ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE THEATRE

ROLE	RESPONSIBILITY
DIRECTOR	Responsible for the overall creative vision of the show. They have to bring the different elements of the production together to produce a cohesive final production, having meetings with the design team at various stages during a production. They will also tell the performers what to do and help them develop their characters in rehearsals ahead of the final performance.
PERFORMER	They might be an actor, singer or dancer, whose job is to perform within a production. They will usually audition in front of the director to get their part. They begin their work in the rehearsal room with the director, before performing on stage in front of an audience. They must ensure to maintain a high-quality performance each night, during the run of the show.
SET DESIGNER	Responsible for designing what the stage looks like, working closely with the director and the design team to create the world of the show. They may begin by providing the director with a concept, before moving on to technical drawings. Once the design is complete, it is constructed and completed by various departments that specialise in materials such as metal, wood and paint.
COSTUME DESIGNER	Responsible for designing what the actors wear, including hair and make-up for a production, working closely with the design team to ensure that this matches the style of the show. They will often create designs ahead of the production being cast and can then make changes once they have met the performers. They works closely with the wardrobe department, who are responsible for making the outfits and wigs.
LIGHTING DESIGNER	Responsible for designing the lighting within a production, working closely with the director and the design team to create lighting states for atmosphere and mood on stage. They will often have an initial idea about how the lighting will look for a show and will then make adjustments during the rehearsal process. Once their design work is complete, technicians will rig and programme the lights

SOUND DESIGNER	Responsible for designing what the audience will hear within a production, eg sound effects or music, working with the director to create and develop sound that enhances a production. They will also advise the director on whether the production requires microphones and other technical equipment.
PUPPET DESIGNER	Specifically responsible for designing puppets within a production. They must ensure that puppets match the set and costume design and general aesthetic of the show (how it looks). They must also ensure that the puppets work efficiently when operated. They do not make the puppets themselves.
PLAYWRIGHT	The person who is responsible for writing a play. Usually they will have written the play well in advance of rehearsals, but small changes can be made as the show develops. Occasionally, playwrights are present during the entire rehearsal process and they watch the performers work with the director to develop ideas.
UNDERSTUDY	A performer who learns the lines and blocking of a regular performer in a production, so that if the regular performer is ever unable to perform, eg due to illness or injury, they can cover their part. Sometimes, they may take a smaller role within a production, while covering one of the lead roles. When this person goes on to perform a lead role, a performer called a swing will cover their part.
STAGE MANAGER	Responsible for backstage during a production. They usually lead a team and they are involved from before the first rehearsal until after the show has finished. They organise the rehearsal schedule and sit in the rehearsal room making notes that need to be passed onto the design team. During the run of a show, they are responsible for organisational aspects, such as setting props and calling the show.
TECHNICIAN	There are many different types involved in theatre. They may be involved in rigging the lighting, sound equipment and set. They may also operate technical equipment during a show, controlling lighting, sound or other aspects of the set, eg trucks.
FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF	Responsible for the front of house team and all health and safety.