

HAWAII THEATRE CENTER

[1130 Bethel Street, Honolulu HI 96813](http://www.hawaiitheatre.com)



Dear Teacher,

Going to a live performance is a special experience. Seeing a performance at the Hawaii Theatre is even more of an exciting event. We in Hawaii are lucky to have this beautifully restored, historic treasure, and we are proud to show it to you and your students in the upcoming "*Showtime at the Hawaii Theatre.*"

Part of our mission at the Hawaii Theatre is to build audiences by educating Hawaii's youth. The material in this packet will help you prepare your students for experiencing the Hawaii Theatre. Please take some time to discuss the content with them before the trip.

The material includes a capsulized history of the theatre, tips on theatre etiquette, a list of theatre terms, discussion questions, and follow-up suggestions after the performance. The material is easy to share, and we hope it will be easy for your students to grasp. You may even wish to use the material for short quizzes. These documents are also available on the Hawaii Theatre Center web site at www.hawaiitheatre.com.

Host, Tiny Tadani of OC16, will guide the students through *Showtime at the Hawaii Theatre*. The students will see a silent movie, hear the beautiful theatre organ, be treated to theatre magic, experience a multi-media theatre history presentation, and hear about our friendly Hawaii Theatre ghost — all in this one-hour show!

We are grateful to a generous grant from the James and Abigail Campbell Foundation to fund these special shows *only* for students of the Leeward area.

If we can be of further help, please get in touch with us.

Elaine Evans

Development Director
Hawaii Theatre Center

THEATRE ETIQUETTE

To be a good audience member it's important to know how to act in the theatre. It's quite different from watching television, going to a football game, or even going to the movies. Here are some tips explaining what is expected of audience members.

Before you arrive:

- Purchasing a ticket is required for a live theatre performance and it will be for a specific date and show. Be sure to check your ticket when you buy it, because tickets are not usually refundable or exchangeable.
- Be on time. Often in a live performance, audience members will not be admitted if they arrive late, because they disturb the performance for the actors and other audience members. It's best to arrive about 15 minutes early so that you have time to read the program before the show starts.
- Take care of personal needs (drinks of water, or restroom) because you won't be able to leave your seat until the intermission or until the performance ends. No food or drink is allowed in the theatre. Also, get rid of gum before you enter the theatre.
- Depending on the type of performance you may want to make it special by dressing up for this special event. Opening night of a performance is always a dress-up night, and you may want to wear more formal clothes no matter when you attend. Try dressing up and you'll feel different!



When you arrive:

- An usher will usually greet you and ask for your ticket. With a *general admission ticket*, you get to pick your own seat. If your ticket has a row and seat number, the usher will check the number and show you to your assigned seat. Be sure to sit in the seat you are given so that you don't cause confusion for other audience members.
- Turn off your cell phone or beeper so that it does not disturb the performance or those seated around you. You'll be embarrassed if it goes off in the middle of a tense moment of the show and it will break the mood for everyone.
- At most performances, you will receive a printed program. Be sure to arrive early enough to read the program, so that you will have an idea of what to expect in the show. Also, you will find the names and information about people who are performing and helping to put on the show. Read the *credits* to learn more about the people and the performance. It will make the show more enjoyable and you'll learn things that might surprise you.

During the performance:

- **Listen!** This is important because you will be hearing actors perform *live* for you. It's important that you listen very well so that you don't miss anything and so that you don't disturb others around you.
- **Respond!** This is a live performance before a live audience. Your part is to let the actors know that you appreciate the show. That means laughing at funny parts, cheering when it's called for, applauding when you like something, and perhaps even shrieking when you are scared. Remember to always *respond respectfully* and *appropriately*. These are live actors and their performance will be affected by your reactions.
- **Be quiet when needed!** Often in the Theatre we pretend the audience is not there. That's why we put the audience in the dark. You have to be quiet and play along. Sometimes you need to pretend you are *listening in* but not letting anyone know you are there.
- **Be considerate of those around you!** Don't kick the back of the seat in front of you, and don't talk during the performance, because it might disturb those around you.

