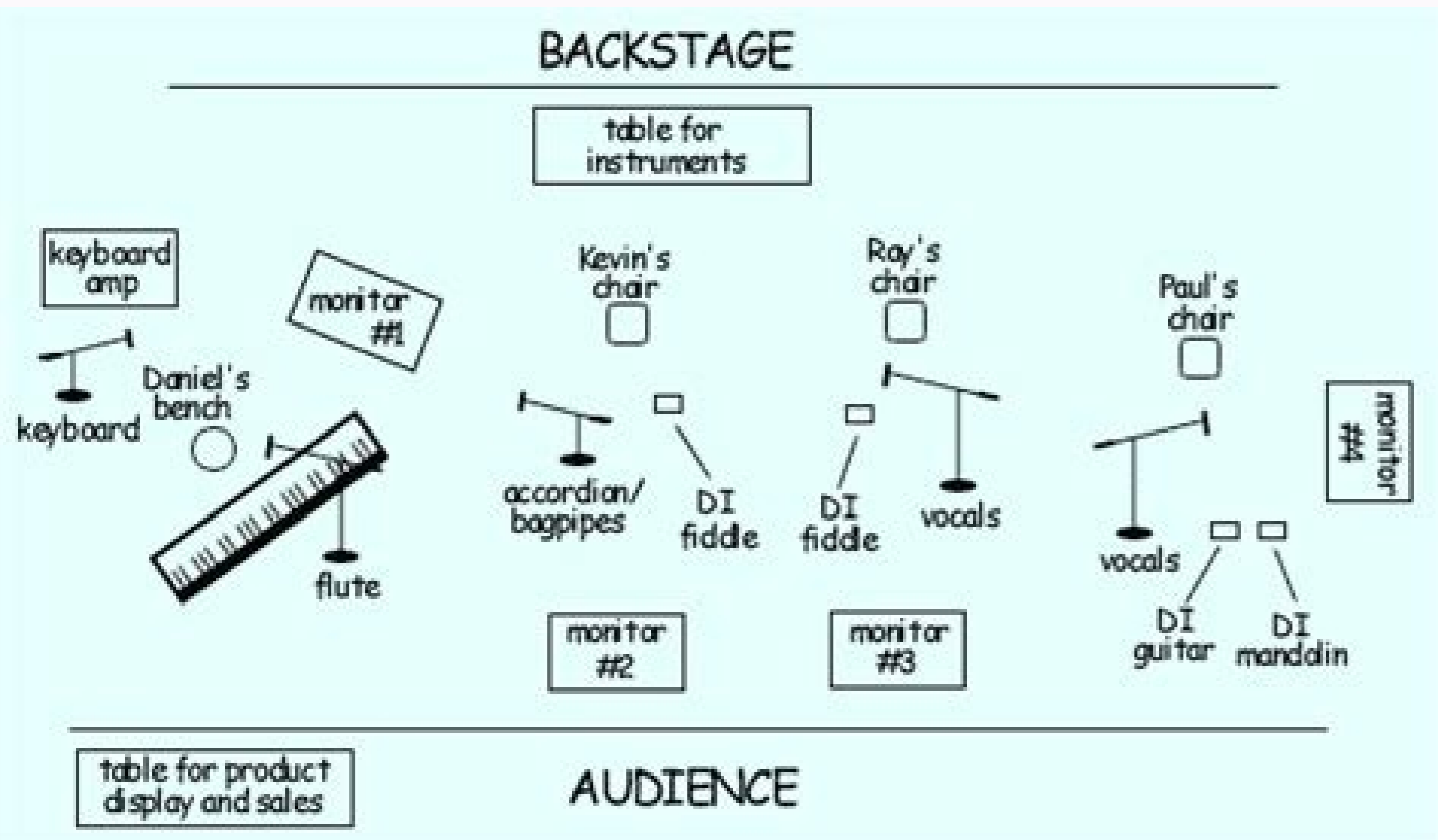
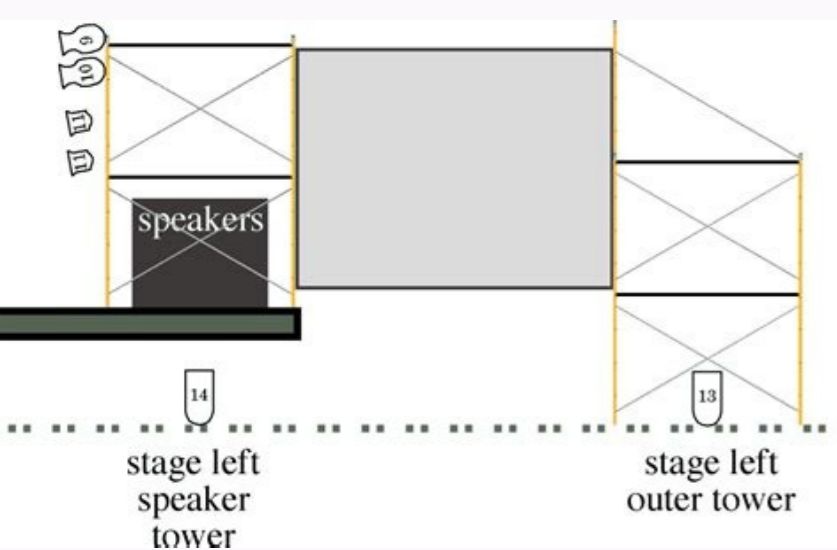
