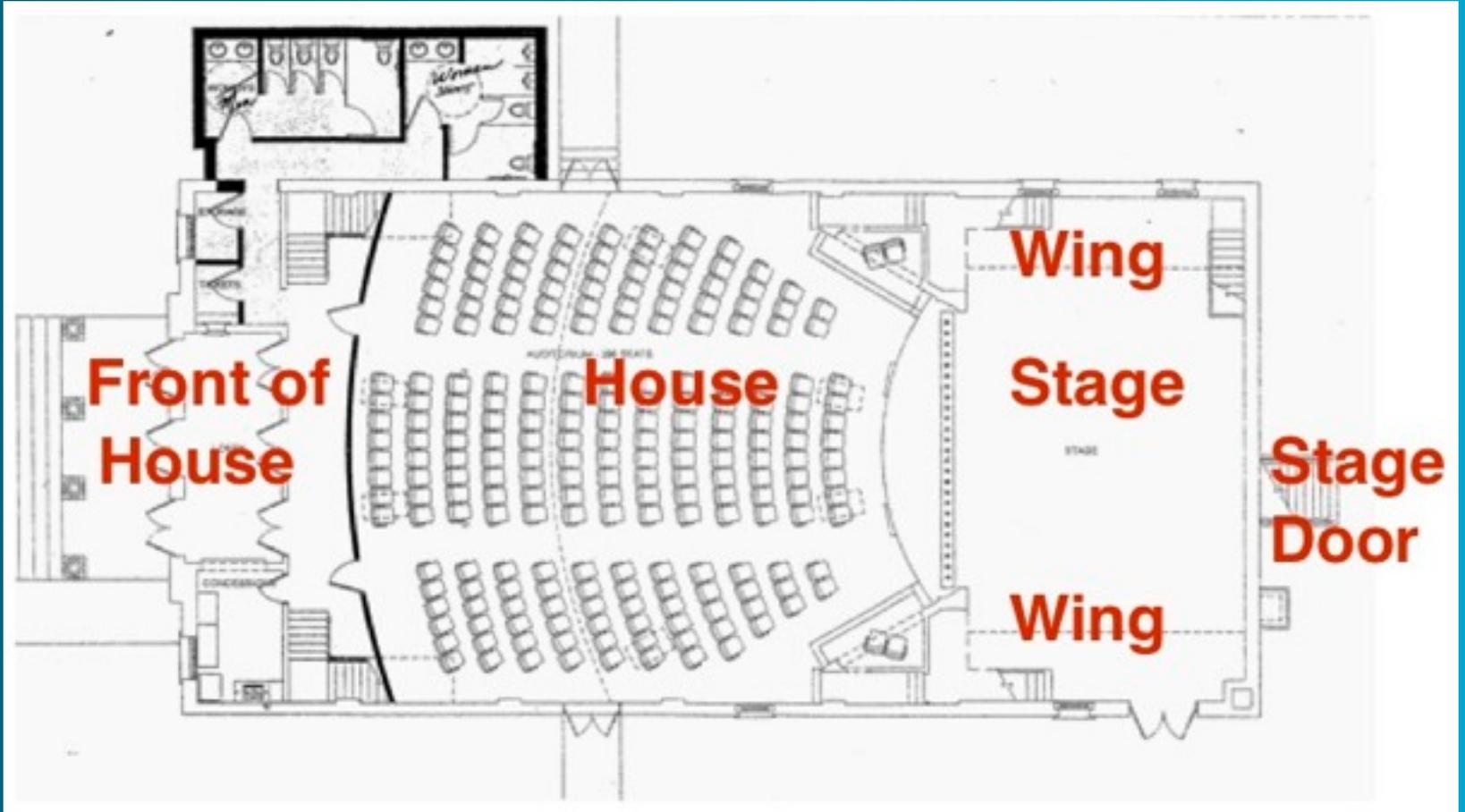




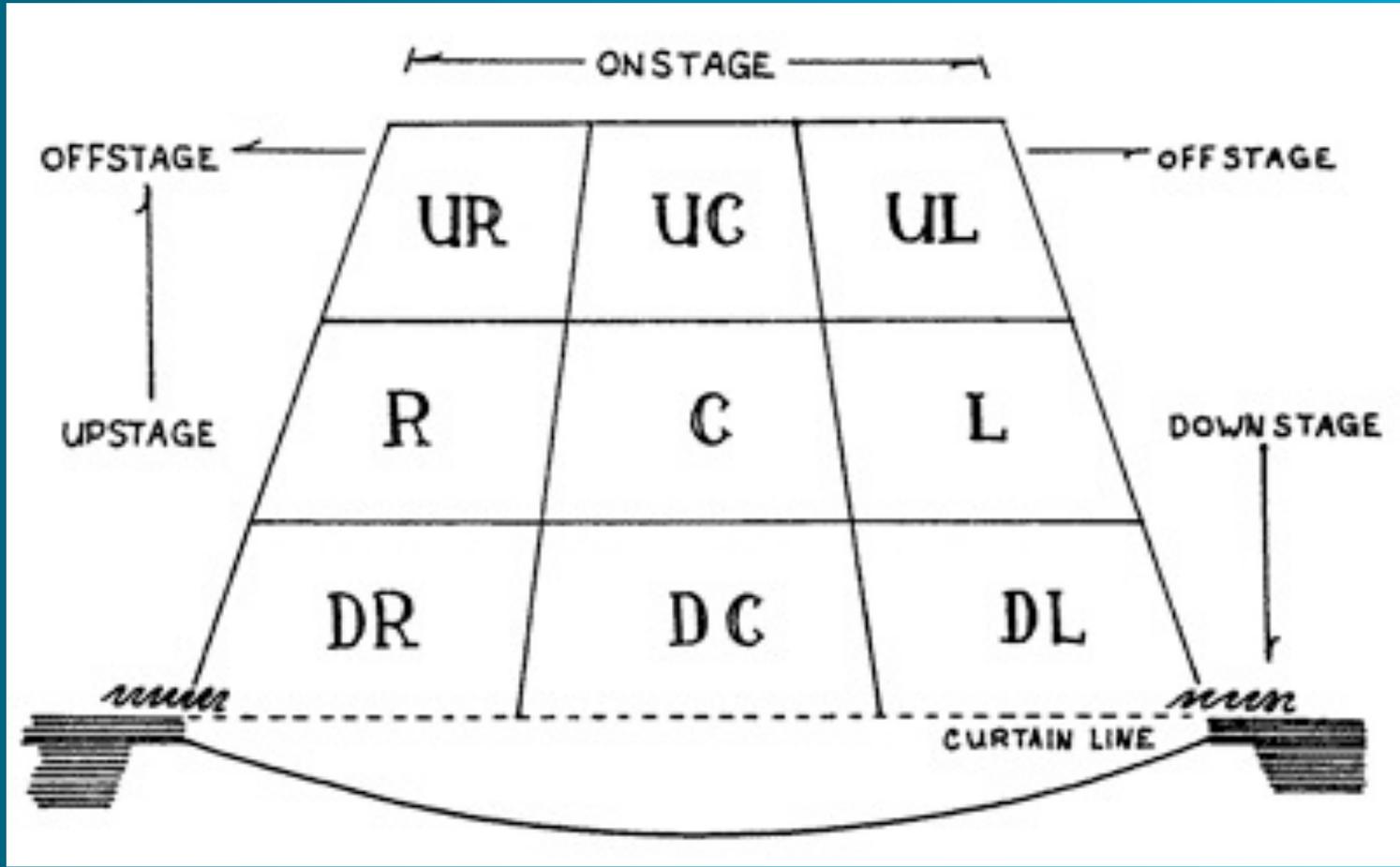
# Theater Spaces

GSIS MYP Drama  
Mr. Blanck

# Stage Terminology

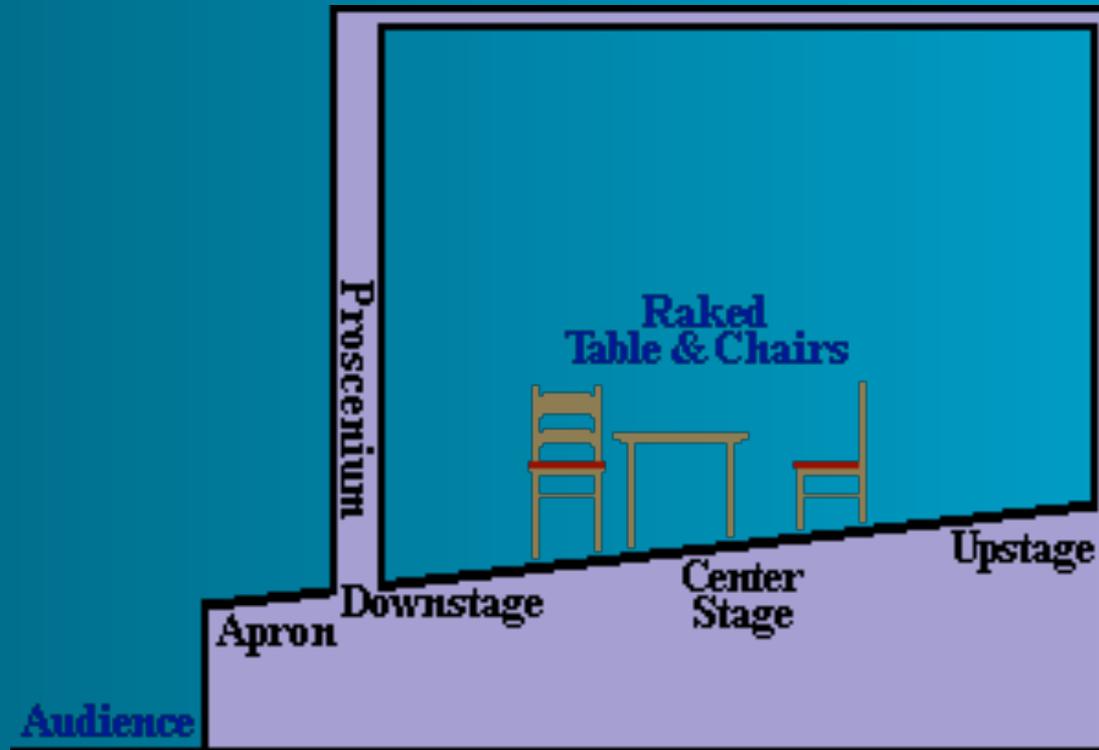


# Stage Directions





# Raked Stage





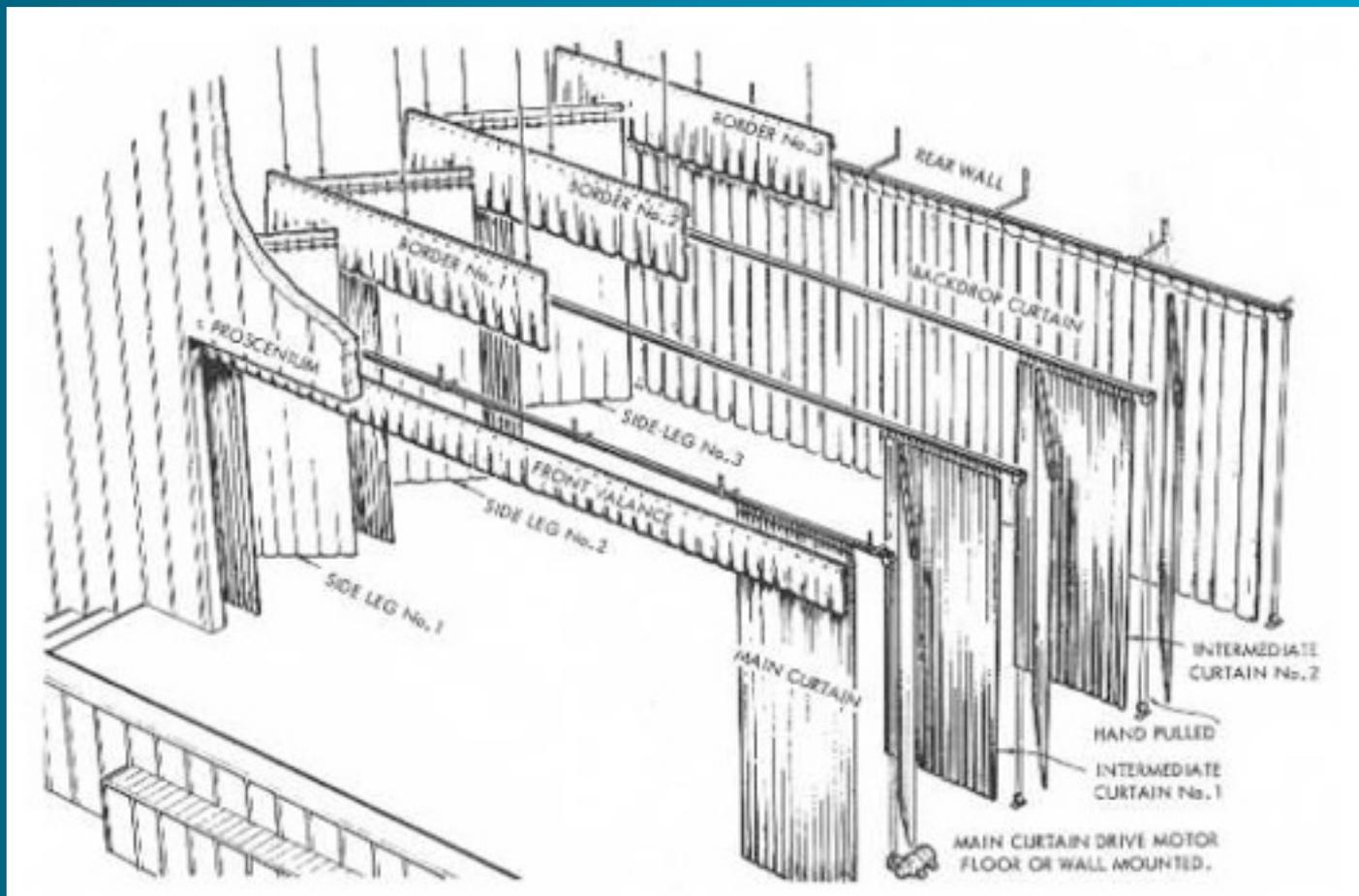
# Rigging Terms (More to come!)

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- Main Drape
