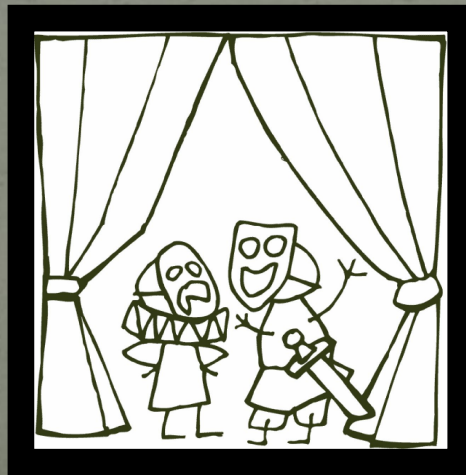


Parts of the Theater



Building

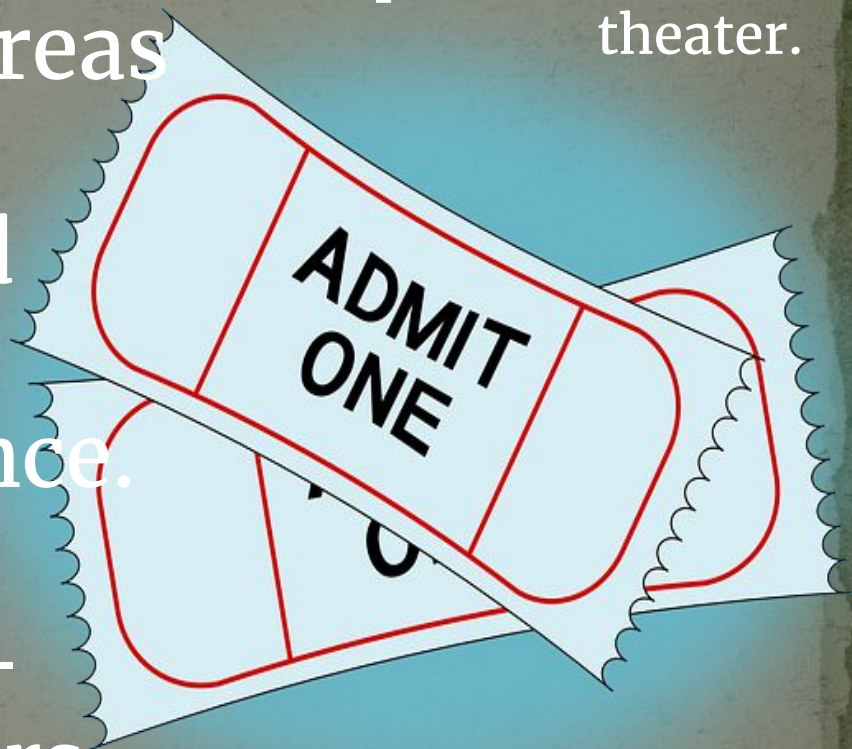
Theaters are the buildings or rooms in which performances take place.



Parts of the Theater

There are three main parts within the theater.

- **House** – the public areas
- **Onstage** – parts used for the performances & visible to the audience.
- **Offstage/Backstage** – parts used by the actors but hidden from the audience.



The House

The theater areas that are used by the public.