After the performance has ended:

- **Applaud!** When the performance is over, it's important to show your appreciation by applauding for the performers. In some performances, you might hear people applaud or cheer during the performance, and sometimes that's OK. But often the audience holds their applause until after the performance has ended. When you do applaud, respond enthusiastically.
- **Stay in your seat for the curtain call!** At the end of the performance there is usually a curtain call. This is when the actors come on stage to receive your appreciation. Don't leave during the curtain call. Wait until it is over and then exit with the rest of the audience.
- **Stand and applaud if you really liked the show!** Actors are thrilled when they receive something called a "Standing Ovation." If you want to pay them the highest praise, you might stand and applaud. It's reserved for the best performances!
- **Hana Hou! Encore!** At some musical performances you might hear audience members shouting "Hana Hou!" or "Encore!" This is another form of high praise and appreciation. The audience is asking the performer to please go on performing. In many cases, an entertainer will sing or play another song, making it a special performance.

HAWAII THEATRE HISTORY

The Hawaii Theatre Center has played an important part in the history of downtown Honolulu for more than 75 years. Here are some of the milestones in the life of this great theatre. Also, you can click [here](#) to read the history section at the Hawaii Theatre Center web.

1921

Breaking Ground!

After ten years of planning, the building of the Hawaii Theatre was started In June. The Hawaii Theatre would replace the Bijou Theatre with a more comfortable facility, according to the owners, Joel Cohen and [John Magoon](#), of Consolidated Amusement. They dreamed of making the Hawaii Theatre their flagship -- their best and most beautiful theatre.



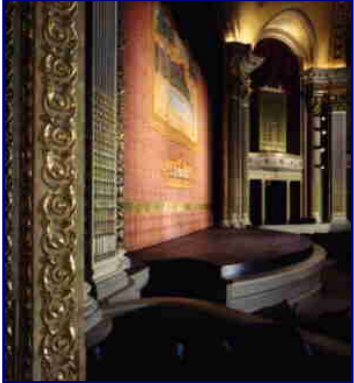
1922

Opening Night!

The Hawaii Theatre opened on September 6, 1922, with much fanfare and celebration. The opening night concert featured a local tenor, [Tandy McKenzie](#), who was a regular performer in Europe, and a local soprano, [Ululani Robertson](#). The Hawaii Theatre orchestra played, and Governor Farrington spoke.

It was an exciting opening night, but not the event that was originally planned. It had been advertised that the opening night program was going to feature the silent film, [The Three Musketeers](#), but the film was on a boat in the ocean on opening night. The concert was quickly pulled together to replace the film. The movie arrived the next day and played for several nights after that.



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| <p>1922 - 1929</p> | <p>Booming Business!</p> <p>The Hawaii Theatre was the place where you could see all kinds of shows and people flocked to downtown to catch the latest entertainment. They could see photoplays (silent movies), <u>vaudeville</u> acts, musical concerts, dance concerts, musical comedies, and dramatic plays.</p> |
| <p>1929</p> | <p>Hawaii Theatre Presents Talkies!</p> <p>The Hawaii Theatre was the first theatre in Honolulu to be equipped to show movies with sound, known as "talkies." The first talkie to be shown at the Hawaii Theatre was Showboat, a musical. This exciting direction in entertainment led to the first renovation of the theatre in 1936. This renovation made the acoustics even better for movies with sound.</p> |
| <p>1930s 1940s 1950s</p> | <p>Downtown Is "The Place" for Decades!</p> <p>The Hawaii Theatre and many theatres in downtown Honolulu were the center of entertainment for the island. About a dozen theatres in the area were successful movie houses, showing continuous popular movies.</p> |
| <p>1960s 1970s</p> | <p>Entertainment Moves to Waikiki!</p> <p>As newer movie houses were built in Waikiki and as hotels sprung up in Waikiki, the audiences moved there for movies. The entertainment center of Honolulu shifted from downtown to Waikiki. The audiences no longer flocked to downtown and the theatre owners lost business. Because they were not making money, the theatres fell into disrepair with crumbling plaster and leaking roofs.</p>  |
| <p>1978</p> | <p>Hawaii Theatre Listed as Important Historical Site!</p> <p>Hawaii Theatre was added to the registers of National (<u>Building #78001021</u>) and State Historic Places (<u>Site #80-14-1332</u>).</p> |

