

# **PRODUCTION, PERFORMANCE AND GENRE**

## **PITCH PRESENTATION FOR BREATHING CORPSES BY LAURA WADE AND MY ROLE WITHIN THE PRESENTATION AND ITS EVALUATION**

# MY INITIAL PROCESS

Our group presentation on Breathing Corpses by Laura Wade focused on the impacts of death and the knock on effect of events. During my first read of the play I was interested by how it had a circular narrative and how the scenes showed how the deaths where linked without explicitly stating so. After this we had our first meeting as a group and as there was four locations in the play each of the design production students chose one to focus on. I chose scene three as i was interested by the dynamic between Ben and Kate, I also thought this scene would be interesting to design for as I was not given a lot of information about the set design in the script giving me more creative freedom. After choosing this scene i reread it and made lists of all the information i was given from the script.

## Props list

Phone  
laptop  
kettle  
spoon  
mug  
coffee  
sugar  
washing machine  
dog bowl  
tin of dog food  
fork  
bloody flip flop  
dog leash  
clump of hair

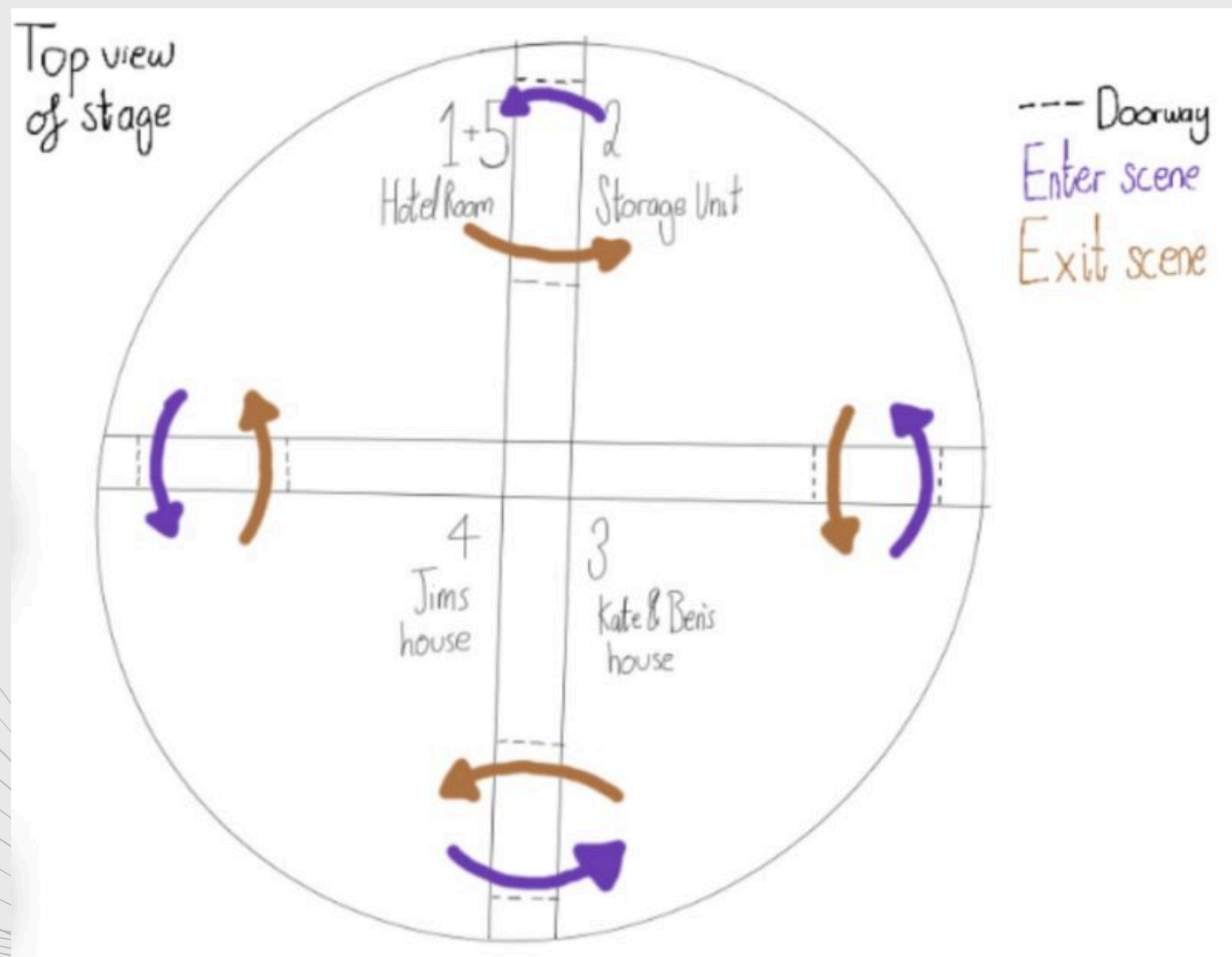
## Sound

Car alarm  
Dog barking  
dog yelping  
phone ringing  
coffee mug smashing

## Set list

Kitchen table  
two chairs  
Washing machine  
Counter with  
draw

# MY DESIGN FOR THE STAGE



When i met with my group we spoke about the circular narrative of the play. This gave me the idea of using a revolving stage that was split into the four different locations the play is set in.

When designing this I also considered the entrances and exits for the actors. For this I decided there would be doors in every wall that act as doors in all the scenes. For this work when entering a scene the actors would be waiting in what would be the next scenes location and when exiting they would go into the section from the scene prior. I thought this would work well as when the stage turns the actors exiting will be at the back of the stage and can leave without being seen by the audience.