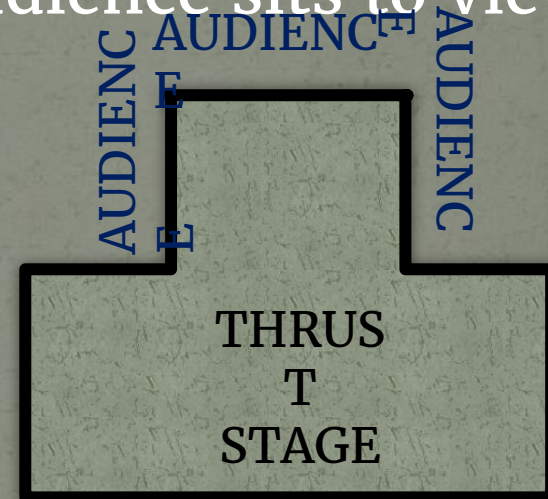
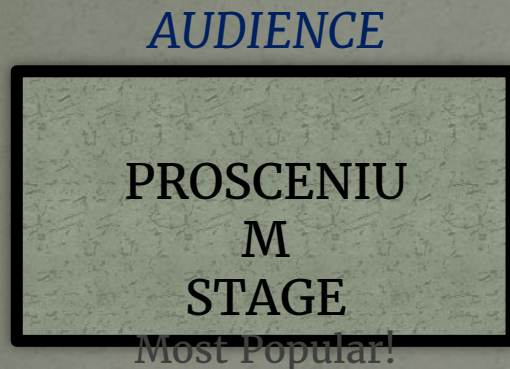
- **Lobby** – gathering & waiting area for the audience before, during intermission, and after performances.
- **House** – where the audience sits to watch performance.
- **Aisles** – walking area for audience to get to seats.
- **Orchestra Pit** – the musicians' playing area



The Stage

The main acting area.
area.

The most popular stage shape is rectangular with the audience facing the acting area, but there are many other versions depending on the shape of the stage platform and where the audience sits to view.



Proscenium Arch

The frame around a proscenium stage. This helps create a “4th wall” feeling for the audience.



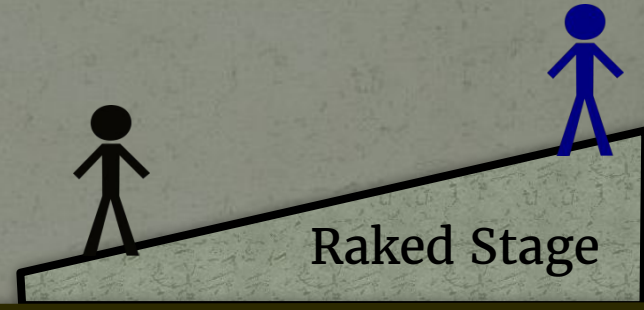
Raked or Not

On a raked stage, the farther you are from the audience, the higher you are. This allows the audience (especially those in back) to see the stage action better. Is your stage raked?

Boy, this is hard to see!



Yeah, not bad!



Wow, this is awesome!



Stage Sections

Directors use certain terms to tell the actors where to move to on stage.

HINT to REMEMBER: Think a raked stage. You go up the hill as you go away from the audience.



