

# Keeping Open

In any performance space, you should try to keep your face and the front of your body visible to the audience as much as possible. This is called **opening** to the audience. On arena and thrust stages, the challenge is to shift your position frequently so that you are occasionally open to everyone in the audience. To keep open on a proscenium stage, you can follow the conventions described here.

- **Sitting** If you are sitting in profile, keep open by using the one-quarter position, especially if you are delivering lines.
- **Standing** Use the full front, one-quarter right, or one-quarter left positions.
- **Gesturing or handling a prop** While gesturing or handling a prop, use your upstage hand.

- **Turning** Turn in the direction of your downstage hand.
- **Moving right or left** Move right by leading with your right foot. Move left by leading with your left foot.
- **Crossing** Make crosses upstage in an upstage arc. Make crosses downstage in a downstage arc. Make crosses directly across the stage in a slight upstage arc.
- **Entering** Enter the stage leading with your upstage foot.
- **Entering or exiting through doorways** Open a door with your upstage hand. As you go through the doorway, pull the door behind you and switch hands, closing it with your other hand.

