



# INTRO TO THEATRE

SLIDE 1

# TYPES OF THEATRE SPACES

*justinmbulla*

There are four types of stages/playing spaces.

- 1) Proscenium
- 2) Thrust
- 3) Arena / In The Round
- 4) Black Box

**SLIDE 2**

# TYPES OF THEATRE SPACES

*justinmbulla*

## PROSCENIUM STAGE

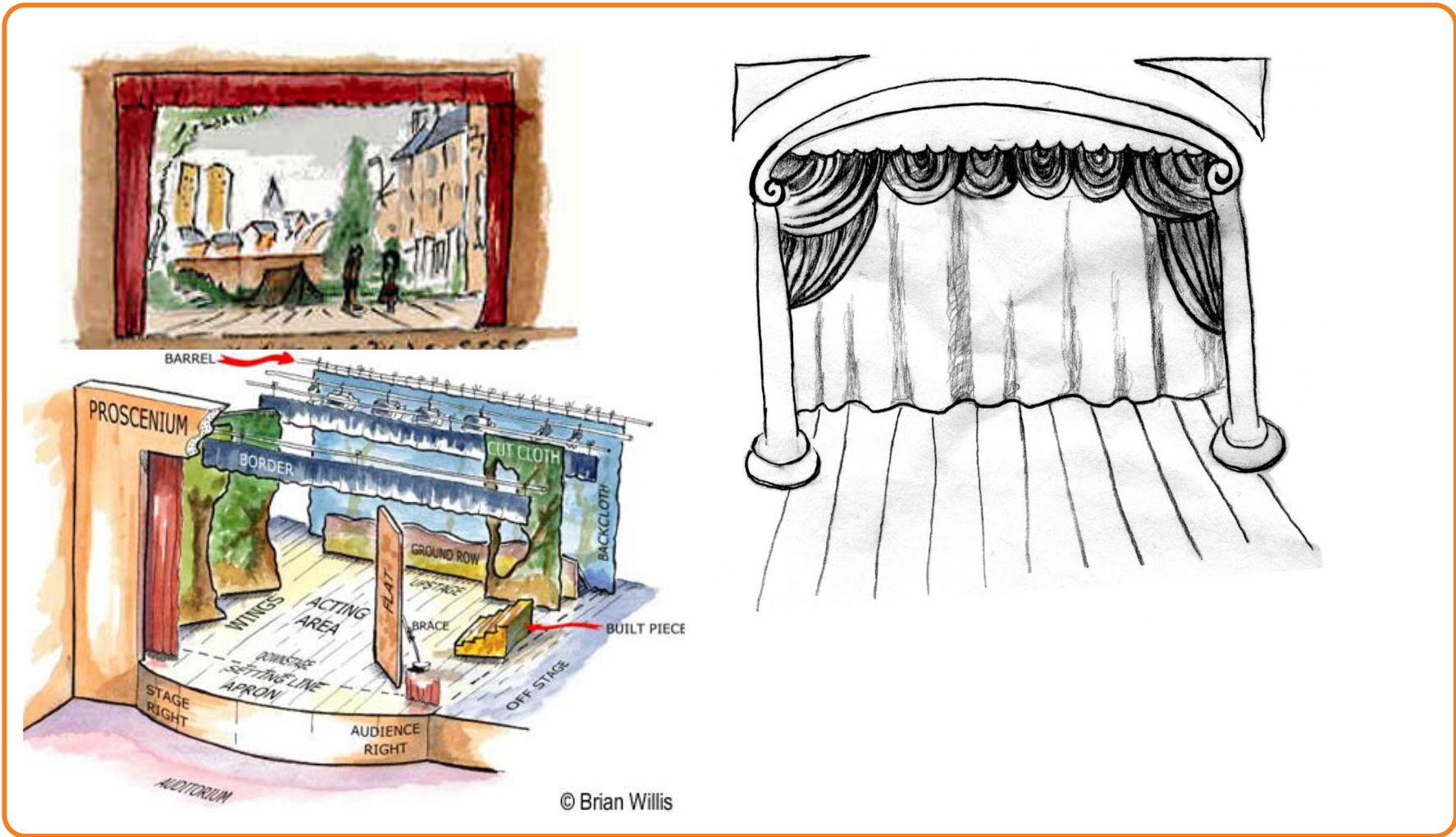
### Attributes of a Proscenium Stage:

