

Stagecraft Design Project



What is the metaphor, image, or “inspiration piece” that will “drive” your design decisions?

Design Brief:

You have been “hired” to design a musical set (for your chosen musical).

Choose any 2 (consecutive) scenes from the script and design sets for those two scenes (& the transition between those scenes).

For this project, your team of 3 must work together to research, design, create, and present your ORIGINAL designs to the class. To do so, you must...

□ READ THE SCRIPT. All scenic design begins with the **script**. Therefore, as a designer, you must read the entire script so you know the intentions, needs, style, and purpose of the story (and how it should be supported by the set design).

□ CREATE A LIST OF THE “NEEDS OF THE SCRIPT”:

Create a list of all of the things (info & items) from the **SCRIPT** that are **needed** for the design of your scenes’ sets. This includes set & set dressing items that are referred to by playwright and/or characters. *(Remember, props may impact the set design, but props are NOT set. Don’t include hand props on your list unless they impact the set or are in some way part OF it.)*

□ INTERPRET THE SCRIPT:

Before you begin your design, find meaningful statements in the script (**philosophical statements**) that point to the deeper meaning of the overall show, so your design supports the show’s message/mood/meaning.

□ RESEARCH / INSPIRATION:

Complete research in which you collect **images and ideas that inspire you** for your own design. A collection of these images/ideas may include ideas for

a historically accurate design or may simply be inspiration for a “starting point”, style, or metaphor for your design. (More info provided in class.)

□ DESIGN YOUR SET: Based on the script, its needs, your research, your inspiration, and your analysis of the show’s meaning/message, you can begin your design. Start first with “**Napkin Sketches**” to get your ideas on paper... remember to consider scene transitions, as well. **You will discuss/share your napkin sketches/ideas in a pre-design meeting with the instructors.**

□ PRESENT: Once you’ve designed your sets/transition, **you will PRESENT to the class (see back) in visual form (Google Slides, Prezi, etc.)** You’ll also show a scaled groundplan (*with scaled set pieces*) to demonstrate how your scenes transition. Your presentation should be treated as a “Design Pitch”, so sell it!

Director’s Concept [Design Concept]:

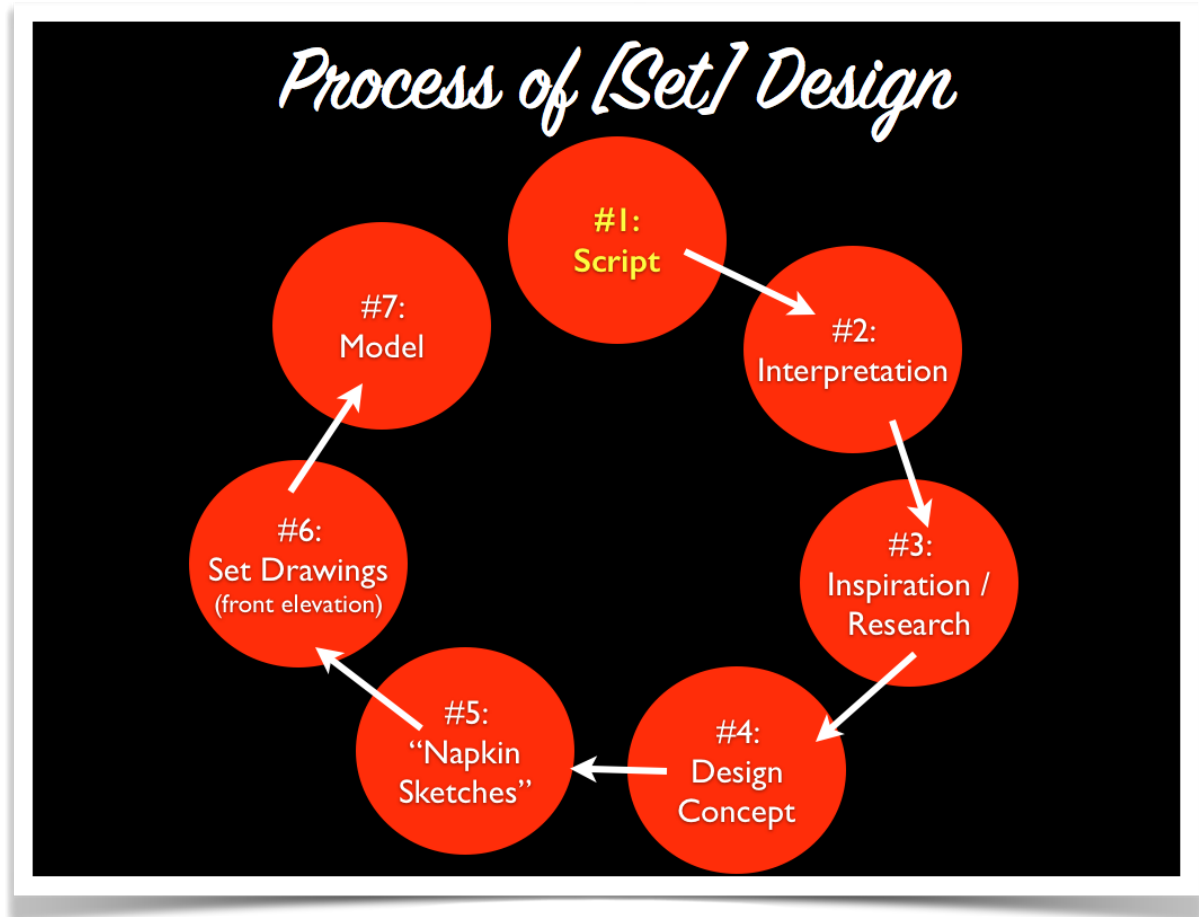
The central creative idea that unifies the **artistic vision** of a production.

Director’s Concept [Design Concept]:

The director’s personal interpretation of HOW to show a play/musical’s message.

Director’s Concept [Design Concept]:

The unique way a director tells a staged story.



For YOUR project, you will be presenting your Design Concept / Set Design in front of class. You will be communicating to your audience what you've designed, rather than building an entire model set or creating front elevation set drawings.

Your PRESENTATION in front of the class should include (preferably in this order) **a discussion of:**

- 1.) The **show you chose and why**
- 2.) A **synopsis** (*brief description of plot*) **of the show/scenes** for which you designed sets.
- 3.) What types of **needs** you had to consider when designing sets for your scenes. (*explaining how YOUR show is unique in its needs - NOT a list of all the "Needs of the Script"*)
- 4.) What **types of things you researched** for your design and your **findings**.
- 5.) How your **research & inspiration search impacted your design**.
- 6.) What you **designed** for your sets, including all that is on stage with your set (*eye, scrim, backdrop, flown elements, set pieces, etc.*)
- 7.) How you plan to have your sets **transition** from one to the next. (You must show your ground plan and scaled set pieces for this portion of your presentation.)

You will present your Set Design in a **"Design Pitch" setting**, where (once your presentation is complete) people will ask questions about your design and how it functions, what it's made of, etc. Be prepared to answer specific questions about your design(s). Your overall presentation should be 5-10 minutes in length and the presenting of your design should be shared equally between group members.

Note: Avoid text-based presentations & reading off the screen. Your Design Presentation should instead be a visual representation of your process and designs. Do NOT read at your audience (ever!) or primarily direct your body/eyes/voice toward the screen - talk TO your audience as though you're pitching your Designs to them.