

### Areas of the stage

A **Ground Plan** is a bird's eye view of a stage area. When you are an **actor**, working with your **director**, to decide on where your **character** moves to on the stage, you need to write down on your **script**, what you have decided to do. This means that when you go back to **rehearse** your script again, you have a clear idea of what to do. Below is a diagram showing the areas of the stage which we will use as a basis for drawing a ground plan and which you should use when you are writing down your stage directions in rehearsal.

A simple ground plan showing only the areas of the stage:

<b>USR</b> <b>( Up Stage Right )</b>	<b>USC</b> <b>( Up Stage Centre )</b>	<b>USL</b> <b>( Up Stage Left )</b>
<b>CSR</b> <b>( Centre Stage Right )</b>	<b>CS</b> <b>( Centre Stage )</b>	<b>CSL</b> <b>( Centre Stage Left )</b>
<b>DSR</b> <b>( Down Stage Right )</b>	<b>DSC</b> <b>( Down Stage centre )</b>	<b>DSL</b> <b>( Down Stage Left )</b>
Audience	Audience	Audience

### Writing down your stage moves

When you have been given an instruction to move on the stage area during your rehearsals, write down the move on your script, using the code you can see on the ground plan. For example you might write:

Move to DSL

Cross to USR

Walk slowly to CS

### Simple things to remember.....

Always use the code.

The moves are always written down from the ACTORS' point of view.

You should always write things on your SCRIPT in pencil, in case there is a change of plan later on.

When you are DIRECTING a drama, you can PLAN all the moves for the actors before you start the rehearsals.