**Neos Dance Theatre**

**Ballet Vocabulary**

Source: Inland Pacific Ballet

***Ballet:*** A classical Western dance form that originated in the Renaissance courts of Europe. By the time of Louis XIV (mid-1600s), steps and body positions underwent codification.

***Ballerina:***A female ballet dancer of the highest ranking.

***Choreography:***The creation and composition of dances by arranging or inventing steps, movements, and patterns of movements.

***Corps de Ballet:*** A group of dancers who work together as an ensemble. They form the background for the ballerina and her partner and are the backbone of any ballet company.

***Gesture:***The movement of a body part or combination of parts, with emphasis on the expressive aspects of the move. It includes all movements of the body not supporting weight.

***Pas de Deux:***A dance for two people, traditionally between a ballerina and the male dancer of the highest ranking.

***Pointe Shoes:***Shoes worn by female dancers that enable them to dance on the tips of their toes. The area covering the toe is made of layers of fabric glued together in the shape of a “box” covered in satin and hardened. The sole is made of hard leather to prevent the shoe from breaking when bent. To keep the shoes on tightly, the dancers sew satin ribbons and elastic to the sides and tie the ribbons securely around their ankles. A pair of pointe shoes may only last for 3 to 4 days of work.

***Tutu:***Ballet skirt, usually made of net or tulle. Tutus may be of varying lengths. While the style and mood of the ballet help to determine the preferred tutu length, the dancer’s technique is most clearly visible when she wears a short tutu.

***Pantomime:***The art telling a story, expressing a mood or an emotion or describing an action without words

***Shape:***Positioning of the body in space (curved, straight, angular, twisted, symmetrical, or asymmetrical)

***Motif:***A distinctive and recurring gesture used to provide a theme or unifying idea

Theatre Vocabulary



***Staging:*** The method of presenting a play or other dramatic performance; All stage directions in staging are from the actor’s point of view

***Upstage:***Part of the stage furthest from the audience

***Downstage:*** Part of the stage closes to the audience

***Stage Left:*** Left side of the stage from the actor’s point of view

***Stage Right:*** Right side of the stage from the actor’s point of view

***Center Stage:***The direct center of the stage

***Wings:*** Areas apart of the stage not seen by the audience, which are typically used for a performer’s entrance and exit

***Orchestra Pit:*** The part of the theatre where the orchestra sits and plays throughout the performance, typically located in front of the stage and lower than the audience

*Apron:* Any part of the stage that extends past the stage and into the audience or seating area

***Production:***The process of making a performance

***Design:*** The plan for the construction of an element of a play {Sets, Lighting, Sound, Costume, Plots, and Make-up}

***Set(s):*** An arrangement of scenery and properties to represent the place where a play is enacted

***Lighting:*** The craft of lighting as it applies to the production of a performance

***Sound:*** The use of different sounds to create a specific mood or atmosphere

***Costume:***Clothing worn by actors on stage

***Make-Up:*** The use of cosmetics to create the appearance of the character during the play

***Props/Properties:*** The objects actors interact with onstage. These can be books, dolls, and swords.

***Masks:***A face covering use in theatre to create character or disguise identity

## Reference for Theater Vocab

<http://www.theatrecrafts.com/pages/home/topics/beginners/glossary/>