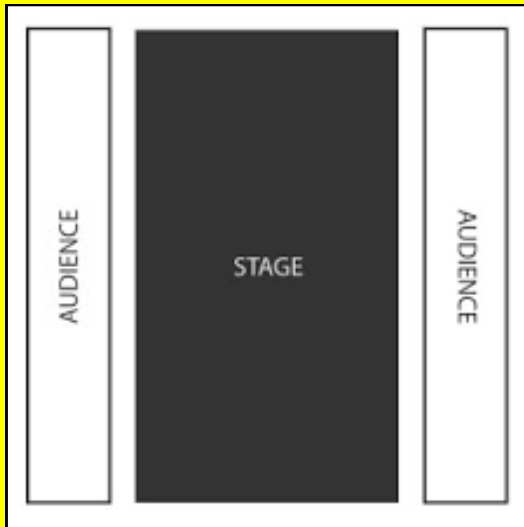


# Drama Knowledge 6



## Traverse Stage

The diagram is a ground plan of a Traverse Stage. A ground plan is an overhead view of the theatre stage area or of a set design.

Pros of a Traverse Stage — The audience on either side can clearly see work that happens.

The audience can see each other, creating intimacy.

Cons of a Traverse Stage — The opposing sides of the audience might see two entirely different shows and sight lines are an issue.

## Upstaging

Upstaging is when one actor takes attention away from another during a live performance (even if it happens downstage).

*Example—When an actor steals focus in the background by being over the top or stumbling into the set, all eyes go to him.*

Status Ranking — is a rehearsal technique used to explore the status of characters in a scene. Each performer 'ranks' their roles rise and fall of power/status within a scene assigning a number between one and ten. One is the lowest status and ten the highest. Actors can experiment with the status of the roles within the scene to see how it alters the quality of the drama.

## Vocal Skills

Clarity — Clarity simply means speaking clearly on stage so every member of the audience can hear you. Professional performers will undertake complex vocal warm ups to make sure their articulation is the best it can be.

## Physical Skills

Proxemics— This comes from the word Proximity and means the position of people in relation to each other on stage. The distance between characters on stage communicates to the audience how comfortable they are with each other.

## Colour Symbolism

Colour can be used in costumes, set, props and lighting to communicate a deeper meaning to the audience.

Example:

NATURE

**BROWN**

DULL

HONESTY RELIABLE

## Drama Techniques and Terminology

Anticlimax — As a climax is meant to be where all things come together as a conclusion, an anticlimax is incomplete and therefore can be disappointing or unsatisfying.

Improvisation — To perform quickly in response to something, or to act without previous planning. A distinction is made between spontaneous (making it up as you go along) and prepared improvisation (working within a previously agreed structure of ideas and roles).