UPSTAGE (US) = farthest away from the audience

CENTERSTAGE (CS) = in between

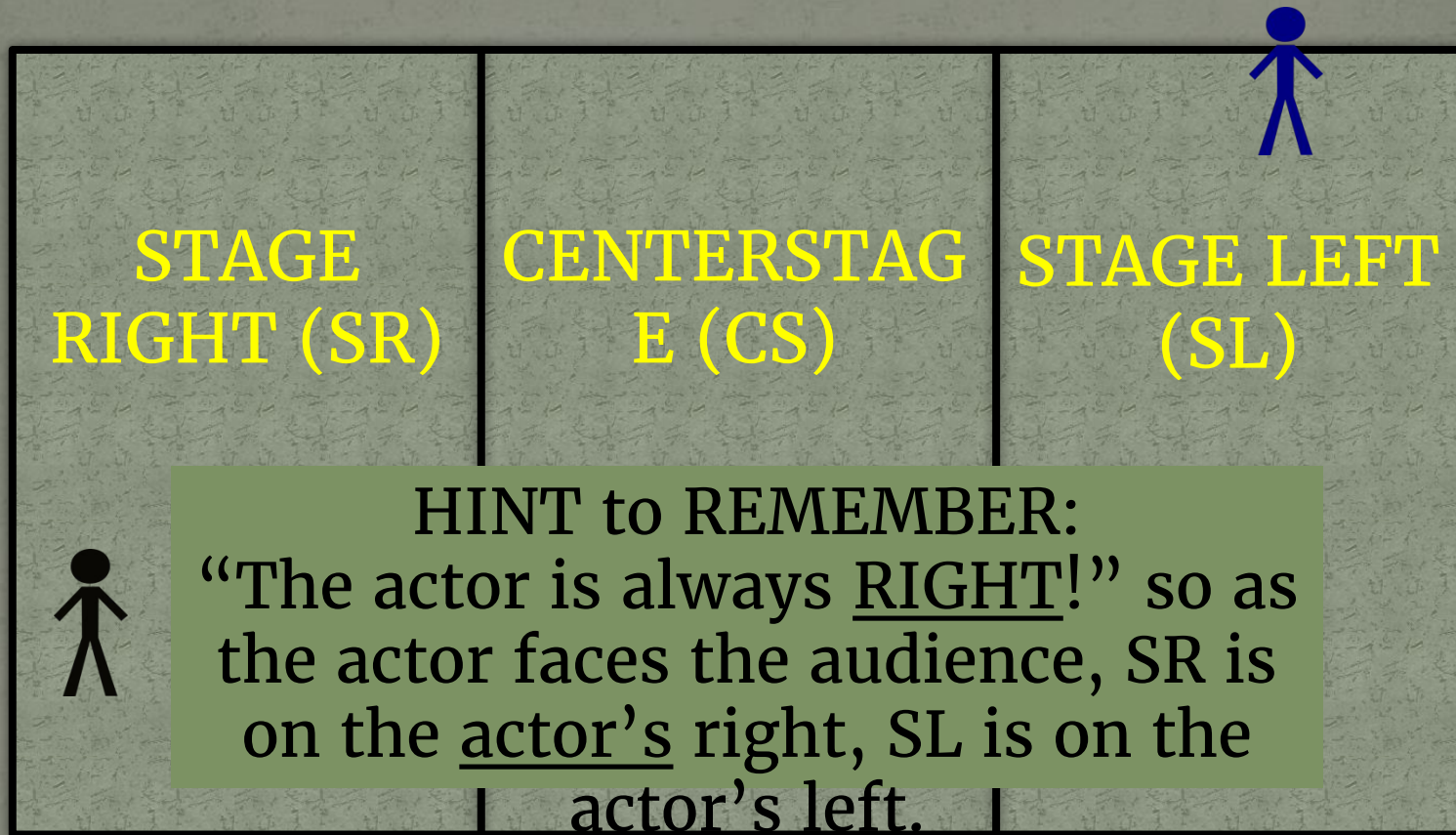


DOWNSTAGE (DS) = closest to the audience

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Stage Sections



Directors use certain terms to tell the actors where to move to on stage.



