



Vocabulary

script	written words for a play that outline what the actors are going to say and do
plot	the main story of the play
stage directions	the instructions in the script that tell the actor what to do on stage
set	the physical environment created on stage, including built elements (walls, doors, windows, stairs), furniture, plain or painted backdrops and projected images
cues	instructions or signals that tell everyone involved in a play when to do something (e.g. walk on or off the stage, speak or sing, turn the lights on or off, play music)

Roles within the theatre – the 'backstage' jobs

It's not just the actors who make a play happen! Behind the scenes there is a team of people with specific roles. Every 'backstage' job is equally important.

Stage Manager (SM) – oversees everyone during the performance	Costume Designer – designs the costumes
Deputy Stage Manager (DSM) – runs rehearsals and cues the show	Set Designer – designs the set
Assistant Stage Manager (ASM) – handles props and looks after actors	Theatre Director – the primary creative leader of a production
Lighting Director – shapes the look and mood of the production	Producer – takes care of the business and money side of a production
Sound Designer – in charge of music, sound effects, speakers and microphones	Marketing Director – in charge of posters, advertising and making sure people buy tickets

Setting

The setting refers to when and where a play is taking place. This includes the physical set, the lighting, the sound design (music and sound effects) and the costumes.

A stage is a 'blank canvas' for set designers.

Shakespeare never described settings in his scripts, so directors, costume designers and set designers use his plays as an opportunity to be creative. Shakespeare plays can be set in the past, the present or the future.



Technical Cues

(used by the DSM)

LX – lighting
SX – sound
Standby – get ready
Go – Go!

Costumes

Actors usually wore Elizabethan clothes (the fashions of Shakespeare's own time) even when plays were set in other historical periods.

Costumes showed a character's wealth and status. Rich characters wore colourful fabrics, lace, velvet and jewellery.



doublet

ruff

wig