



Split Staging Knowledge Organiser



What? (Definition)

Split staging is a theatrical technique where the performance **space is divided**, often visually, into **two or more distinct** areas.

Each area usually represents a **different location, time, or perspective**, and actions can happen simultaneously or in quick succession within these separate zones.

It allows the audience to see **multiple narrative threads or viewpoints** at once.



Why? (Purpose)

Split staging is a powerful tool used to:

- **Show Simultaneity:** Portray events happening at the exact same time in different locations.
- **Contrast & Comparison:** Highlight differences or similarities between characters, settings, or situations by placing them side-by-side.
- **Enhance Pace & Flow:** Transition quickly between scenes without needing elaborate set changes.
- **Deepen Understanding:** Offer the audience multiple perspectives on a single event or character, adding layers to the narrative.
- **Maximise Space:** Efficiently use a performance area by making it serve multiple purposes.

How? (Making It Effective)

To effectively use split staging consider the following tips:

Clearly Define Areas: Visually separate each split through lighting, minimal props, levels, or actor positioning to ensure clarity.

Purposeful & Focused Action: Every action in each split must serve the narrative; guide the audience's attention using light, focus, or pauses to avoid confusion.

Distinct Characterisation & Sensory Cues: Ensure characters are distinct within their zones and use sound and lighting effectively to differentiate areas and enhance transitions.

Smooth Transitions & Relevance: Plan logical transitions between sections and only use split staging when it truly enhances the story and adds clarity or impact.