- Audience sits on One Side
- There is a proscenium arch
- These types of stages typically have an APRON
- These types of stages usually have a curtain
- Underneath and in front of the apron is sometimes an orchestra pit which is used by musicians during musicals and operas
- Space above some proscenium stages may include a flyloft where curtains, scenery, and battens supporting a variety of lighting instruments may hang
- Many theatrical properties and scenery may be utilized.
- Backdrops, curtains and lighting can be used to greater effect without risk of rigging being visible to the audience.
- Entrances and exits can be made more gracefully

**SLIDE 3**

# TYPES OF THEATRE SPACES

*justinmbulla*



**SLIDE 4**

# TYPES OF THEATRE SPACES

*justinmbulla*



**SLIDE 5**

# TYPES OF THEATRE SPACES

*justinmbulla*



**SLIDE 6**

# TYPES OF THEATRE SPACES

*justinmbulla*



**SLIDE 7**

# TYPES OF THEATRE SPACES

*justinmbulla*

## THRUST STAGE

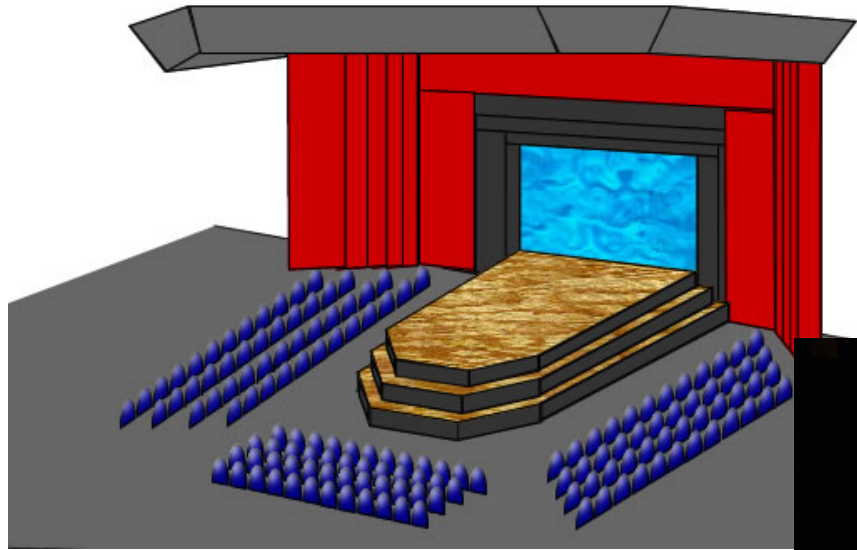
- Also known as a platform stage or open stage
- Extends into the audience on three sides and is connected to the backstage area by its up stage end.
- Many of the works of Shakespeare were first performed on the thrust stage of the Globe Theater and lend themselves to such a stage design in modern times as well
- Entrances onto a thrust are most readily made from backstage, although some theatres provide for performers to enter through the audience using vomitory entrances
- A thrust has the benefit of greater intimacy between performers and the audience than a proscenium, while retaining the utility of a backstage area.
- The audience may view the stage from three or more sides.