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| <p>1984</p> | <p>Hawaii Theatre Goes Dark!</p> <p>After 62 years of continuous operation, the Hawaii Theatre closed its doors when Consolidated Amusement decided they could no longer afford to keep it open. It looked like the Hawaii Theatre would be torn down as many of the neighboring theatres were.</p> |
| <p>1984</p> | <p>Citizens Come Together to Save the Theatre!</p> <p>A group of citizens formed a non-profit organization to help save the theatre and the theatre organ. Their dream was to restore the theatre to its original beauty and to renovate it to a state-of-the-art facility. They believed it could become a multi-purpose performing arts center for the community once again.</p> |
| <p>1987 - 1994</p> | <p>Fundraising Helps Save the Theatre!</p> <p>The Hawaii State Legislature granted a total of \$12.4 million to help finance the restoration project. Citizens of Honolulu contributed approximately \$10 million more in donations, large and small. In addition volunteers worked in the restoration project giving time, effort and expertise to save the theatre.</p> |
| <p>1990 - 1996</p> | <p>Hawaii Theatre Restored and Renovated from Top to Bottom!</p> <p>Every inch of the interior Hawaii Theatre was restored and renovated through meticulous, pains-taking effort. Art work was restored, gold grill work was refurbished, electrical systems were replaced, all termite-damaged wood structures were removed and new ones were installed (e.g. seats, stage), and the roof was replaced.</p> |
| <p>1996</p> | <p>Hawaii Theatre Center Reopens!</p> <p>The reopening of the Hawaii Theatre took place on April 28, 1996, with much fanfare and celebration. Today it is a state-of-the-art multi-purpose arts center with the look of 1922 -- something that everyone in Hawaii can be proud of!</p> |

LIST OF SOME THEATRE TERMS

To appreciate the theatre, it's a good idea to know some of the terms that are used around the theatre.

(For a detailed list of the technical features of the Hawaii Theatre stage, click [here](#).)