- Travelers
- Borders (Teasers)
- Legs (Tormentors)

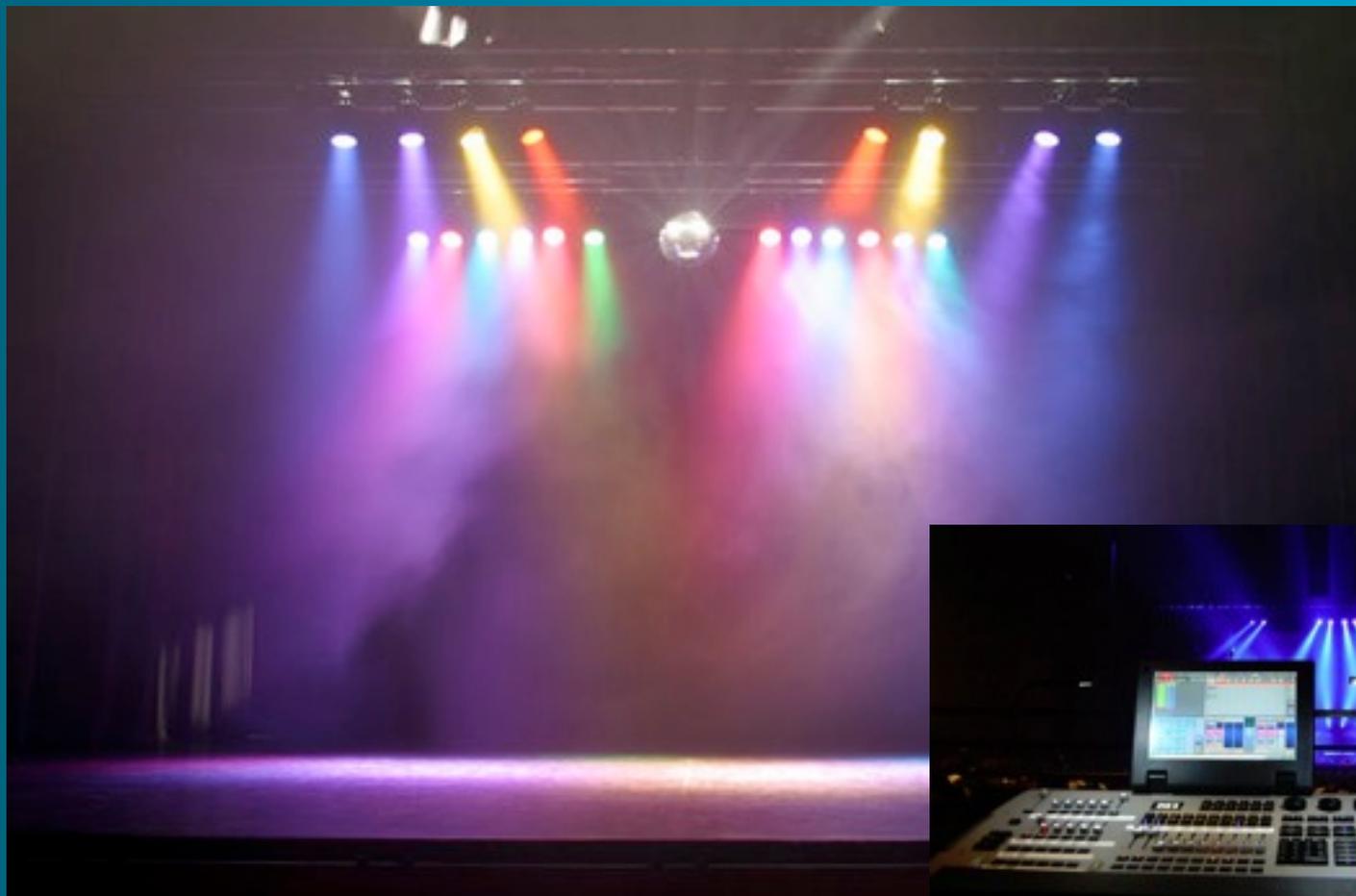


# Rigging





# Stage Lighting/Electrics





# Sound



## Creating the Environment

- Even before the curtain rises, the theatrical experience has begun
- The atmosphere of the theater building can set the audience's mood as well as create expectations





# Art Nouveau / Post-Modern





# The First Purpose Built Spaces

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- Cultures around the world built performing spaces.
- The theatre developed as a specialized structure in Greece around the 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC.
- The Theatre of Dionysus in Athens is well known, but the Theatre of Delphi is one of the most spectacular!