SLIDE 8



# TYPES OF THEATRE SPACES

*justinmbulla*

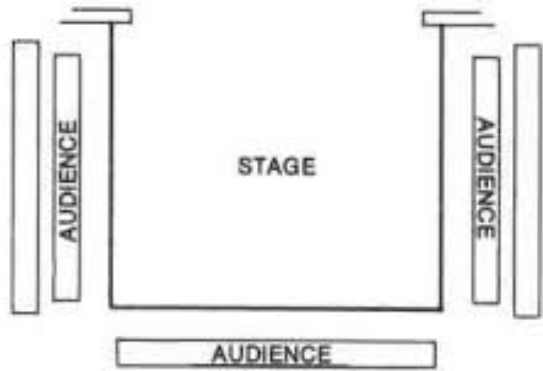


SLIDE 9

# TYPES OF THEATRE SPACES

*justinmbulla*

Thrust Stage



SLIDE 10

# TYPES OF THEATRE SPACES

*justinmbulla*



SLIDE 11

# TYPES OF THEATRE SPACES

*justinmbulla*

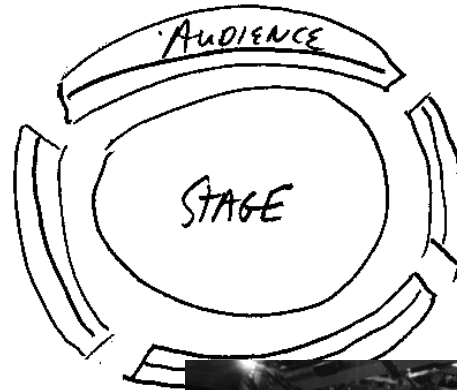
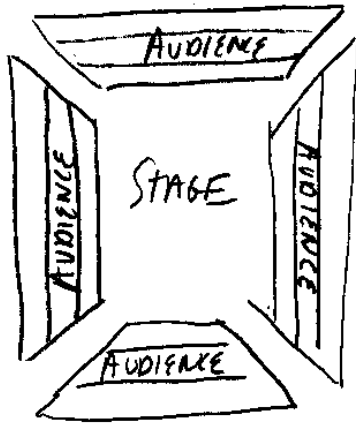
## ARENA / IN THE ROUND

- Any theatre space in which the audience surrounds the stage area.
- In 1947, Margo Jones established America's first professional theatre-in-the-round company.
- Theatre-in-the-round was common in ancient theatre, particularly that of Greece and Rome but was not widely explored again until the latter half of the 20th century;
- Requires no stage curtain, little scenery and allows the audience to sit on four sides of the stage.
- The stage itself in this arrangement is typically round, diamond, or triangular, with actors entering and exiting through the audience from different directions or from below the stage.
- The characteristics lend itself to high-energy productions, and is especially favored by producers of classical theatre.
- Allows for interesting and realistic staging.
- The configuration is also commonly employed when theatrical performances are presented in non-traditional spaces such as restaurants, public areas such as fairs or festivals, or streettheatre

SLIDE 12

# TYPES OF THEATRE SPACES

*justinmbulla*



**SLIDE 13**

# TYPES OF THEATRE SPACES

*justinmbulla*



SLIDE 14

## THE BLACK BOX THEATRE

- Also known as experimental theatre.
- Recent.
- Consisting of a simple, somewhat unadorned performance space, usually a large square room with black walls and a flat floor.
- Black box theaters became popular and widespread particularly in the 1960s and 1970s, during which low-cost experimental theater was being actively practiced as never before.
- The seating is typically composed of loose chairs on platforms, which can be easily moved or removed to allow the entire space to be adapted to the artistic elements of a production.

SLIDE 15

# TYPES OF THEATRE SPACES

*justinmbulla*

Since almost any warehouse or open space in any building can be transformed into a black box, including abandoned cafés and stores, the appeal for nonprofit and low-income artists is high.

Such spaces are easily built and maintained, and are usually home to plays or other performances with very basic technical arrangements, such as limited sets, simple lighting effects, and an intimate focus on the story, writing, and performances rather than technical elements.

The black box is also considered by many to be a place where more "pure" theater can be explored, with the most human and least technical elements being in focus.

Colleges and other theater training programs employ the black box theater because the space is versatile and easy to change

**SLIDE 16**



# TYPES OF THEATRE SPACES

*justinmbulla*



**SLIDE 17**

# TYPES OF THEATRE SPACES

*justinmbulla*



SLIDE 18

# TYPES OF THEATRE SPACES

*justinmbulla*



SLIDE 19