AUDIENC
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Stage Sections

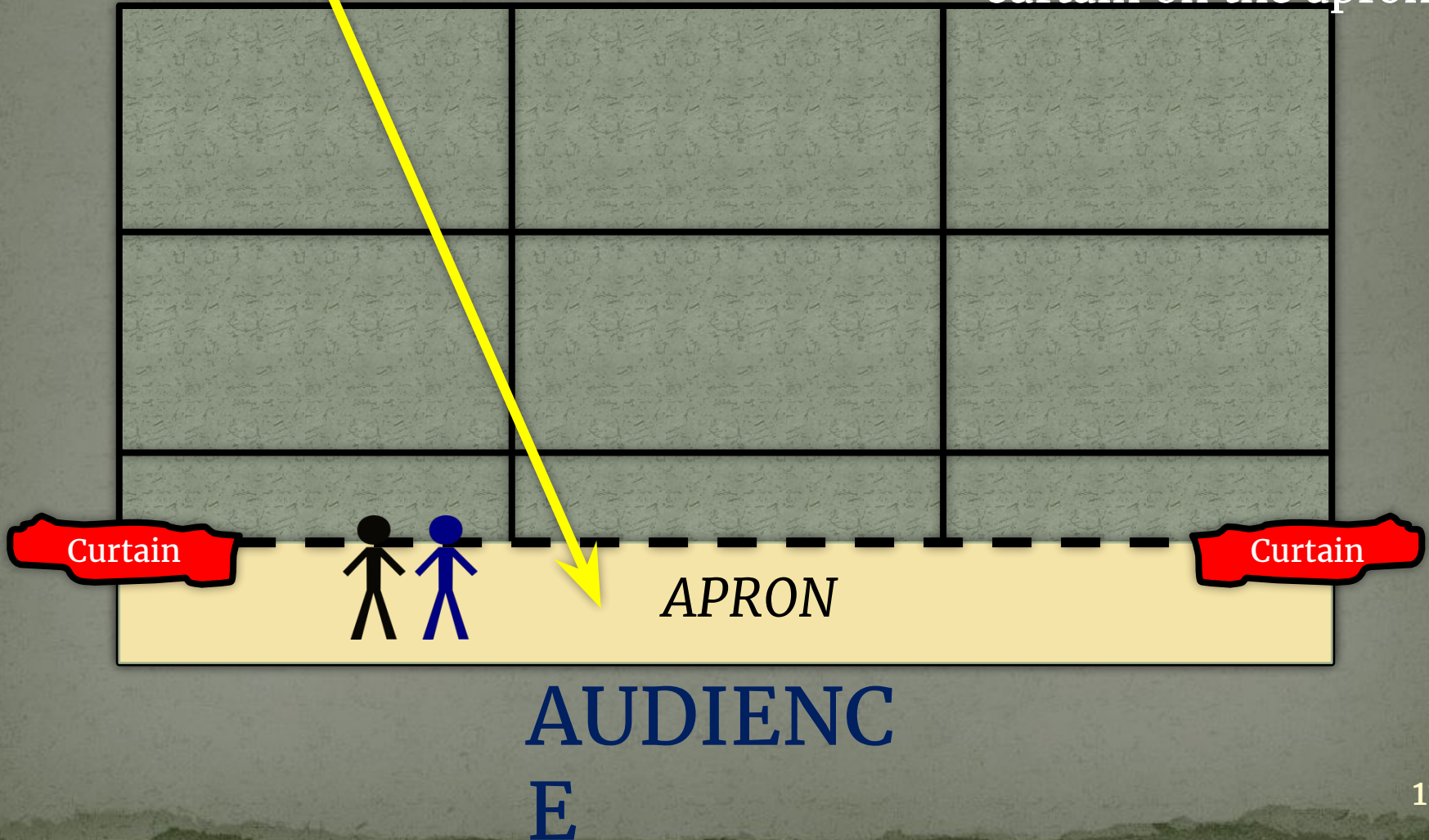
All nine sections of the stage.

UPRIGHT (UR)	UPCENTER (UC)	UPLEFT (UL) 
CENTERRIGHT T (CR) 	CENTERCENTE R (CC)	CENTERLEFT (CL)
DOWNRIGHT (DR)	DOWNCENTER (DC)	DOWNLEFT (DL)

