**Roles in Theatre**

It is a production or a show, not a play or musical (terminology)

In a world where theatre has unlimited money, these are the roles (not HS theatre):

First person to be involved is the producer.

Next person is the director. The director is at the top of the pyramid, provided the producer trusts the vision.

Producer and director discuss their vision for the show.

* Where will we set it? Somewhere different form the original? (Shakespeare is open source, so you can mess with it). You cannot change plays where you need the rights (High School Musical must be set at East High).
* What atmosphere and tone? “I want Romeo and Juliet to be set on a Native American reservation. I want the colors to be very earthy and the lighting to represent the culture.

Next is the design team:

* Set designer talks with the director about the vision
* Lighting designer discusses the sorts of light effects we would need to set Romeo and Juliet in space, for example. Oz would have a blinding Emerald City and a dull Kansas.
* Sound designer: music, sound effects. To make the sounds needed: foley is the sound the sound designer collects (crushing leaves, laser blasts, etc.)
  + In a musical, the sound designer must control mics as people move on and off stage, the level of the music, the sound from the orchestra
* Costume designer: like any good designer, they learn how to trick the audience, psychologically bringing the audience into the vision. Characters may wear colors that symbolize their personality.
* Makeup designer: in charge of makeup and hair/wigs.
* Props (properties) master: professional will often build props from scratch, painting, wiring, etc. He will make it so that it ‘reads,’ meaning the audience understands what it is no matter where they sit in the theater.
* All designers will have crew members. The crew will run it, while the designer designs it

Stage Manager:

* Stage manager is the main artery of the production. They do the heavy lifting for the director. (On Broadway, you will have an assistant director, then the stage manager)
* When a show opens on stage, the director may come to the first production, but generally they are then done. It is now the stage manager’s show, keeping the director’s vision intact when he or she is not there.
* They keep track of OSHA rules, equity code, union rules, etc.
* Stage Manager keeps track of everything, writing everything down. They have a book that is the bible of the show. It has the script in it and blocking charts where they keep track of all the blocking directions the director gives. THEY WRITE DOWN EVERYTHING!
* Usually, you will have two assistant stage managers one left and one right
* Stage Manager will “call” the show. Make sure the cues are hit at the right places (sound and light cues).

Technical Director oversees every single designer and their crew.

* This is a lateral position equal to the stage manager.
* They usually know the tech crew intimately and have a connection with the building. They sometimes live at the place where they work.
* They are experts at acclimating to any situation or technical issues.

Prompter is in the textbook, but is not a real job. This may be a bonus question. This job was phased out, but they used to prompt actors with cues. “Line!”