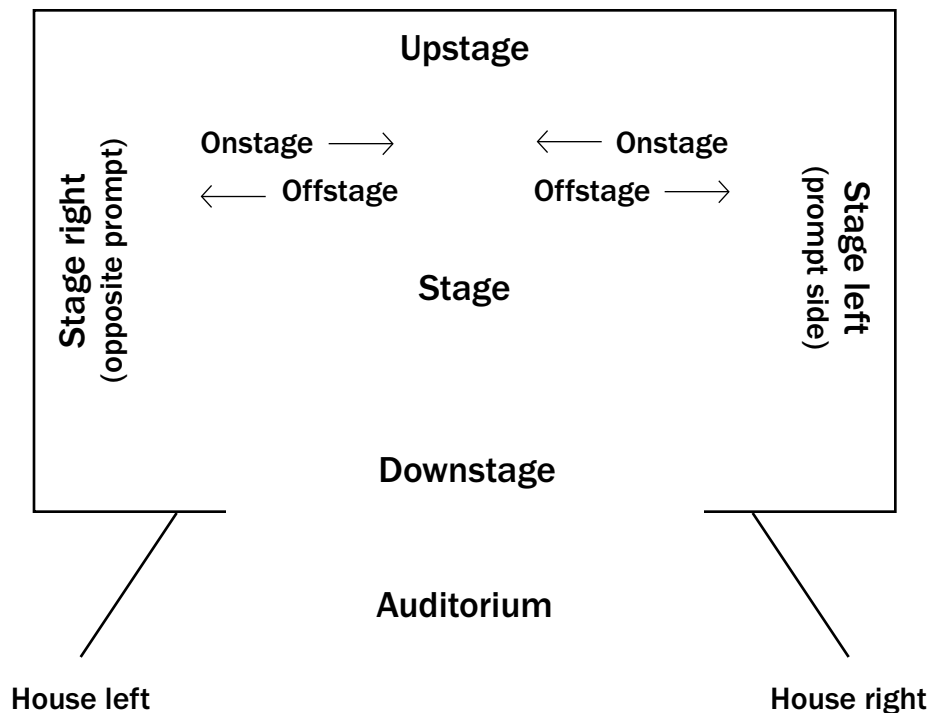


## Stage Directions

These are terms describing the locations and directions in a theatre building; many come from the descriptions of stage action in the play text. They are most relevant to a proscenium theatre, but can apply to other theatre forms.



### **downstage (DS)**

(noun) the part of the stage nearest the audience

(adverb or adjective) toward or at the front part of the stage, nearest the audience

also downstage left (DSL), downstage right (DSR)

### **house left (HL)**

(noun) the left side of the auditorium from the spectator's viewpoint facing the stage

(adverb or adjective) toward or at the left side of the auditorium from the spectator's viewpoint facing the stage

also front house left, rear house left

### **house right (HR)**

(noun) the right side of the auditorium from the spectator's viewpoint facing the stage

(adverb or adjective) toward or at the right side of the auditorium from the spectator's viewpoint facing the stage

also front house right, rear house right

**in**

(adverb) toward the stage floor, referring to vertical movement of scenery, etc.

**opposite prompt, off prompt (OP)**

(noun, adverb, or adjective) primarily British usage, has the same meaning as stage right  
also opposite prompt side, off prompt side (OPS)

**offstage**

(adverb or adjective) away from the stage center; toward or at the part of the stage that is out of view of the audience

also offstage left, offstage right

**onstage**

(adverb or adjective) toward the stage center; toward or in the part of the stage that is in view of the audience

**out**

(adverb) away from the stage floor and toward the gridiron, referring to vertical movement of scenery, etc.

**prompt, prompt side (PS)**

(noun, adverb, or adjective) primarily British usage, has the same meaning as stage left

**stage right (SR)**

(noun) the right side of the stage from the actor's viewpoint facing the audience

(adverb or adjective) toward or at the right side of the stage from the actor's viewpoint facing the audience

**upstage (US)**

(noun) the part of the stage farthest from the audience

(adverb or adjective) toward or at the rear part of the stage, farthest from the audience

also upstage left (USL), upstage right (USR)