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The Apron

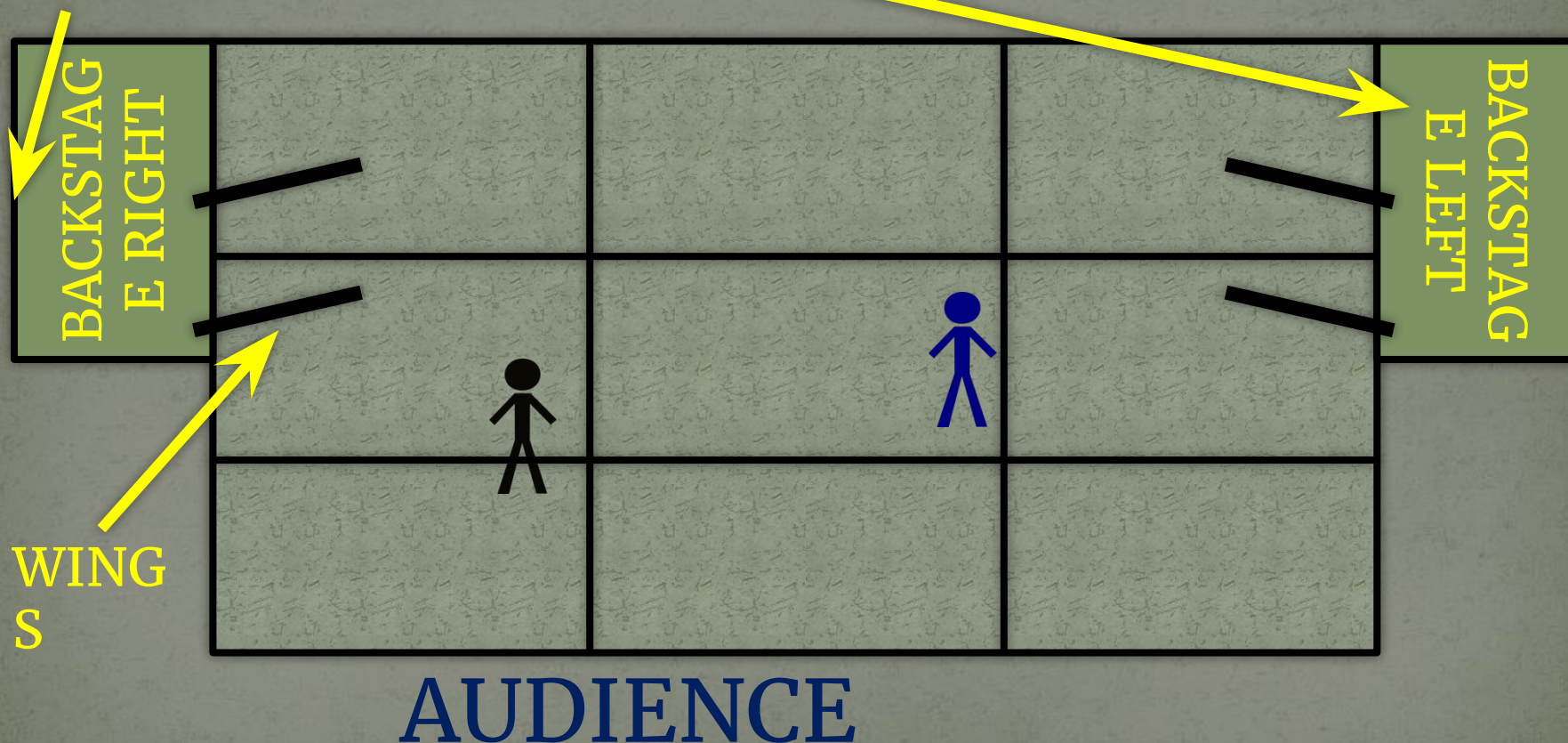
This is the area of the stage (usually in the downstage area) in front of closed curtains. Sometimes a director will have scenes or parts of scenes done in front of a closed curtain on the apron.



