

Spotlight

A **photographer** in the performing arts is responsible for taking images of a production or performance. They are tasked with capturing the energy, movement, and charisma of performers while they are in the act of performing.

A production or artist may use a photographer's images for the purpose of advertising, archiving the production, or as part of their website or social media platforms.

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

ARCHIVE—in photography, to preserve a production or performance by capturing images.

FISHEYE LENS—an ultra-wide-angle lens that can take in a full 180-degree radius around it. Fisheye lenses are so named because they distort an image's field of view, making even a room in a house look like a bubble.

FOCAL LENGTH—usually represented in millimeters (mm), it is the basic description of a photographic lens. The longer the focal length, the narrower the angle of view and the higher the magnification. The shorter the focal length, the wider the angle of view and the lower the magnification.

FRAME—in photography, the technique of drawing focus to the subject by using elements within a scene as a frame. For example, you might place your subject so they're surrounded by a window, a tunnel, or natural elements like leafy branches.

LENS—made up of a series of glass plates that are convex (curved outward) or concave (curved inward), a lens is a tool used to bring light to a fixed focal point.

STANDARD LENS—also known as a “normal lens,” a standard lens produces an image that roughly matches what the human eye sees, and which looks natural to the viewer.

WIDE ANGLE LENS—ideal for fitting a large area into the image's frame, this type of lens allows more of the scene to be included, which is especially useful in the performing arts when trying to capture the technical elements of the production, like the sets, lighting, and costumes.

ZOOM LENS—a series of lenses that allow different focal lengths from a single lens, making them more flexible but not as fast as a standard lens. In the performing arts, zoom lenses are particularly useful when trying to move between standard and close-up images.

More to Explore

<https://careers.broadway/>

<https://www.ppa.com/>

<https://www.playbill.com/article/how-i-became-a-broadway-photographer>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4qdAJzsqOU>

<https://www.bestcolleges.com/careers/art-and-design/photography/>

Extension Activity

Conduct a search to find performance photographs. These can be of your favorite musical artist, comedian, stage or film performer, musical or play, or even a circus act. Then, select your favorite photograph. If it's available, write down the name of the photographer or company that captured the image. Finally, explain why this photograph is your favorite and why you feel it does a good job capturing the energy of the performer or performance.