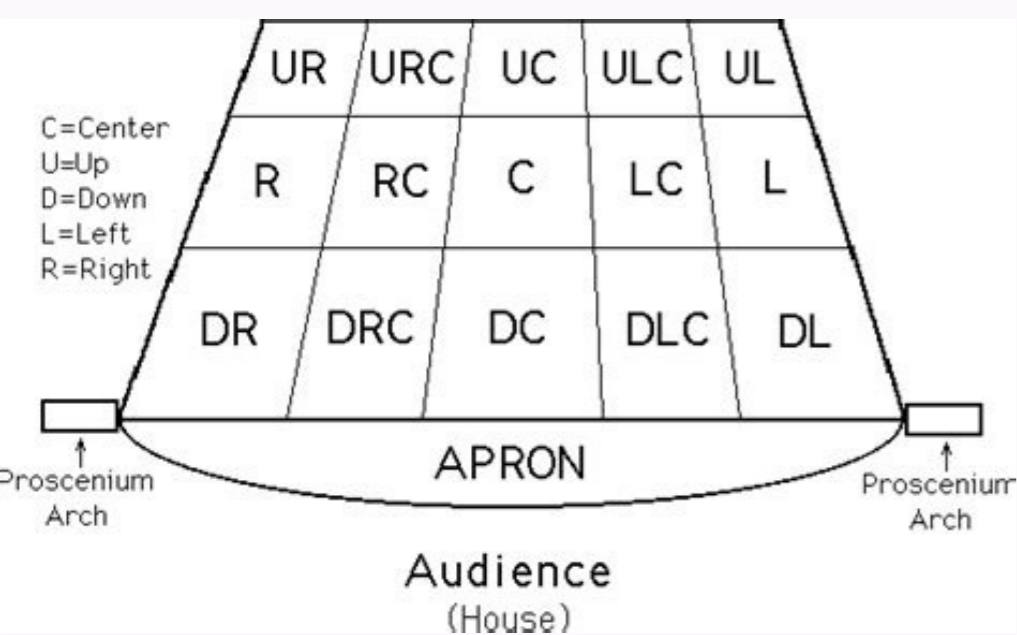


