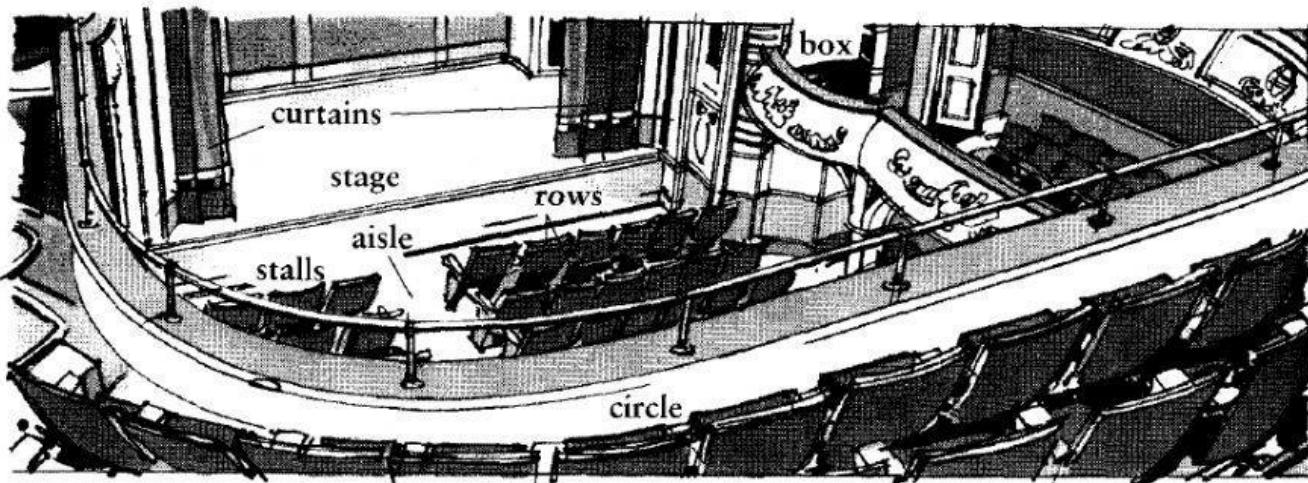


# Cinema and theatre



## Theatre

At the theatre you can see plays, e.g. *Hamlet* by Shakespeare, or musicals, e.g. *Phantom of the Opera* by Andrew Lloyd Webber. In a play the **cast** (= the total number of actors) is usually quite small, but musicals often have a very large cast.

One difference between the theatre and cinema is that you usually **book** (= reserve) tickets in advance (= some time before the actual performance) if you are going to the theatre.

Another difference is that the **audience** (= the people watching the play/musical) clap at the end of the **performance**. This does not usually happen (in Britain) at the end of a film.

## Cinema

Plays are performed on stage, films are **shown on screen**. In your country, films in English are either shown with **subtitles** (= there is a translation across the bottom of the screen), or they are **dubbed** (= the English is removed and replaced by actors speaking in your own language).

Films are **set** (= take place) in many different periods and places, e.g. *Room with a View* is set in the early part of the 20th century; *Blade Runner* is set in the future. And when people talk about films, they often talk about the **director**, e.g. Spielberg, Bertolucci; and the **stars**, the most important actors and actresses, e.g. Tom Hanks and Jodie Foster.

## Types of film

**western:** a film about America in the 19th century; often with cowboys and Indians

**war film:** e.g. *Born on the 4th of July*

**horror film:** e.g. *Dracula*; *Frankenstein*

**science fiction film:** about the future

**action film:** e.g. *Indiana Jones*

**comedy:** a funny film that makes you laugh

**thriller:** an exciting story often about a crime

## Describing plays and films

Journalists write articles in which they give their opinion of new films and plays. They are called **critics**, and their articles are called **reviews**. These are some words they may use:

**moving:** producing strong emotions, often of sadness; a positive word

**violent:** includes lots of scenes with fighting and death

**powerful:** has a big effect on our emotions

**gripping:** exciting and very interesting

**good fun:** used to describe a film that may not be very serious or important but is enjoyable

**slow:** boring

**Read the information above ↑. Learn the vocabulary and do the exercise ↓**

**What word or phrase is being defined?**

- 1 A play or film in which part of the story is sung to music.
- 2 The total number of actors in a play or film.
- 3 The people who watch a play at the theatre.
- 4 What these people do with their hands at the end of a play.
- 5 The person who makes a film.
- 6 Journalists who write articles about films and plays.
- 7 The name of the articles they write.
- 8 The translation of the story of a film across the bottom of the screen.
- 9 To reserve tickets before the performance.
- 10 The most important actors or actresses in a film.