

# Rehearsing

In any production, the aim of the cast and crew is to be perfect for the opening night, so the rehearsal process, from early run-throughs to the dress rehearsal, is a serious business.

For a professional production, actors may rehearse for anything up to six or seven weeks. Rehearsals allow the actors to understand the play better and better as time goes on. They constantly develop their ability to interpret the playwright's words so they can create a connection with the audience.

## Reading the script

The first rehearsal is a read-through. This is exactly what it sounds like: the actors sit around a table with their copies of the script and read through the play together from start to finish. This allows the director to explain different points as they work through the play.



## Rehearsals

Next comes the period of rehearsals, when the actors really get to know the play and become comfortable with their lines. They also need to learn all their movements and their cues, which includes learning when to enter and exit the stage – not forgetting which side!

## Tech week

The final week of rehearsals is called technical week, or 'tech week' for short. Before this, the actors may have been rehearsing in a different place, but during tech week, they rehearse in the venue itself, with all the technical elements of the production in place. These include:

- costumes
- make-up
- sets
- lighting
- sound.

By the start of tech week, the actors need to have learnt their lines and be completely comfortable with the director's interpretation of the play.

The purpose of tech week is to iron out any physical problems with the production. For example, an actor may discover that their costume is restrictive and that they can't move easily in a fight sequence.

Tech week is a very hectic time and can be stressful because everyone is trying to fix problems in the run-up to opening night.

## Dress rehearsal

The final rehearsal is called the dress rehearsal. This is treated as a real performance. There may sometimes be a very small audience for a dress rehearsal.

## DID YOU KNOW?

There is a superstition amongst actors that a bad dress rehearsal will mean a good opening night.

## Put on a show!

# Get Ready to Change the World

Have you ever dreamed about changing the world? What do you think you'd need to do?



- Learn loads of facts?
- Work hard?
- Wear a lab coat?
- Read every book in the library?
- Use big words like 'hypothesis'?
- Grow a planet-sized brain?



Think again! You're about to discover what *really* helped great scientists to change the world. Who knew the history of science was paved with:

- Fossilized dung
- Showmanship
- Chocolate bars
- Perspiration
- Thousands of beetles
- Germ soup
- Embarrassing mistakes
- Falling apples
- Accidental explosions

## Standing on the shoulders of giants

World-changing science is often the work of many people over many years. The world's best-known scientists were good at improving on previous ideas and discoveries. In turn, their ideas and inventions inspired other scientists. Isaac Newton (page 28) described this as 'standing on the shoulders of giants'.



Some scientists had ideas that changed the way we see the world. Others made discoveries that changed the way we live in the world. Discover the secrets of their success ... and learn how you can change the world too!