



Stage Setting: Use of Levels

Subject: Visual and Performing Arts- Drama
Level: Form Three



Let us examine **SPACE**

What is your bedroom or the space where you sleep like?

Is there enough room to walk around?

Which items are next to each other?

Make a list of five **large** items in your bedroom.

**In Theatre, the Set Designer must
consider the use of different
heights or 'LEVELS'.**

**He or she must decide which levels will
work best given the needs of the play.**



What is used to create Levels in Set Design?

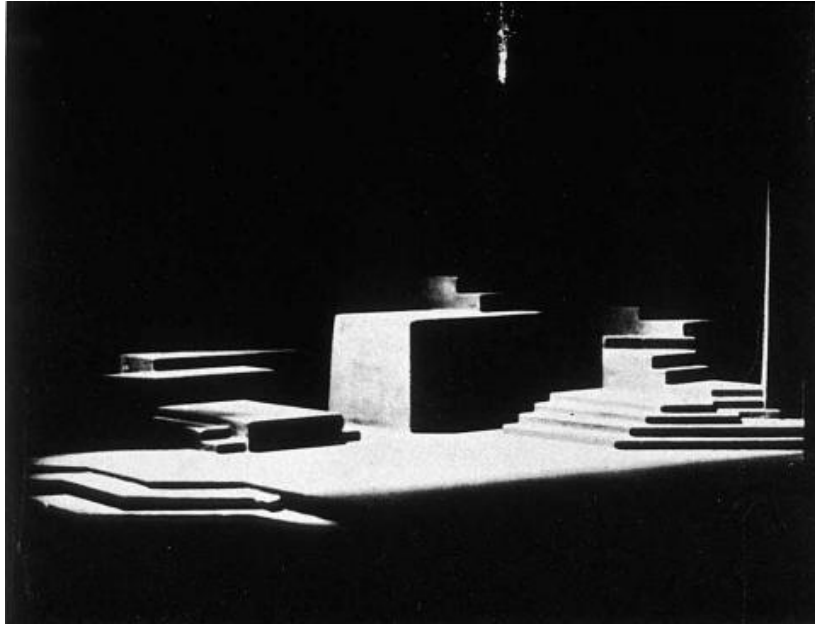
- a. Rostra
- b. Ramps or platforms or risers
- c. Steps

Answer: All of the above!

Using different heights or levels creates interesting pictures to keep the audience's attention but it also has core functions.



1. Allows the audience to see all of the action on stage



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<https://shakespeare.berkeley.edu/file/hamlet-set-design-by-norman-bel-geddes-1893-1958-2314.jpg>

2. Suggests status or the power of one character over another

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<https://shakespeare.berkeley.edu/file/hamlet-set-design-by-norman-bel-geddes-1893-1958-2314.jpg>



3. Identifies different locations



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Health and Safety Considerations

Ensure that the design is safe and minimize potential risks.

- Can the actors move safely from one platform to the next?
- If there are steps linking the Levels, are they secure?
- Are the platforms of an appropriate size?
- Can they accommodate the weight of the set and constant movement of actors?
- Any tripping hazards?



What safety hazard occurred in this video?

[Click Here](#)

Yes.

Either the step was not securely fastened to the platform
or

The width of the step was too small

Look at the picture to the right.

You are designing a similar set for a play called ‘The Parliament Channel’:

1. What is the problem here?
2. What would you use to resolve it?
3. Draw a simple picture using boxes, steps or ramps to show how you would improve what you see.



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Possible Responses

1. What is the problem here?

The problem is that the character to the back is being masked. He is too low while seated.

2. What would you use to resolve it?

I would use a platform to raise his seat higher so that when the character at the front is standing, the audience will still see the character to the back. I would also put steps to the side of the platform for the character to get on and off the platform.



**Now that you know more about Set Design,
what can you do with it?**

Click on the link below:

[The Future of Set Design](#)



End of Lesson Keep Working

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