Backstage

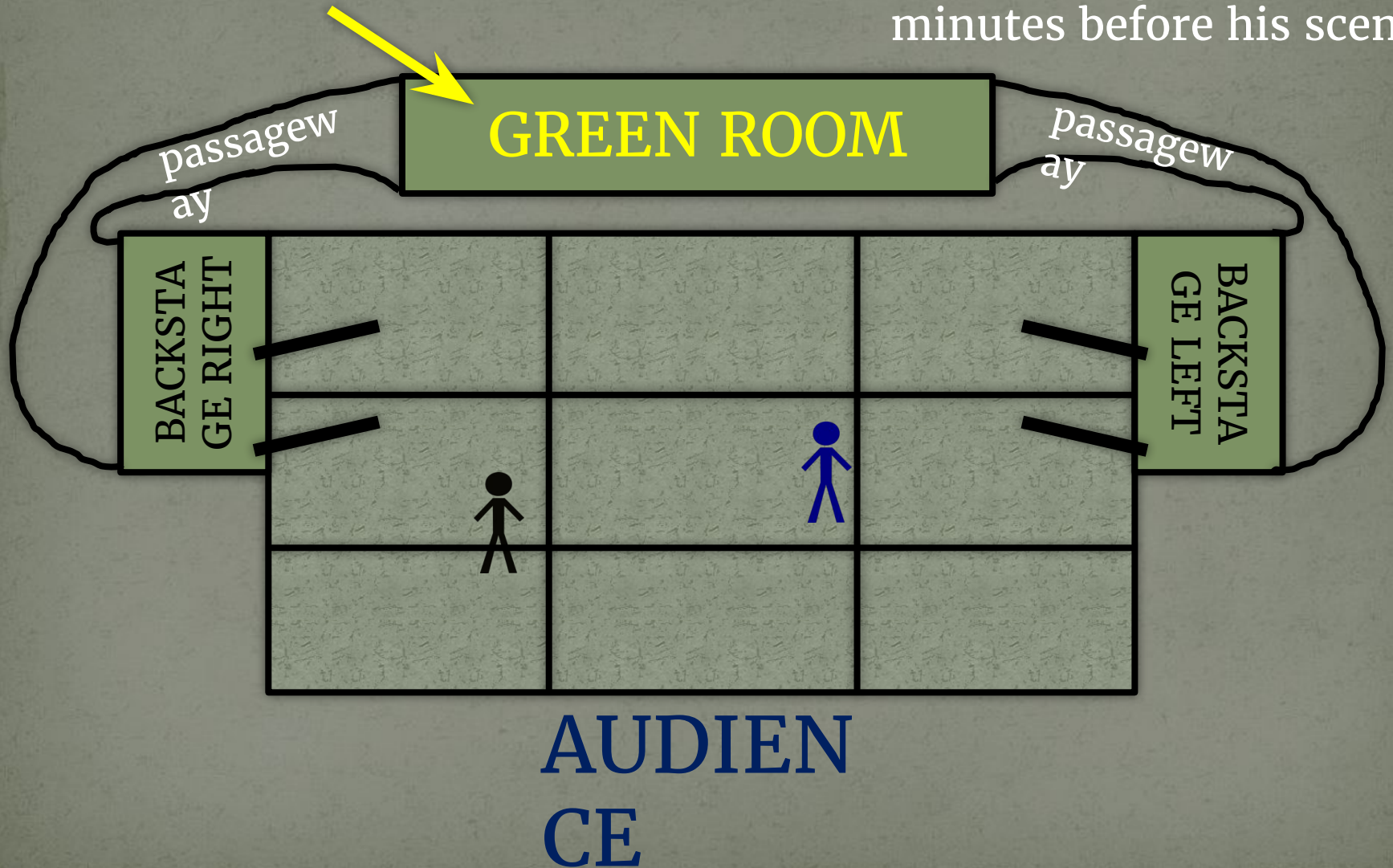
ge

These are the areas offstage (not visible to the audience) that the actor uses to wait in for a few minutes before his scene. Also referred to as “waiting in the wings”. Often there are set partitions called wings that allow the actor to hide from the audience.



