

# How to Stage a Scene or Duet

1) Choose the Scene / Song & Exchange Contact Info with your partner

2) Read / Sing the Scene (and Lyrics) outloud

3) Establish your Character's Objectives

(an objective is what the character WANTS)

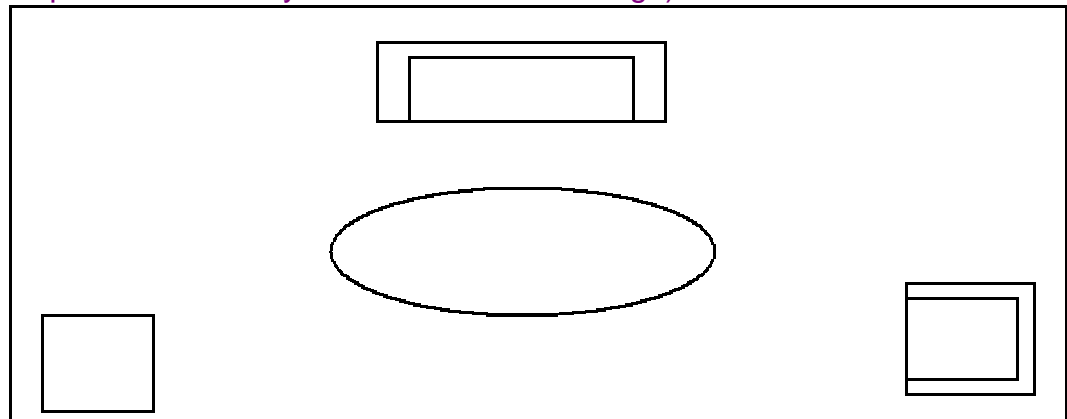
to complete this step, you must submit an objective statement to Mr. B

Decide how you want to affect the person you are talking to) with your lines. Do you want to charm them, offend them, destroy them, etc.? This is a personal objective and may change as you go through the rehearsal process and discover new things about the piece.

Always make a strong choice about your character. In other words, I "kind of" love the other person is a weak choice. I'm crazy about the other person is a strong choice. Ambiguity does not work on stage.

4) Create a Ground Plan

(a ground plan is a bird's eye view of what is on stage)



5) Block the Scene / Song

In Victorian times, directors would plan out the placement of stage actors in advance, using small blocks of wood on toy stages. Movement on stage is still called "blocking." Most scripts describe some of the blocking used on Broadway, which you can follow to whatever extent you find useful. Some original blocking is crucial to the effectiveness of a scene, so give those printed stage directions serious consideration but know that they don't always work.)

Establish your movement – notate your blocking in your script

CHARLEY: Hi Linus. *XDL*

LINUS: Hi Charley Brown.

CHARLEY: Can I have your blanket? *reach twd L*

LINUS: No. *XDR*

Figure out where you are and where you have to go during a scene. Your aim in blocking is to create movement that will help the audience to understand the story. Each three dimensional "stage picture" you create must help tell the story. Audiences hate visual monotony so never let two people sit at the same time. Keep the stage picture alive with meaningful movement and different physical arrangements of characters.

## **6) Rehearse & Memorize the Scene / Song**

Learn your lines. Practice makes perfect, so think of learning your lines as studying for a test that if you fail everyone knows and you can not take it again. Use a highlighter to make your lines jump off the page. When studying, say the words out loud. Have a friend run your lines with you when you're not in rehearsal.

Singing memorization is just as important as dialogue. Lyrics can be tricky. Study and go over them as much as possible. Sing in the mirror so you can see what you look like while singing, this helps correct any mistakes you may or may not have made.

Dancing is hard. You must have the patience and time to work at it everyday. Take your time and learn the steps the right way first so you do not have to go back and slow everyone else down.

## **7) 1st Up: Perform the Scene / Song for the first time**

## **8) Listen to Feedback / Notes**

## **9) Rehearse & Polish Scene / Song**

## **10) 2nd Up: Perform Scene / Song for the final time & earn a grade!**

# **Tips**

- If you mess up a line or a move keep going.  
When you stop or freeze up is when the audience notices something is not right.  
The audience doesn't know your lines and will only know you've messed up if you "tell" them.
- Speak loud and clear so that the people in the last row of the theatre can hear you.
- If your heart is not in it, you shouldn't be either.
- The only way to look like a fool is worrying about it.
- "Love the art in yourself, not yourself in the art".
- Keep a positive attitude but do not be over-confident.
- Have lots and lots of energy.
- Own your character.
- Own your lines.
- Never underestimate your partner but also never rely on them to do your work for you.