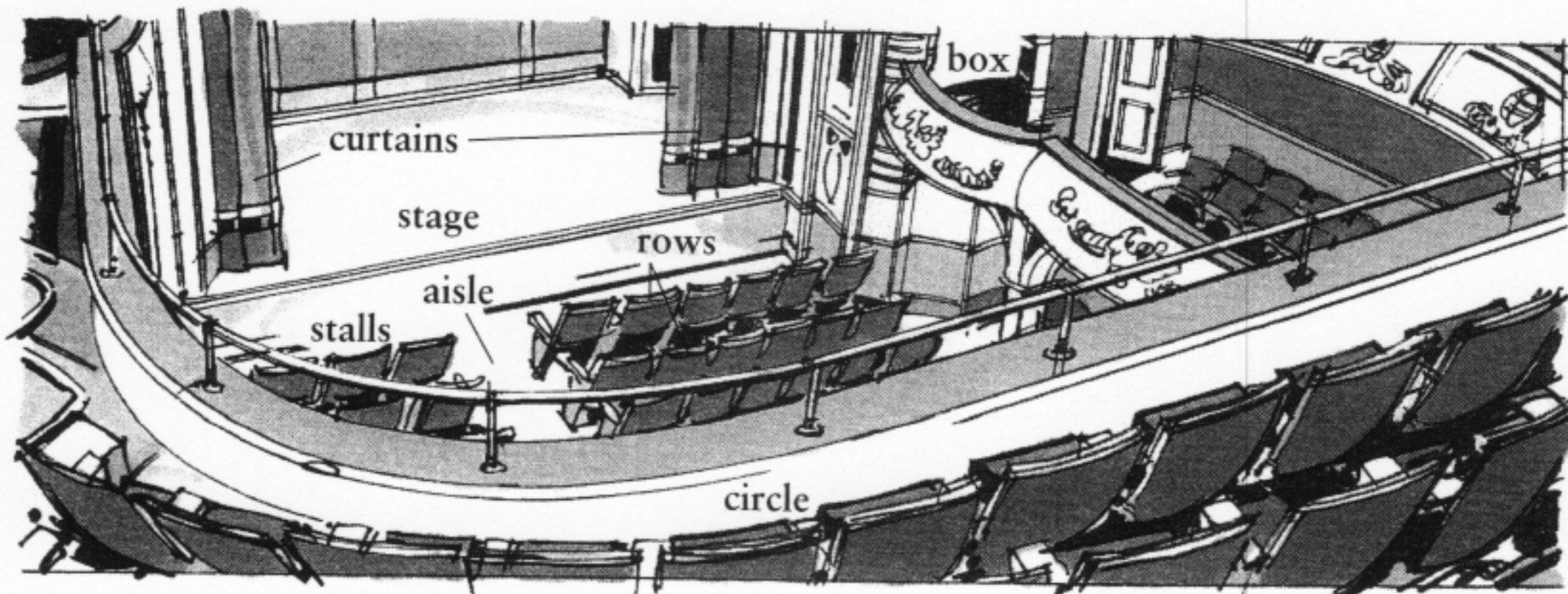


72 Cinema and theatre



A Theatre

At the theatre you can see **plays**, e.g. *Hamlet* by Shakespeare, or **musicals**, e.g. *Phantom of the Opera* by Andrew Lloyd Webber. In a play the **cast** (= the total number of actors) is usually quite small, but musicals often have a very large cast.

One difference between the theatre and cinema is that you usually **book** (= reserve) tickets **in advance** (= some time before the actual performance) if you are going to the theatre. Another difference is that the **audience** (= the people watching the play/musical) **clap** at the end of the **performance**. This does not usually happen (in Britain) at the end of a film.

B Cinema

Plays are **performed** on **stage**, films are **shown** on **screen**. In your country, films in English are either shown with **subtitles** (= there is a translation across the bottom of the screen), or they are **dubbed** (= the English is removed and replaced by actors speaking in your own language).

Films are **set** (= take place) in many different periods and places, e.g. *Room with a View* is set in the early part of the 20th century; *Blade Runner* is set in the future. And when people talk about films, they often talk about the **director**, e.g. Spielberg, Bertolucci; and the **stars**, the most important actors and actresses, e.g. Tom Hanks and Jodie Foster.