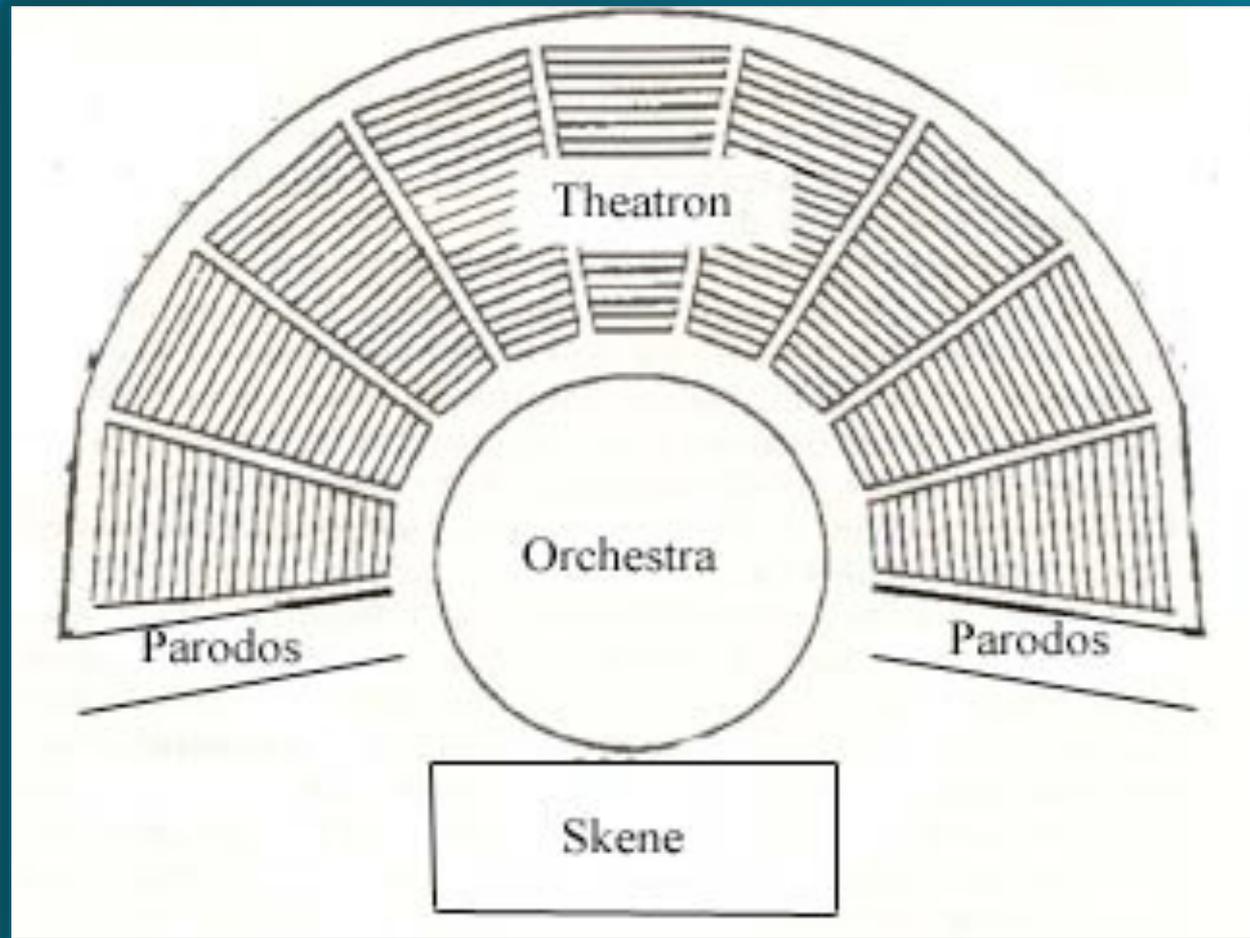


# The Theatre of Delphi





# Greek Theatre





# Elizabethan Theatre: The Globe

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- By the 15<sup>th</sup> century in England, theatres made a “comeback” after having disappeared during the middle ages
- These “Playhouses” were based on the old custom of acting troupes pulling pageant wagons into tavern yards to perform for the patrons.
- Shakespeare’s “Globe”, now reconstructed in London, is probably the most famous.

# The Reconstructed Globe (Street View)





# The Globe (Interior)



# The Globe: View of the Stagehouse



## Other Famous Theaters

- London's Drury Lane Theatre (also known as the Theatre Royal Haymarket) is probably most famous for having burnt down 3 times. The present structure dates to 1812 and is owned by composer and dramatist Andrew Lloyd Webber. It is very much a working theatre to this day!

# Drury Lane #3 (from an old postcard)



# Drury Lane Exterior (I don't know where the muffin man lives!)



# Ford's Theater

- Ford's Theater was (and still is) one of Washington DC's finest performing spaces when Abraham Lincoln was shot in the back of the head by John Wilkes Booth while viewing a production in 1865. Typical of the time, Lincoln's box was positioned as much to be seen as to see the stage. Booth escaped by jumping onto the stage and exiting the stage door.