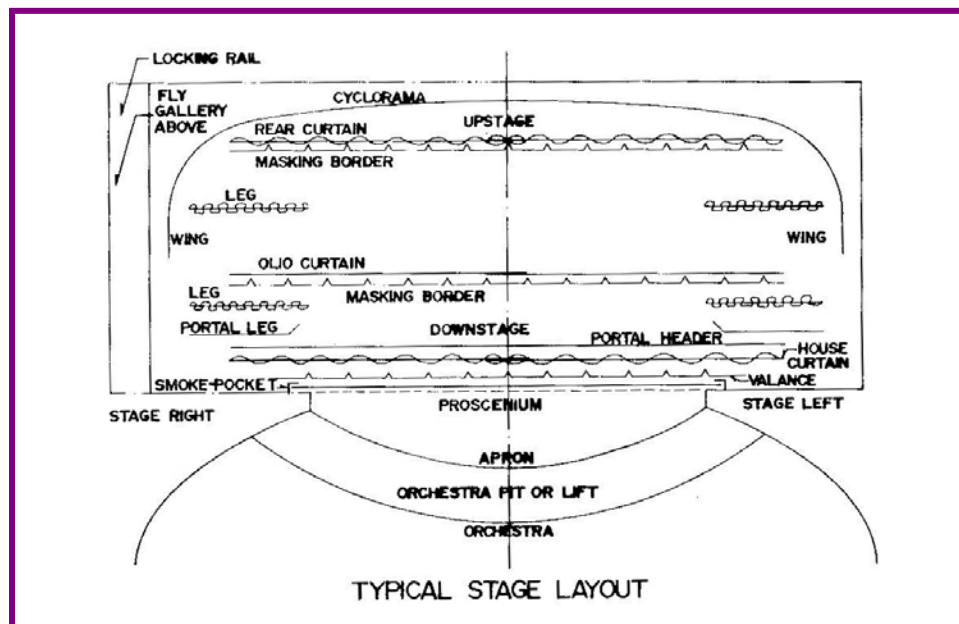
| | | |
|----|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Apron | The part of the stage in front of the proscenium (picture frame around the stage); the forward most portion of the stage. The apron of the Hawaii Theatre is on an elevator that can rise out of the orchestra pit. When it is 10.5 feet below the stage (its lowest position) there is enough room for a full orchestra including the organ and a grand piano. |
| 2 | Backstage | The offstage area that is hidden from the audience. This is where the magic happens. Used for storing scenery, for actors preparing to make entrances, and for stage technicians running the show. |
| 3 | Batten | Horizontal pipe suspended over the stage, from which scenery, lights, and curtains are hung and then can be raised or lowered as needed. |
| 4 | Blocking | The specific staging of a play's movements, ordinarily by the director. "Blocking" refers to the precise indications of where actors are to move, moment by moment, during the performance. Often this is worked out ("blocked out") on paper by the director beforehand. |
| 5 | Border | A piece of flat scenery, often black velour but sometimes a flat, which is placed horizontally above the set, usually to mask the lighting instruments. Often used with side wings, in which combination the scenery system is known as wing and border. |
| 6 | Border Lights | Strips of stage lights used for general illumination, blending and toning. |
| 7 | Call Board | Place near the theatre entrance where announcements of rehearsals, auditions, etc. are posted. Actors sign in on the call board and notes can be left. |
| 8 | Counter-weight System | A system of weights, pulleys, and rigging used to change scenery and move curtains and lights quickly, safely and easily. A small person can lift scenery weighing several hundred pounds using this system. |
| 9 | Downstage | The part of the stage closest to the audience. The term comes from the 1700s, when the stage was not flat, but was at an angle, so that the front part was literally below the back (or upstage) portion. |
| 10 | Flat | Canvas covered wooden frame used for scenery; a traditional piece of stage scenery that can be painted to look like wood, stone or a scene. |

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| 11 | Fly | To raise a piece of scenery (or an actor) out of sight, by a system of ropes and or wires. The area where scenery is stored above the stage suspended on pipes, is often called the "fly space." |
| 12 | Follow Spot | High intensity spotlight used to highlight a person or area; on a stand that makes it movable during performance. |
| 13 | Footlights | Row of colored lights sunk in stage floor at downstage end of stage; usually wired for three colors. |
| 14 | Gelatin (Gel) | Transparent colored medium used in front of stage lights to color the light. |
| 15 | Ghost Light | A single bare light, floor lamp that is left on when the theatre is closed for the night. |
| 16 | Grid | Framework high over the stage from which are supported the curtain and scenery riggings. |
| 17 | House | The audience portion of the theatre building - where you sit when you come to see a performance. (You can click here to see the seating chart for the Hawaii Theatre Center.) Other related terms: Full House: All audience seats are full. Front of House: The jobs in the theatre that have to do with the audience e.g., ushers, house manager, ticket sellers, etc. House Lights: Auditorium lights used before and after the play and during the intermission. House Out: In lighting, a direction to take the lights out in the audience portion of the theatre. Open the House: Admit the audience. |
| 18 | Legs | Side curtains that adjust the width of the stage opening and mask the wing area stage right and stage left. |
| 19 | Loge | The front rows of the mezzanine of the theatre. |
| 20 | Parterre | Elevated side sections on the main floor; there are two -- one on either side of the house in the Hawaii Theatre. |
| 21 | Producer | In America, the person responsible for assembling the ingredients of a play production: financing, staff, theatre, publicity, and management. |
| 22 | Proscenium | Permanent framed opening -- a sort of picture frame -- through which the audience sees the play or entertainment. Click here to see a photograph of the proscenium at the Hawaii Theatre. |
| 23 | Scrim | Loose-weave curtain on batten used for "visions," "flashbacks," or special effects. You can't see through it when lighted from the front; but it becomes transparent when lighted from the back. |
| 24 | Stage Left | A term referring to the area of the stage on the actor's left as he/she faces the audience. |