C Types of film

western: a film about America in the 19th century; often with cowboys and indians
war film, e.g. *Born on the 4th of July*
horror film, e.g. *Dracula*; *Frankenstein*
science fiction film: about the future

action film, e.g. *Indiana Jones*
comedy: a funny film that makes you laugh
thriller: an exciting story often about a crime

D Describing plays and films

Journalists write articles in which they give their opinion of new films and plays. They are called **critics**, and their articles are called **reviews**. These are some words they may use:

moving: producing strong emotions, often of sadness; a positive word

violent: includes lots of scenes with fighting and death

powerful: has a big effect on our emotions

gripping: exciting and very interesting

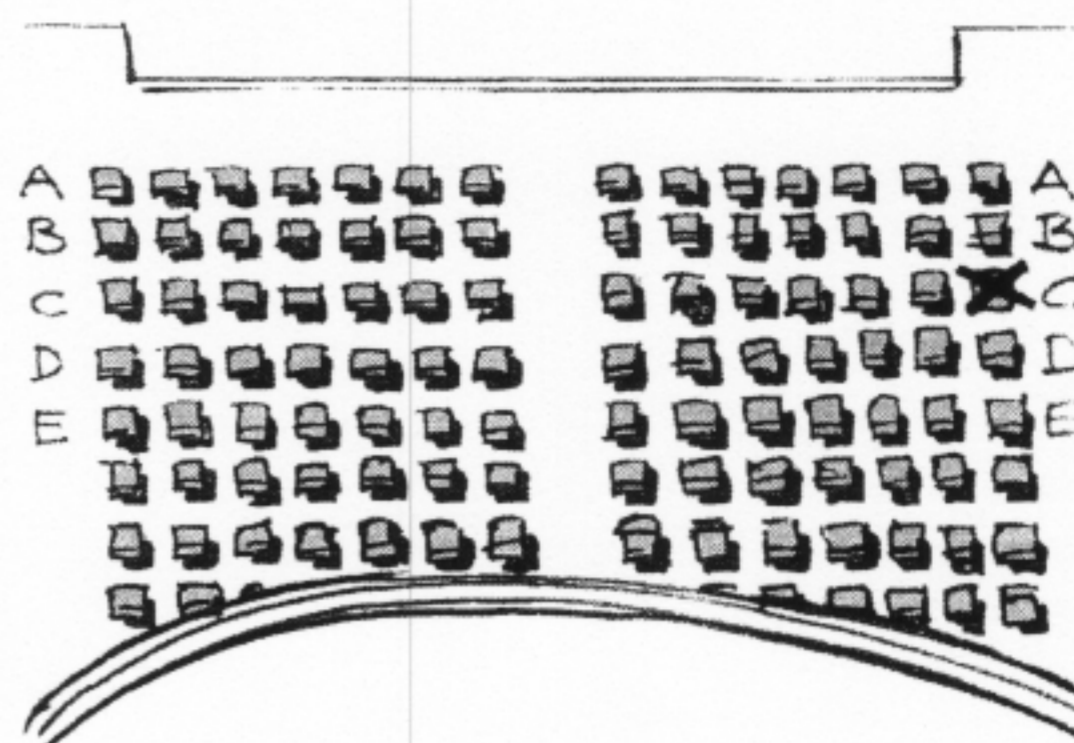
good fun: used to describe a film that may not be very serious or important but is enjoyable

slow: boring

Exercises

72.1 Look at the picture of your visit to the theatre and answer these questions.

- 1 Did you sit in the stalls or circle?
- 2 Which row were you in?
- 3 Were you next to an aisle?
- 4 Did you have a good view of the stage?



72.2 What word or phrase is being defined?

- 1 A play or film in which part of the story is sung to music.
- 2 The total number of actors in a play or film.
- 3 The people who watch a play at the theatre.
- 4 What these people do with their hands at the end of a play.
- 5 The person who makes a film.
- 6 Journalists who write articles about films and plays.
- 7 The name of the articles they write.
- 8 The translation of the story of a film across the bottom of the screen.
- 9 To reserve tickets before the performance.
- 10 The most important actors or actresses in a film.

72.3 Have you seen these famous films made in English over the last twenty years? If so, try to complete the rest of the table using words from the opposite page. Then write in the titles of three more films you have seen and complete the rest of the table for it.

<i>Film</i>	<i>Type of film</i>	<i>Subtitles or dubbed?</i>	<i>Description of film (adjectives)</i>
1 <i>Dirty Harry</i> with Clint Eastwood			
2 <i>Blade Runner</i> with Harrison Ford			
3 <i>Four Weddings and a Funeral</i> with Hugh Grant			
4 <i>Schindler's List</i> with Liam Neeson			
5 <i>Dances with Wolves</i> with Kevin Costner			
6			
7			
8			