# Ford's Theater Exterior





# Ford's Theater Interior





# Types of Theater Spaces

## Proscenium Stage

- The most well known type of theatre space.
- The word proscenium comes from the proscenium arch (the frame that outlines the stage and separates the stage space from the audience space).
- The audience seats are slanted or *raked* to allow all rows the ability to see the stage clearly.
- Many proscenium auditoriums include a balcony or two, and the main floor seating is known as the *orchestra*



# Proscenium





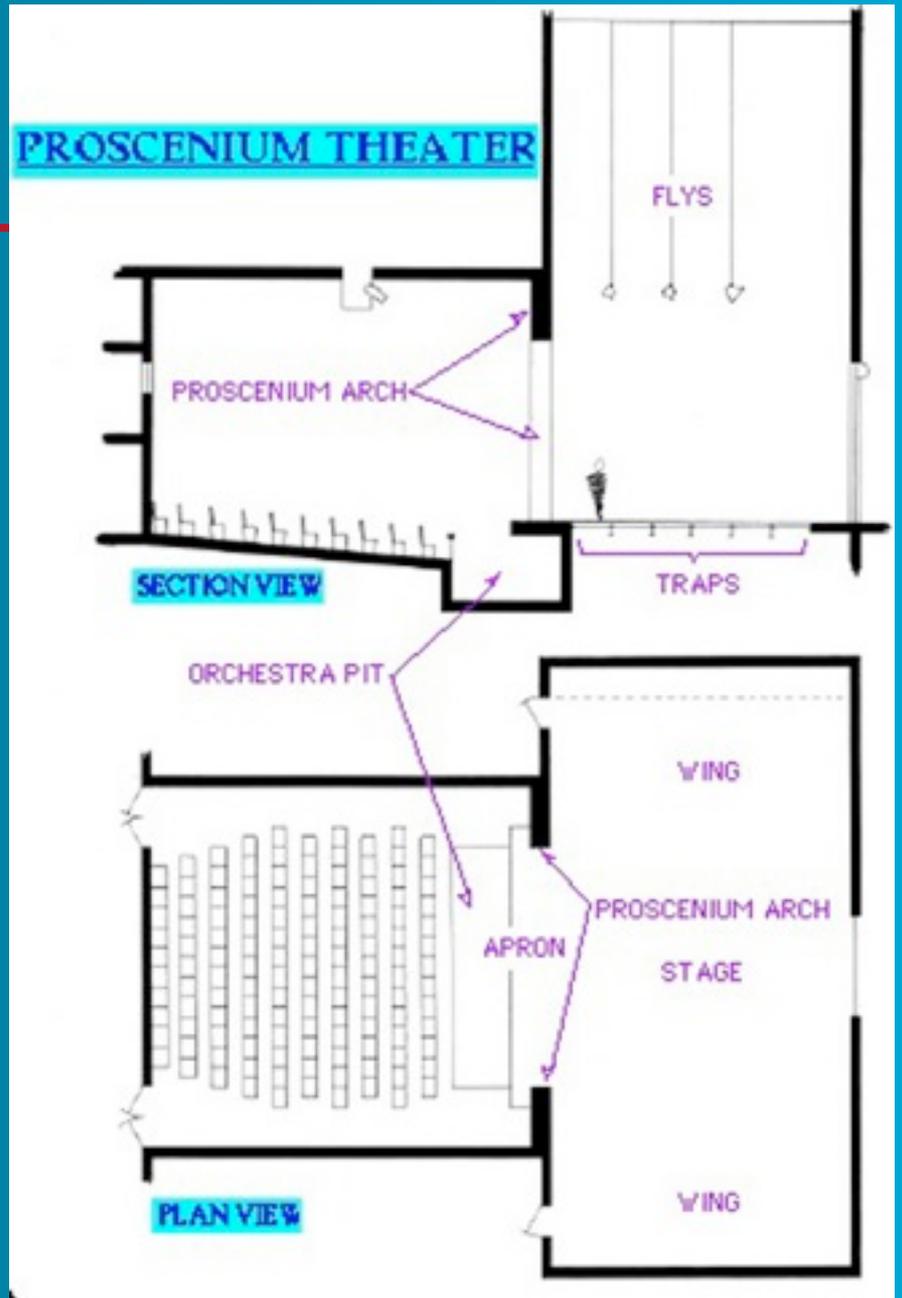
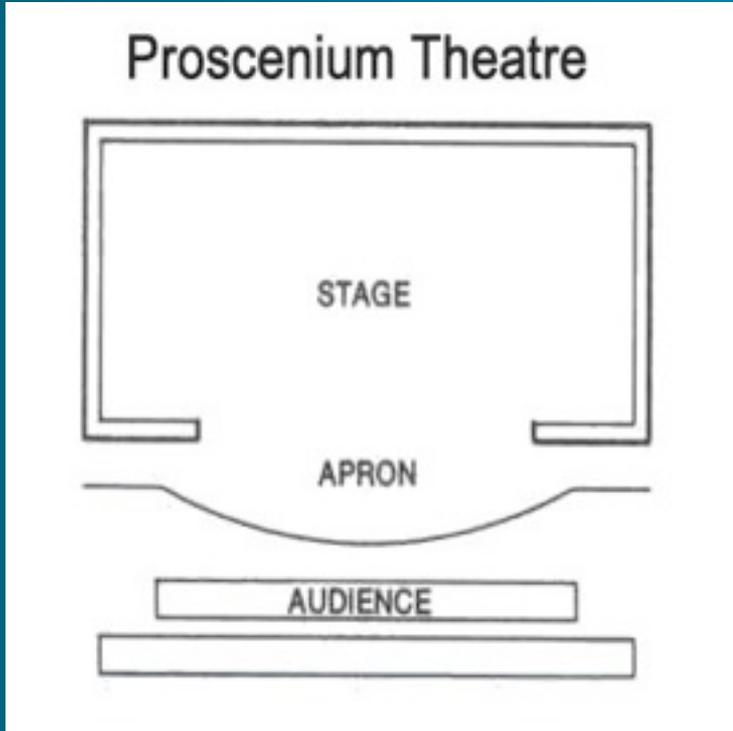
# Typical Proscenium Stage





