**Set Design and Construction Notes**

**Types of Stages:**

* Proscenium Stage – most common of all types of stages; apron goes beyond the proscenium arch
* Thrust Stage – seating on three sides; juts out into the audience
* Arena Stage – “theatre in the round;” audience is seated entirely around the stage

**Stage Elements:**

* Act Curtain – masks acting area from audience; opened at the beginning of the play; closes between acts
* Apron – acting area between the front edge of the stage and the curtain
* Back wall – opposite proscenium arch; can be used as a background for exterior sets
* Battens – long pipes or poles from which curtains/lights/flats are hung
* Cyclorama (Cyc) – background curtain covering stage back/sides
* Backdrop (drop) – canvas or muslin curtain, usually painted, that forms part of the scenery
* Flies – area above the stage where scenery is hung out of view
* Fly gallery – narrow platform about halfway up the backstage side wall from which the lines for flying scenery are worked
* Gridiron (grid) – framework of beams above the stage that supports riggings for flying scenery
* Leg - one of a pair of drapes hung stage right and left behind the tormentors to mask the backstage
* Proscenium Arch – frame or opening of a proscenium stage through which the audience views the play
* Teaser – heavy curtain or canvas-covered wooden frame hung above the proscenium opening to adjust the height of the opening
* Tormentors – curtain or flat at each side the proscenium opening used to regulate the width of the opening
* Trap – opening in stage floor
* Wings – offstage area to the left and right of the stage

**Set Pieces**

* Flats – most sets are build using these; wooden frames covered by canvas, muslin, or lightweight wood and painted

**Set Types**

* Box set – consists of two or three walls (and sometimes a ceiling); most common set; simple and flexible
* Unit set – made of several pieces or units which can be reaaranged to produce more than one setting ; useful in plays with many scene changes
* Permanent set – remains in place throughout a production; additional elements may be added to imply a scene change, but basic structure always remains the same
* Minimal set (“profile set”) – made of two-fold or three-fold flats that can be used to represent walls or hide and reveal furniture
* Prism set – use prisms or three-sided flats mounted on a wheeled carriage; can be moved/pivoted and individual flats can be inserted between prisms to create scenic elements
* Curtain set – use cyclorama or stage curtain as part of the background; a few additional flats can highlight doors/fire places/etc and set pieces can be arranged as if the curtains were wall and drapes
* \*Bare stage \*Representational

**Setting the mood with color choices in setting/scenery**

* Certain colors arouse specific emotions - the set designer is always aware of this
  + Green – natural, youthful, jealous
  + Yellow – happy, childlike, cowardly, ill
  + Orange – lively, cheerful
  + Red – passionate, angry, aggressive
  + Pink – childlike, romantic, feminine
  + Violet – royal, mystic
  + Blue – tranquil, spiritual, sad
  + White – pure, truthful
  + Black – tragic, deathly
  + Gray – neutral, somber
* \*Note: Costumers/lighting designers use this same color awareness when creating their designs