

# Technical Theatre

## Unit Three: Scenic Design Floor Plan

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### **The Importance of Understanding the Use of Scale Drawings:**

As a student of design for theatre production, the understanding of the necessity of using scale drawings, specifically floor plans, in the process of scenic design, is very important. Floor plans, drawn to scale, are our most helpful tools in developing a functional set design. Only by looking at the design from a bird's eye view can the designer make judgments about such issues as **traffic circulation, balance, visibility, mass, and the specific needs of the script and the actors.** Looking at your set design within the outline of the stage structure itself will help you to refine your design to adapt to the structure itself perfectly.

### **The Assignment:**

First, do a sketch of your set, freehand, on plain white paper. This should be a rough drawing, in pencil, that shows the general composition of the set but very little detail. Complete a **scale floor plan** on the paper provided for your set design. Include all structures, walls, platforms, and major furniture pieces. You may need to measure things to attain correct dimensions. At the bottom right corner of the plan, a **title block** should list all pertinent information. This drawing should be done with a ruler or scale, not freehand, and it **should be drawn in pencil.**

### **Tools to Use:**

Take several extra copies of the theater plan to develop your design, and make final decisions. You should not start the final draft until you have done this. Use a ruler or scale for every straight line on the plan, making sure the length is scaled to the real dimension. Use  $1/4''=1'$ .