



# Online High School Technical Theater Course

## Meet the Team - Glossary

**Production Manager** - Works with the management team, technical crew and other designers to make sure the technical elements of a show are completed safely, on time and on budget.

**Resident Companies** – External arts organizations that have a strategic partnership with a venue. They often are given scheduling priority, and in some cases receive discounted services to call the venue home.

**Technical Director** - Responsible for operating, protecting, and maintaining the theater's technical assets, while also managing and overseeing the different technical departments, including sets and carpentry, lighting, costumes, props, sound, and effects. They often serve a dual role, acting sometimes as technical experts and advisors, and others as project coordinators.

**Head Electrician** - Responsible for implementing the lighting design for a production drawn up by the lighting designer. This involves overseeing the preparation, hanging, connection and focusing of stage lighting fixtures as well as managing all other electricians.

**Lighting Designer** - Works with the director, choreographer, set designer, costume designer, and sound designer to create the lighting, atmosphere, and time of day for the production in response to the text, while keeping in mind issues of visibility, safety, and cost.

**A/V Companies** - Audiovisual (AV) means possessing both a sound and a visual component, films, television programs, church services and live theater productions. Local companies work corporate shows in arenas, convention centers, and hotels.

**Sound Designer** - Responsible for specifying, acquiring or creating auditory elements using audio production techniques and tools. They craft everything an audience hears during a theatrical production, from sound effects to the actors' voices.

**Off-Broadway** - An off-Broadway theater is any professional theater venue in

Manhattan in New York City with a seating capacity between 100 and 499, inclusive. These theaters are smaller than Broadway theaters, but larger than off-off-Broadway theaters, which seat fewer than 100.

**Properties (Props)** - Objects used on stage by actors during a performance. In practical terms, a prop is considered to be anything movable or portable on a stage or a set, distinct from the actors, scenery, costumes, and electrical equipment. They add a sense of ambiance or character to the scene in addition to the clothing and the rest of the set.

**Mezzanine** - First or lowest seated balcony in the theater.

**Grid (Gridiron)** - A floor of structural steel channel or grating which extends over the upper portion of the stage house. Often the highest floor in a theater.

**Catwalk** - An elevated service platform from which many of the technical functions of a theater, such as lighting and sound, may be manipulated.

**Mix Position** - A location within the auditorium, often temporary, from which a sound mixing console is operated during the performance.

**Mixing or Live sound mixing** - The process of electrically blending together multiple sound sources at a live event using a mixing console. Sounds used include those from instruments, voices, and pre-recorded material. Individual sources may be equalized and routed to effect processors to ultimately be amplified and reproduced via loudspeakers. The live sound engineer balances the various audio sources in a way that best suits the needs of the event.

**Load Out** - Moving an entire production out of the venue, and back into storage or into transport. Usually preceded by the **strike** where the set is disassembled back into component parts.

**P.A. (Public Address) System** - An electronic system comprised of microphones, amplifiers, loudspeakers, and related equipment. It increases the apparent volume (loudness) of a human voice, musical instrument, or other acoustic sound source or recorded sound or music.

**Light plot** - A document like an architectural blueprint used specifically by theatrical lighting designers to illustrate and communicate the lighting design to the director, other designers and finally the Master Electrician and electricians crew.