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| 25 | Stage Right | A term referring to the area of the stage on the actor's right as he/she faces the audience. |
| 26 | Strike | To remove a prop or a piece of scenery; also, to take down the set and props after the show's final performance. |
| 27 | Teaser | Overhead curtain that masks the first row of border lights; regulates the height of the proscenium. |
| 28 | Thespian | Actor, named for the first Greek actor, who was Thespis. |
| 29 | Upstage | (noun) In a proscenium theatre, that part of the stage farthest from the audience; the rear of the stage. (verb) To stand upstage of another actor. Often considered rude, inasmuch as it forces the downstage actor to face upstage (and away from the audience) in order to look at the actor to whom he/she is supposed to be speaking. |
| 30 | Vaudeville | A stage variety show, with singing, dancing, comedy skits, and animal acts; very popular in America from the late 1880s to the 1930s, when it lost out to the competition from movies, radio, and subsequently television. |
| 31 | Wings | In a proscenium theatre, the area offstage to the right or left of the acting area. |

Source:

Theatre, Robert Cohen, Mountain View, California: Mayfield Publishing, Brief Version, Third Edition, 1994.



"SHOWTIME AT THE HAWAII THEATRE" QUESTIONS

These questions can be used to promote discussion with your students.

Before the students visit the Hawaii Theatre:

Etiquette:

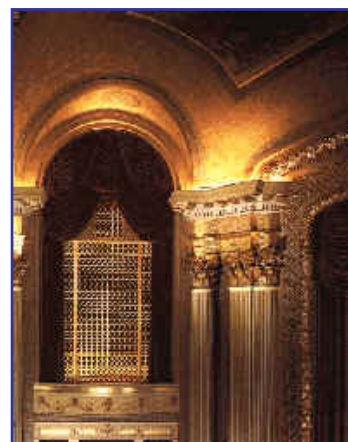
1. Explain three things a good audience member does at a live performance.
2. Explain three things you should not do as an audience member at a live performance.

History:

1. How long did the owners study the Hawaii Theatre project before building? Why do you think it took so long?
2. How many different kinds of entertainment did the Hawaii Theatre have in the early days?
3. When did movies start to be the main attraction at the Hawaii Theatre?
4. Why did the Hawaii Theatre close in 1984?
5. What happened to the Hawaii Theatre between 1984 and 1996?
6. What important event happened in 1996 concerning the Hawaii Theatre? Why was this important?

General History: 10 point quiz

1. When did the Hawaii Theatre open?
2. Where is the Hawaii Theatre located?
3. What was the first movie shown at the Hawaii Theatre?
4. What was the first movie, *with sound*, that was shown at the Hawaii Theatre?
5. Who was the Governor who spoke at opening night of the Hawaii Theatre?
6. After downtown Honolulu being the center for entertainment for many decades, entertainment moved to where?
7. How many years of planning went into the Hawaii Theatre before the building started?
8. On which historic registers is the Hawaii Theatre listed?
9. When did the restored Hawaii Theatre reopen?
10. What is the name of the company that built the Hawaii Theatre?