Stage right stage left diagram

Continue





Where is stage left and stage right. What does stage left and stage right mean. Which is better stage left or stage right.

Stage positions are used to help keep track of how performers and set pieces move during rehearsal and performance. Every play has some degree of stage direction written into the script. Stage directions serve many functions, but their primary purpose is to guide actors' movements on the stage, called blocking. These notations in the script, written by the playwright and set aside with brackets, tell the actors where to sit, stand, move about, enter, and exit. Stage directions also can be used to tell an actor how to shape his or her performance. They may describe how the character behaves physically or mentally and are often used by the playwright to guide the play's emotional tone. Some scripts also contain notations on lighting, music, and sound effects. Stage directions are written from the perspective of the actor facing the audience. An actor who turns to his or her right is moving stage right, while an actor who turns to his or her left is moving stage left. The front of the stage, called downstage, is the end closest to the audience. The rear of the stage, called upstage, is behind the actor's back, furthest from the audience. These terms come from the structure of stages in the Middle Ages and early modern period, which were built on an upward slope away from the audience to improve viewer visibility. "Upstage" refers to the section of the stage that was higher, while "downstage" refers to the area that was lower. From the rear of the stage to the audience, there are three zones: upstage, center stage, and downstage. These are each divided into three or five sections, depending on the size. If just three sections, there will be a center, left, and right in each. When in the center stage zone, right or left may be referred to simply as stage right and stage left, with only the very middle of the stage being referred to as center stage. If the stage has been divided into 15 sections instead of nine, there will be a "left-center" and "right-center" in each section, for five possible locations in each of the three zones. When you see stage directions in published plays, they are often in abbreviated form. Here's what they mean: C: Center; D: Downstage; DR: Downstage right; DRC: Downstage right-center; DC: Downstage center; DLC: Downstage left-center; DL: Downstage left; R: Right; RC: Right center; L: Left; LC: Left center; U: Upstage; UR: Upstage right; URC: Upstage right-center; UC: Upstage center; ULC: Upstage left-center; UL: Upstage left. Whether you're an actor, writer, or director, knowing how to use stage directions effectively will help you improve your craft. Here are some tips. Make it short and sweet. Stage directions are meant to guide performers. The best ones, therefore, are clear and concise and can be interpreted easily. Consider motivation. A script may tell an actor to walk quickly downstage center and little else. That's where a director and actor must work together to interpret this guidance in a manner that would seem appropriate for the character. Practice makes perfect. It takes time for a character's habits, sensibilities, and gestures to become natural, especially when they have been decided by someone else. Achieving this means lots of rehearsal time both alone and with other actors, as well as being willing to try different approaches when you hit a roadblock. Directions are suggestions, not commands. Stage directions are the playwright's chance to shape physical and emotional space through effective blocking. That said, directors and actors don't have to be faithful to stage directions if they think a different interpretation would be more effective. usr - upstage right usl - upstage left dsr - downstage right dsl - downstage left © theatrecrafts.com 2002 Skip to content I can barely tell my actual right and left apart, much less try to interpret stage directions. Here's a handy diagram that will help you understand! Everything on stage is labeled based on the perspective of the performer. Stage right and left are from the view of the performer, looking out at the audience. Because the performer is the most important person in the theater, right? At PSO, we always have stage right pole spinning and stage left pole static. So, if you walk onstage and look at the audience, the spin pole will be on your right hand side. Stage Directions: Definition, Examples and Abbreviations Estragon, sitting on a low mound, is trying to take off his boot. He pulls at it with both hands, panting. From the right, Willy Loman, the Salesman, enters, carrying two large sample cases. Presently the STAGE MANAGER, hat on and pipe in mouth, enters and begins placing a table and three chairs downstage left and a table and three chairs downstage right. Exit, pursued by a bear. What do each of these lines from famous plays have in common? They're all examples of stage directions. As you can see, some are quite simple (a man walks across the stage; someone tries to take off a boot), while others are more complicated (just what do "downstage left" and "downstage right" mean?). One of the first things every actor needs to learn is what stage directions mean, why they exist, and how to interpret them. What are Stage Directions? Stage directions are instructions in the script of a play that tell actors how to enter, where to stand, when to move, and so on. Stage directions can also include instructions about lighting, scenery, and sound effects, but their main purpose is to guide actors through their movements onstage. (Onstage movement and positioning is called blocking). For example, stage directions may tell an actor to pace while delivering their lines, to pick up a prop at a certain moment, or to sit down while listening to another character speak. Movements like these can add tension, humor, or emotion to a scene, engage the audience's attention, and make a character come alive. The Basics: Right, Left, Up, Down, Center Upstage, downstage, stage right, stage left—to new actors who aren't familiar with the language of stage directions, these terms can be confusing. What do they all mean? First of all, it helps to understand that stage directions are given from the perspective of an actor facing the audience. So, stage right and stage left are the actor's right and left, not the audience's. When you're standing in the middle of the stage with your face toward the audience, stage right is the area of the stage to your right, and stage left is the area of the stage to your left. What about center stage? As you can probably guess, this is simply the middle of the stage. When you're standing center stage, you're at the center of all the action: between right and left and up and down. Speaking of which, the other main terms are upstage and downstage. Upstage refers to the part of the stage farthest from the audience. Downstage is the part of the stage closest to the audience. These terms make more sense if you know a little theatre history. Welcome to the Renaissance During the Renaissance, theaters weren't quite as sophisticated as they are today, and many audience members would have to stand for the entirety of a play. Imagine being one of Shakespeare's groundlings: the common people who couldn't afford a seat at the theatre and had to stand on the ground in front of the stage. Your head might be level with the stage, and there would probably be people standing in front of you. If an actor stood at the front of the stage, you might see them, but if they went to the back of the stage, away from you, you'd barely even catch a glimpse. To solve this problem, stages were tilted so that the back was higher than the front, allowing the audience to see the actors at all times. This meant that an actor walking away from the audience would literally be walking up an incline, while an actor coming toward the audience would be going down. And that's how we got "upstage" and "downstage." Putting It All Together: Right-Center, Left-Center and More Now that you know the basics, try to visualize a stage separated into several sections. From front to back, you have upstage, center stage, and downstage. From right to left: stage right, center stage, and stage left. If you're acting on an especially large stage, you might hear the terms "left-center," "right-center," or even something like "downstage right-center." Before your head starts to spin, just think back to the basics. If you know where center stage is and where stage right and left are, you can figure out that the area between center stage and stage right is right-center stage, and the area between center stage and stage left is left-center. Downstage right-center would be the downstage area between center stage and stage right, and so on. Abbreviations for Stage Directions To save time, playwrights and directors sometimes use abbreviations. Luckily, these are pretty straightforward. But wait! There's more: DRC: Downstage right-center, DLC: Downstage left-center, RC: Right center, LC: Left center, URC: Upstage right-center and ULC: Upstage left-center Stage Directions: More Guidelines Than Actual Rules Now that you know your stage directions, here's a final note: stage directions are meant to help, not hinder. A playwright adds these instructions as guidelines to help shape a performance, but ultimately, the final say rests with the actors and director.

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