# Theatre 101 Vocab/Concepts You MUST Know

**Random Theatre Lingo in which you need to be familiar:**

Five- Stage Manager or director’s announcement to the company that they have 5 minutes unit the show begins.

Apron- The stage area downstage of the proscenium line.

Call time- The time at which the actors are expected to be in the theatre.

Fly- to raise a piece of scenery in to the area above the play space.

Footlights- lighting instruments places in or on the floor

Ghost light- A single, bare, light bulb on a movable stand, illuminated at all times except during performances.

Wings- offstage area on either side of the play space

Pit- the area in which the orchestra members reside

Strike- tearing down the set, returning props, storing costumes

Off book- Acting without reading from a script or score.

Spike- A colored tape that indicates where scenery goes

Wagon- a movable, usually low profile rolling scenic unit

Places- the call to go to your first position for the performance to begin.

Flat- usually a 4X8 frame that attaches to a wagon to serve as a wall or backdrop

Proscenium- The most traditional stage set-up. The stage is removed from the audience and framed by an arch that separates it from the audience.

Site specific- An increasingly popular staging conceit that transforms the house into a location that directly supports the action of the piece.

Understudy- Usually a member of the ensemble, this actor will be responsible for learning the part of a leading or supporting actor.

Ensemble- Sometimes called “the chorus,” members of the ensemble are called upon to sing, dance, and play smaller roles in a musical.

Sitzprobe: A German word that describes the first time the performers sit and run through the full score with the orchestra. Time is taken to incorporate the two elements until the Music Director is satisfied.

House- the seating area

**Stage Business**

Cheating out- positioning your body so that you can be seen by most of the audience

Cross- moving from one side of the stage to another

Upstaging- taking impact away from the focus of the scene

Fourth wall- An invisible dividing “wall” between the stage and audience. Actors will sometimes “break the fourth wall” and interact with or speak directly to the audience.

Blocking- The path the actors take on stage as decided upon by the actor and director, and notated by the SM.

Suspension of disbelief- The ability of both the actors and the audience to commit to the action on stage.