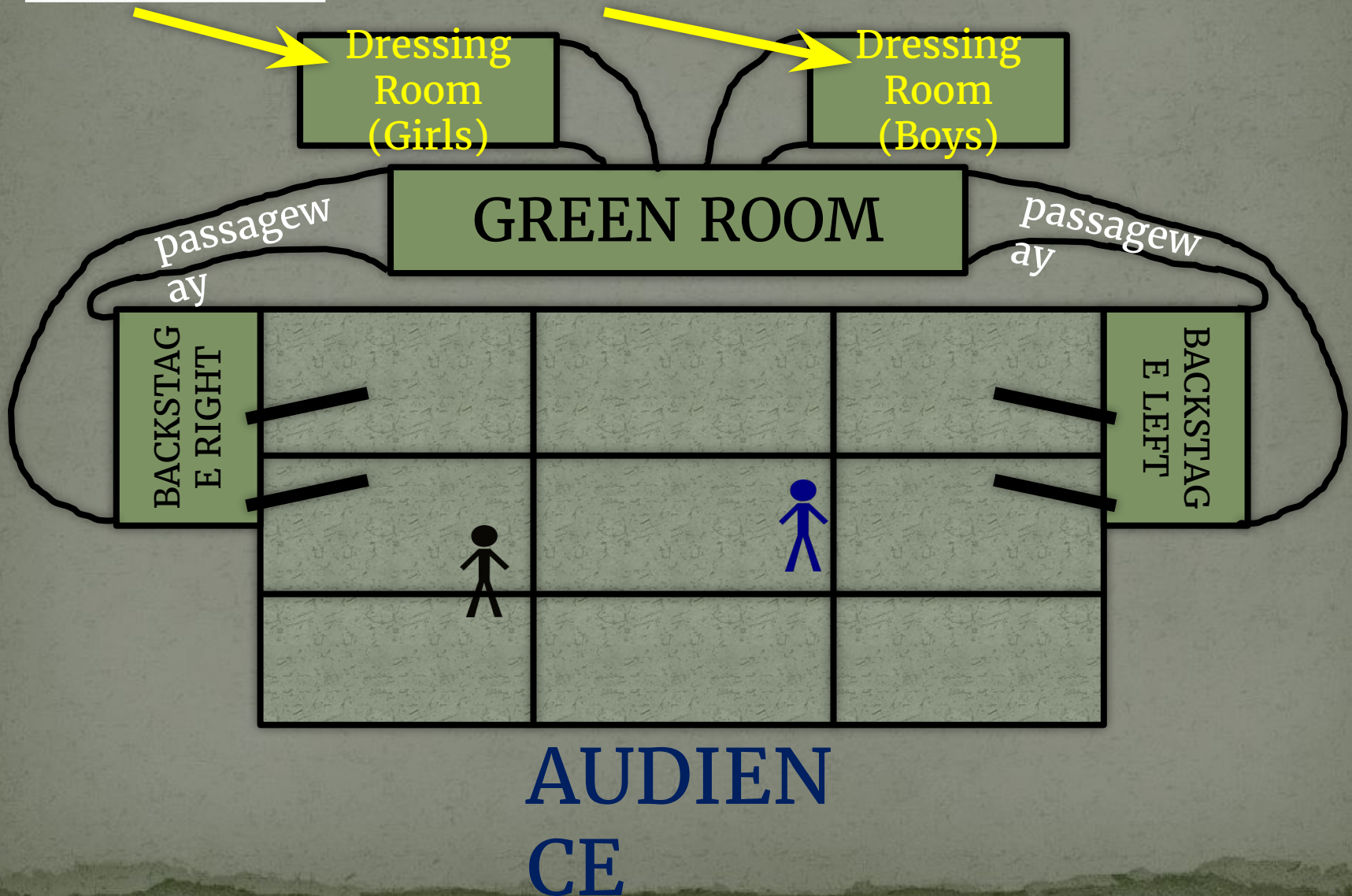
Green Room

This is a waiting area offstage (not visible to the audience) that the actor uses to wait in for longer than a few minutes before his scene.



Dressing Rooms

This is where the actors change costumes. It can also be the make-up area.



Conclusion

Now you can
talk theatre
talk!



Like other specialized places and careers, the theatre has its own special language, such as the terminology of the stage and its related areas. Most people only get to experience theatre as an audience member, but the performers and the other people involved in the show experience much more

Quiz Time



1. A ticket counter would be considered to be in what part of a theater?
2. What shape of stage is the most popular? What could be some reasons why?
3. Describe a raked stage.
4. A stage can be divided into how many sections?
5. As an actor moves farther away from the audience, he is moving _____
(proper stage term).
6. As an actor moves to the audience's left, he is moving to _____ (proper stage term).
7. Why may a director have a scene performed on the apron of the stage?
8. If an actor has more than a few minutes to wait for his entrance, where should he be?