

## 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.

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