

Spotlight

A **technical director** is a problem solver that helps make what the production's director and designers have in their imaginations a physical reality. They oversee the technicians and all technical aspects of a production and must have advanced knowledge of the tools and equipment used to create the design of the production.

The technical aspects of a production are the sensory elements that help to establish a production's time, place, and mood.

V-o-c-a-b-u-l-a-r-y

TIME—the “when” of a production like the time of day, time of year, time period.

PLACE—the “where” of a production like the specific and general location.

MOOD—the atmosphere or feeling of the production.

SCENERY—the structures, hangings, draperies, etc., used on a stage to represent a location or furnish a decorative background.

SOUND—the music, effects, amplification, etc. used on a stage to create the auditory elements of a production.

LIGHTING—the instruments, cues, and equipment used on a stage to illuminate the scenic elements and the performers and to direct the audience's attention throughout the performance.

COSTUMES—the clothing worn by a performer on the stage to help establish the character's type, traits, and circumstances.

PROPERTIES OR PROPS—objects used on stage by a performer during a performance to help establish the character's actions, circumstances, and motivations.

TECHNICIAN—a specialist (i.e. lighting, sound, costumes, props) who operates technical equipment and systems in the performing arts.

DESIGNER—a specialist (i.e. lighting, sound, costumes, props) who works closely with the director and technical director to create the overall design concept and the equipment requirements for the production.

More to Explore

<https://careers.broadway/>

<https://www.schooltheatre.org/publications/featuredarticles/thetechnicaldirector>

<https://iatselocalone.org/public/Home>

<http://www.theatrecrafts.com>

<https://wosu.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/the-arts/theater/theatrical-creation-participation-and-performance/technical-theater-production/>

Extension Activity

Choose one of the technical areas (i.e. lighting, sound, costumes, props) and conduct research to learn more about how that area helps to create a production's time, place, and mood.

This series is made possible through the generous support provided by: