

Meaning Conveyed through Blocking

Blocking is the precise positioning and movement of actors on stage to enhance the clarity and impact of a performance. Decisions about blocking are made by the director with input from actors, choreographers, and other stagehands. Some playwrights, such as Tennessee Williams, provide detailed stage directions that present their view of suitable blocking. But Shakespeare left very few stage directions; and decisions concerning blocking have become an integral part of *new* stagings of his works.

Choose one scene from *Measure for Measure* (or a portion of one scene) and discuss in detail two fundamentally different ways to block the scene. Then discuss with clarity and precision the differences conveyed to the audience by these different stagings.

Two to three double-spaced pages, due as assigned: at the start of class; typed; with a title.

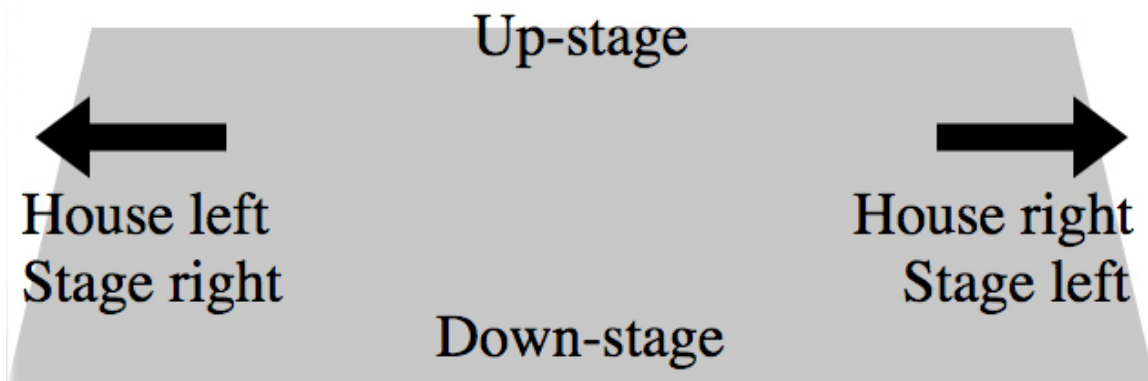


Image from Wikipedia "Blocking (stage)"