After the students visit the Hawaii Theatre:

Theatre Organ (Click [here](#) for an article about the Hawaii Theatre's restored organ.)

1. What is the difference between a theatre organ and a church organ?
2. Playing a theatre organ is not as simple as playing a piano. What did you see the organist do that was different from playing a piano.



Movie

1. Which do you think would be more difficult: to be an actor in a silent movie or be an actor in the movies we see today?
2. What are the main differences between silent movies and movies you see today besides the sound and color?

Stage Magic

1. What is the person called who runs all the technical aspects (light, sound, scenery) of the show.
2. Describe some of the lighting effects you saw during "*Showtime at the Hawaii Theatre.*"
3. If you were to have a career in theatre, which of the following jobs would you rather have? Explain your choice.
 - An actor?
 - A stagehand? (working backstage)
 - A costumer?
 - A makeup artist?
 - A stage manager?
 - A set designer?
 - A musician?
 - A director?
 - An usher?
 - A box office ticket agent?
 - Other?

THEATRE TERMS PUZZLE

Search the letter grid below and circle the theatre terms listed. Words may be listed left-to-right, right-to-left, top-down, bottom-up, and diagonally up-or-down.

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <u>APRON</u> | <u>FLAT</u> | <u>HOUSE</u> | <u>STRIKE</u> |
| <u>BACKSTAGE</u> | <u>FOLLOWSPOT</u> | <u>LEGS</u> | <u>THESPIAN</u> |
| <u>BLOCKING</u> | <u>FOOTLIGHTS</u> | <u>LOGE</u> | <u>UPSTAGE</u> |
| <u>BORDER</u> | <u>GEL</u> | <u>PRODUCER</u> | <u>VAUDEVILLE</u> |
| <u>DOWNSTAGE</u> | <u>GRID</u> | <u>PROSCENIUM</u> | <u>WINGS</u> |