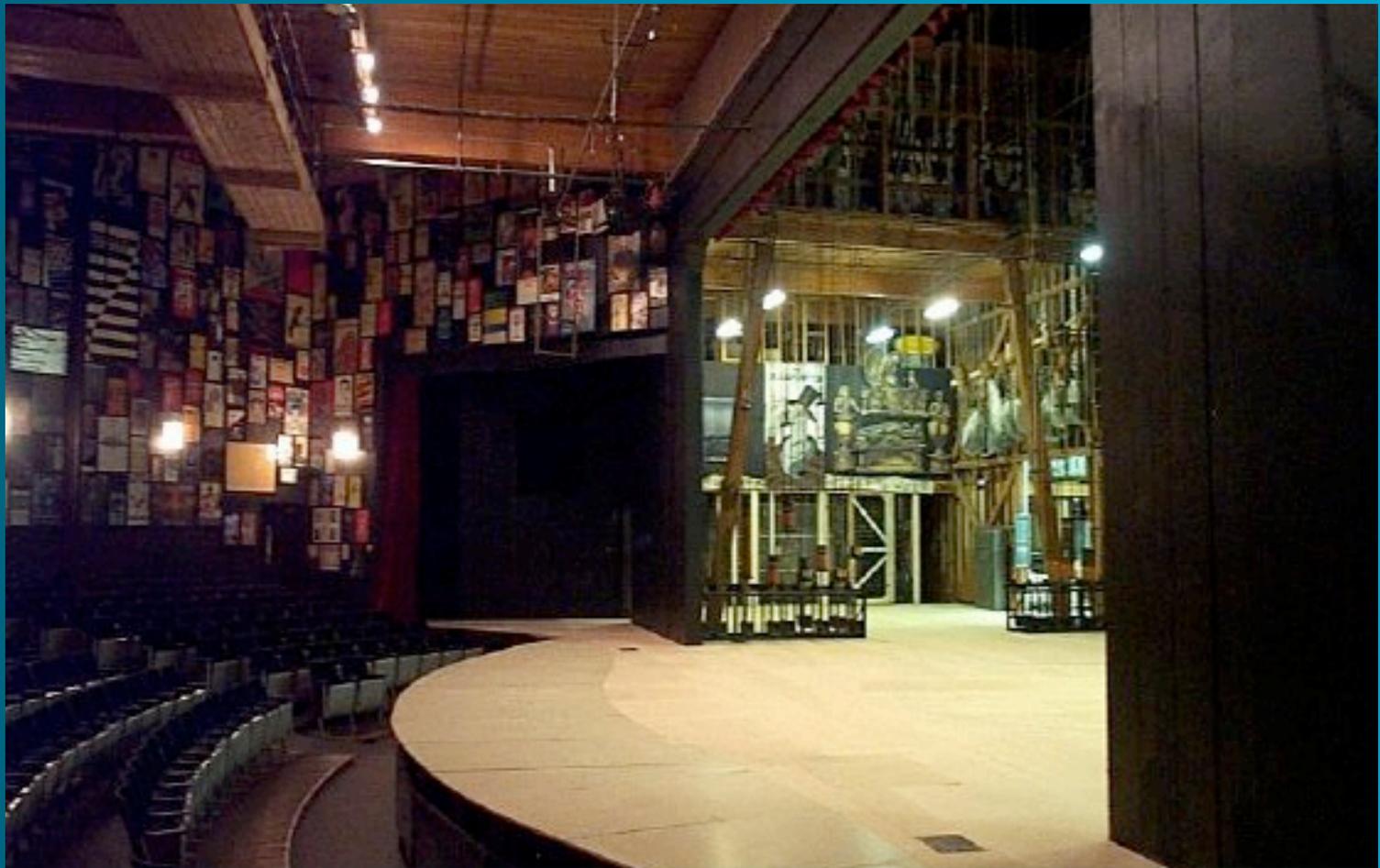
# The Gilded Age







# Apron (Pit Cover)





# Orchestra Pit



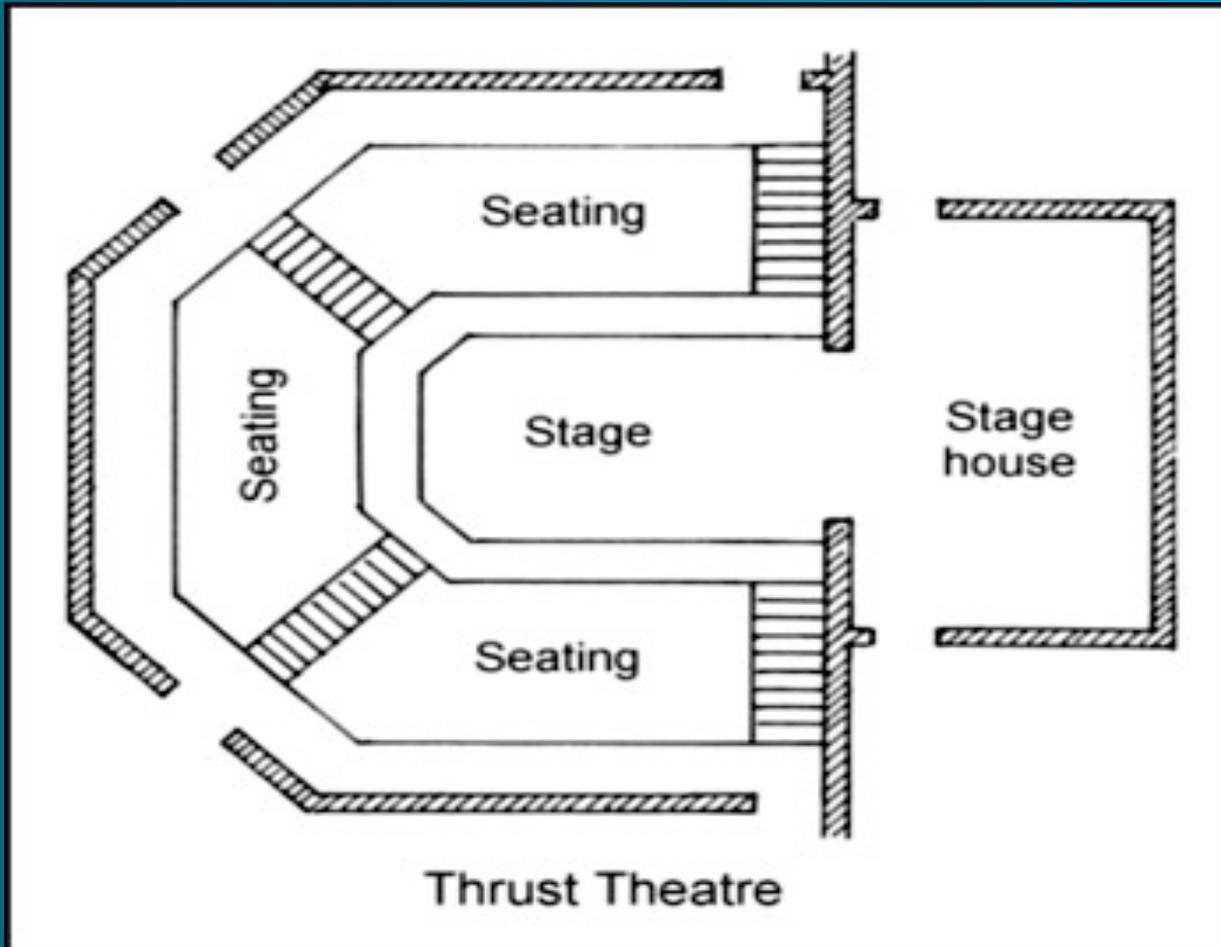


## Thrust Stage

- With a thrust stage, the audience sits on three sides or in a semicircle, surrounding the stage which projects into the middle of the audience.
- The thrust stage makes the play seem more intimate, with the performers acting within arms reach of the audience.
- The Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, MN is a prime example of a thrust stage.



# Thrust Stage Diagram





# Guthrie (interior)





# Guthrie Exterior



# Another Thrust Stage





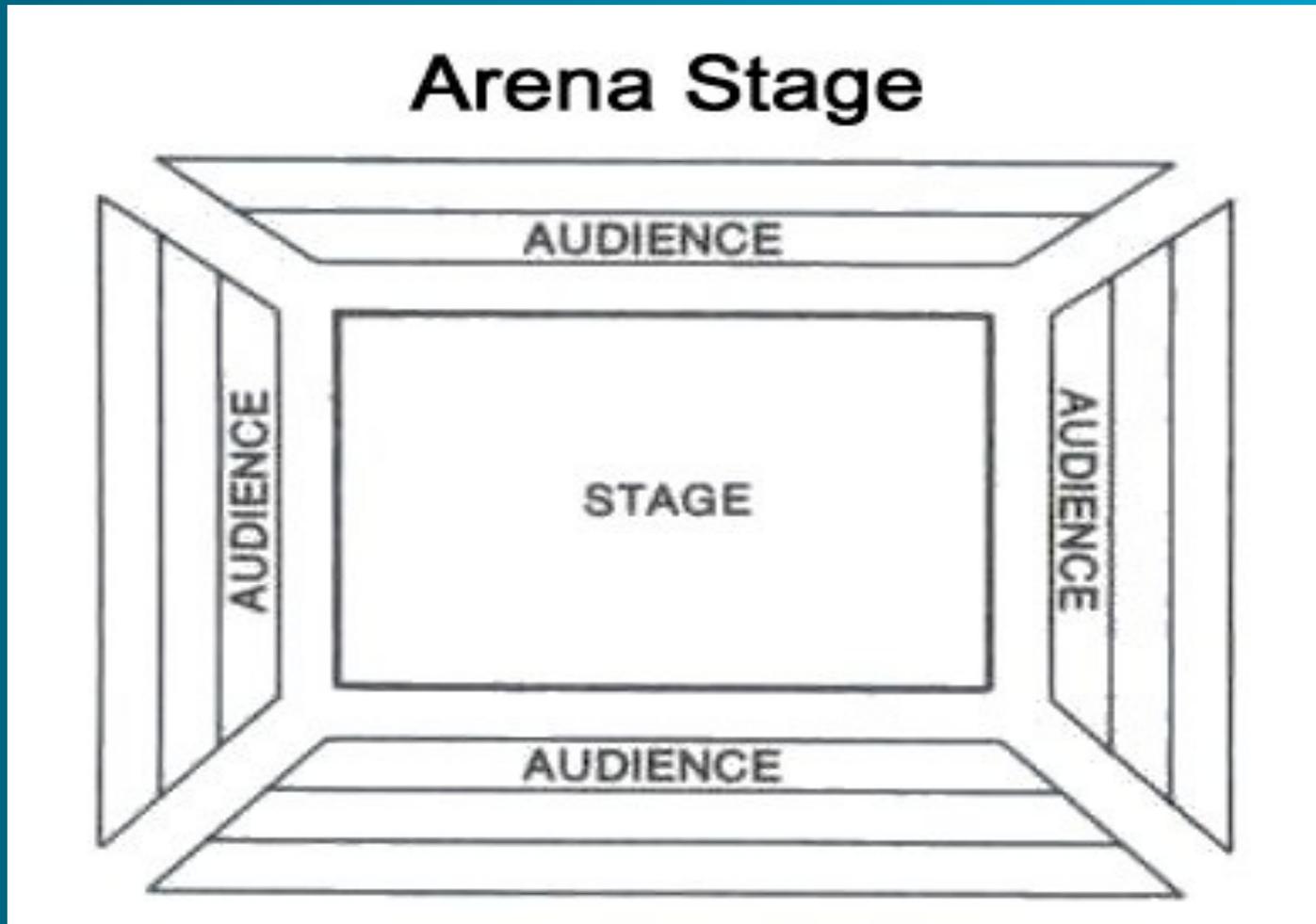
# Theater Spaces

## Arena Stage

- Also known as circle theatre or theatre-in-the-round.
- In an arena stage, the playing space is in the center of the room, with the audience surrounding the stage on all four sides (much like a boxing ring).
- Often either the stage is raised or the audience is raised above the floor. The arena stage is intimate, allowing the audience to literally form a circle around the performers.
- Elaborate and large scenery is both unnecessary and impossible because all sides of the audience must be able to see the performance.

