TECH THEATRE 101

THEATRE STAGE PERFORMANCE SPACES

OBJECTIVE

Students will survey and identify the six performance theatre spaces.

- Proscenium Stage
- Thrust Stage
- Arena Stage
- Created or Found Space
- All purpose or “Black Box”
- Traverse

UTAH CORE STANDARDS

L1.T,CR.6
L.1.T.P.7
L1.T.R.2

INTENDED AUDIENCE

9th - 12th Grade Theatre Students

TIME

45 – 60 minutes

MATERIALS

- Types of Theatre Performance Stages Presentation
- Computer(s)
- Projector and projection area
- Types of Theatres Assessment Handout

OUTLINE
1. **HOOK**
   List as many theatre spaces you can think of in our area.
   i.e: Utah Shakespeare Festival
   - Adams Theatre - Proscenium Theatre
   - Englestad Theatre - Thrust Stage
   - Anes Studio Theatre - Arena Theatre

   Once you listed the theatres can you identify the name/type of theatre space?
   - Proscenium Stage
   - Thrust Stage
   - Arena Stage
   - Created or Found Space
   - All purpose or “Black Box”
   - Traverse

2. **TRANSITION**
   Instruct students they are going to take notes on the six performance spaces in their journals or on paper to turn it at the conclusion of the lesson.

3. **INSTRUCTION**
   Begin Types of Theatre Performance Stages Presentation
   - **Proscenium Stage** - Probably the best-known arrangement is the proscenium-arch or picture-frame stage. The frame or arch separating the stage from the auditorium, through which the action of a play is viewed.
   - **Thrust Stage** - The stage is surrounded on three sides by the audience. Sometimes seating is a semicircle. Entrances and exits are made from the sides and backstage. Spectators surround the action
   - **Arena Stage** - A playing space in the center of a square or circle, with seats for spectators all around it. The audience usually sits on four sides of the stage.
   - **Created or Found Space** - Created or found space takes several forms: use of nontheatre buildings, adaptation of a given space to fit individual productions, use of outdoor settings, street theatre, multifocus environments, and all-purpose spaces.
   - **All purpose or “Black Box”** - The theatre space referred to as a black box is an open, adaptable space that can be configured into a variety of stage-audience arrangements, providing for maximum flexibility and economy.
   - **Traverse** - The audience is on both sides of the acting area.

4. **ACTIVITY**
   After presenting, play an activity game with the students.
   Call out the name of a stage space and have the students quickly form the stage space with their bodies within the classroom space. This should create a fun group interactive activity.
- Proscenium Stage
- Thrust Stage
- Arena Stage
- Created or Found Space
- All purpose or “Black Box”
- Traverse

**ASSESSMENT**

Pass out or provide online the Types of Theatres assessment and have students label the stage spaces.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCE**

Video: Theatre Space: Theatre’s Four Spaces