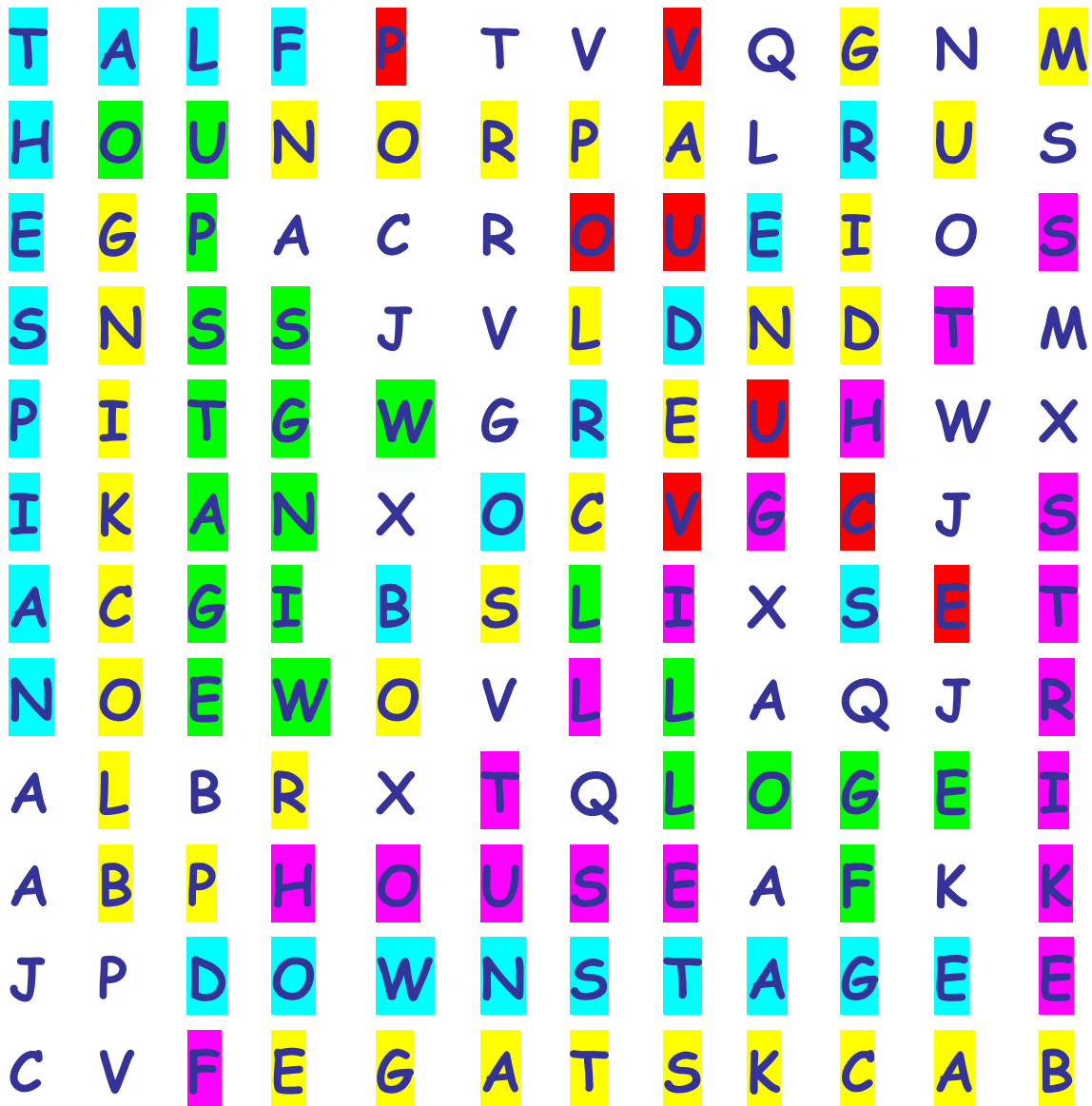
T A L F P T V V Q G N M
H O U N O R P A L R U S
E G P A C R O U E I O S
S N S S J V L D N D T M
P I T G W G R E U H W X
I K A N X O C V G C J S
A C G I B S L I X S E T
N O E W O V L L A Q J R
A L B R X T Q L O G E I
A B P H O U S E A F K K
J P D O W N S T A G E E
C V F E G A T S K C A B

THEATRE TERMS PUZZLE SOLUTION

(Over, Down, Direction [North, South, East, West])

APRON (8,2,W)
BACKSTAGE (12,12,W)
BLOCKING (2,10,N)
BORDER (5,7,NE)
DOWNSTAGE (3,11,E)
FLAT (4,1,W)
FOLLOWSPOT (10,10,NW)
FOOTLIGHTS (3,12,NE)
GEL (9,6,NW)
GRID (10,1,S)
HOUSE (4,10,E)
LEGS (7,4,SE)
LOGE (8,9,E)
PRODUCER (5,1,SE)
PROSCENIUM (3,10,NE)
STRIKE (12,6,S)
THESPIAN (1,1,S)
UPSTAGE (3,2,S)
VAUDEVILLE (8,1,S)
WINGS (4,8,N)

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION DIAGRAM



- APRON (8,2,W)
- BACKSTAGE (12,12,W)
- BLOCKING (2,10,N)
- BORDER (5,7,NE)
- DOWNSTAGE (3,11,E)
- FLAT (4,1,W)
- FOLLOWSPOT (10,10,NW)
- FOOTLIGHTS (3,12,NE)
- GEL (9,6,NW)
- GRID (10,1,S)

- HOUSE (4,10,E)
- LEGS (7,4,SE)
- LOGE (8,9,E)
- PRODUCER (5,1,SE)
- PROSCENIUM (3,10,NE)
- STRIKE (12,6,S)
- THESPIAN (1,1,S)
- UPSTAGE (3,2,S)
- VAUDEVILLE (8,1,S)
- WINGS (4,8,N)