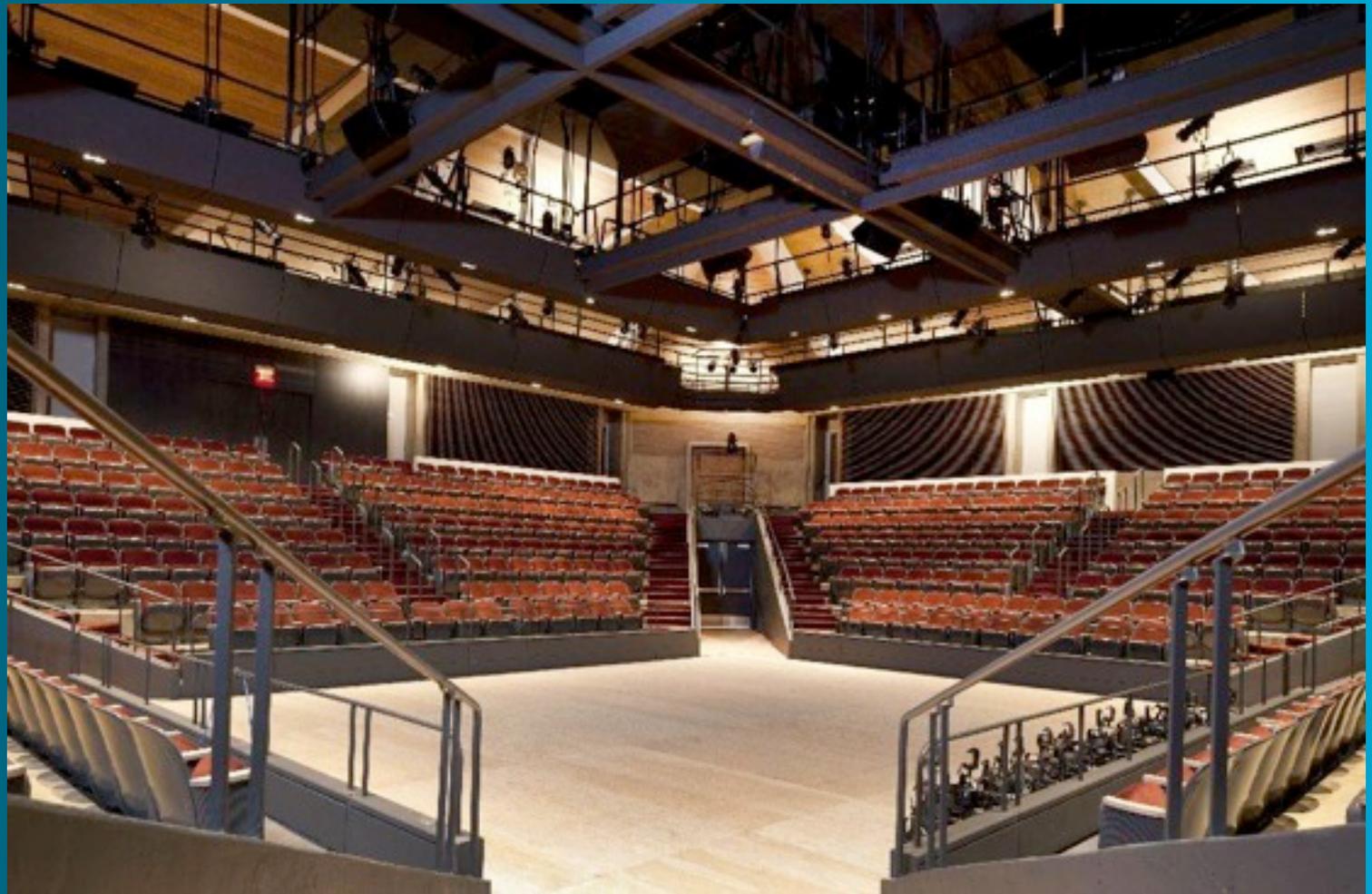


# Arena Diagram





# Arena





# Theater in the Round





# The Colosseum in Rome



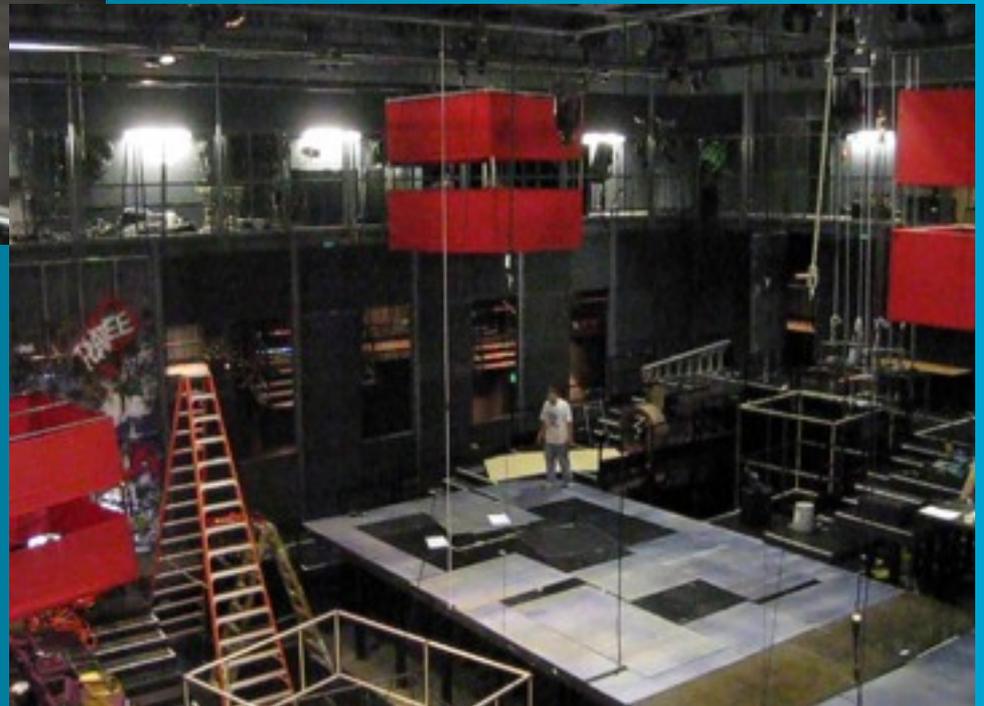


## Created and Found Spaces

- Non-theater buildings
- Adapted Spaces
- Street Theater
- Multifocus environments
- All-purpose (“Black Box”) Spaces



# Black Box Theaters



# Outdoor Shakespeare Festival in Wisconsin