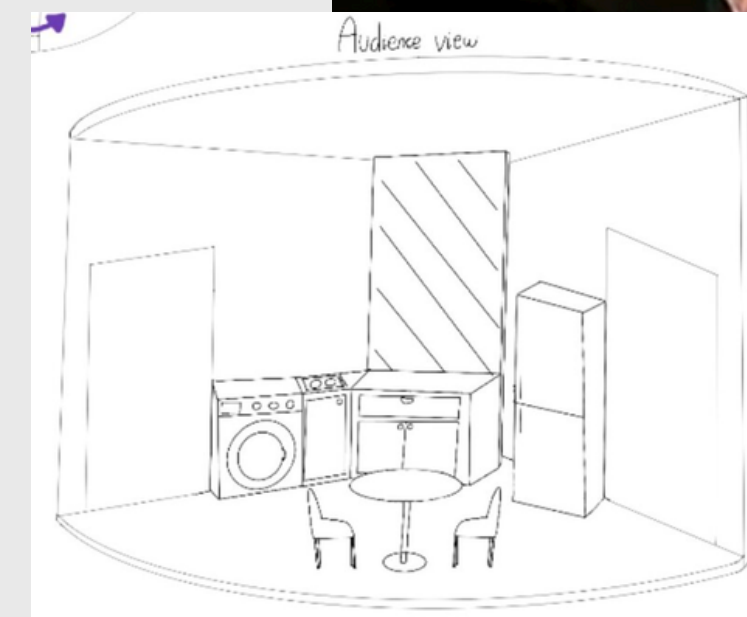
# THE WTC CREW PRODUCTION OF BREATHING CORPSES (2005)

When I started my research I found the WTC crews production of breathing corpses (2005).

I specifically looked at how they had staged scene three, I like the simplicity of their set and how the table is front and center. However I wanted to include more details I

picked up from reading the script such as having counters with a working draw which Ben pulls the dog lead out of as I wanted there to be more visual content for the audience. Another change I made was having a wall at the back that the actors go behind when interacting with the dog. I also thought doing this would be better for the actors. For example Kate not having to leave the stage during the part where she kicks the dog.

I also included the washing machine in my design as in this production Ben throws the t-shirt under the table and I thought it would be more aesthetically interesting to make a prop washing machine.



However if I where to design this set again I would make my design more simple for example not having a fridge or the hob as I feel adding these ended up making my set too cluttered.

# LIGHTING AND SOUND



Performed at the Arthur Cotterall Theatre Final  
Major Performance for third year BA students  
Acting for Stage & Media Class of 2021  
28th July 2021

For my lighting I watched a performance at the Arthur Cotterall Theatre Final Major Performance for third year BA students Acting for Stage & Media. The lighting was simple and only used spotlights. In my lighting design I also used a spotlight from above to look as though they had a light on in the kitchen. I made this make shift kitchen light warmer to contrast with the cooler lighting that I used from the sides. I decided this as the script said “Sunday lunchtime, late September” Breathing corpses (2005), therefore, I thought the cooler lighting would reflect how the light through a window would look during the winter.

My design for  
lighting in scene  
three

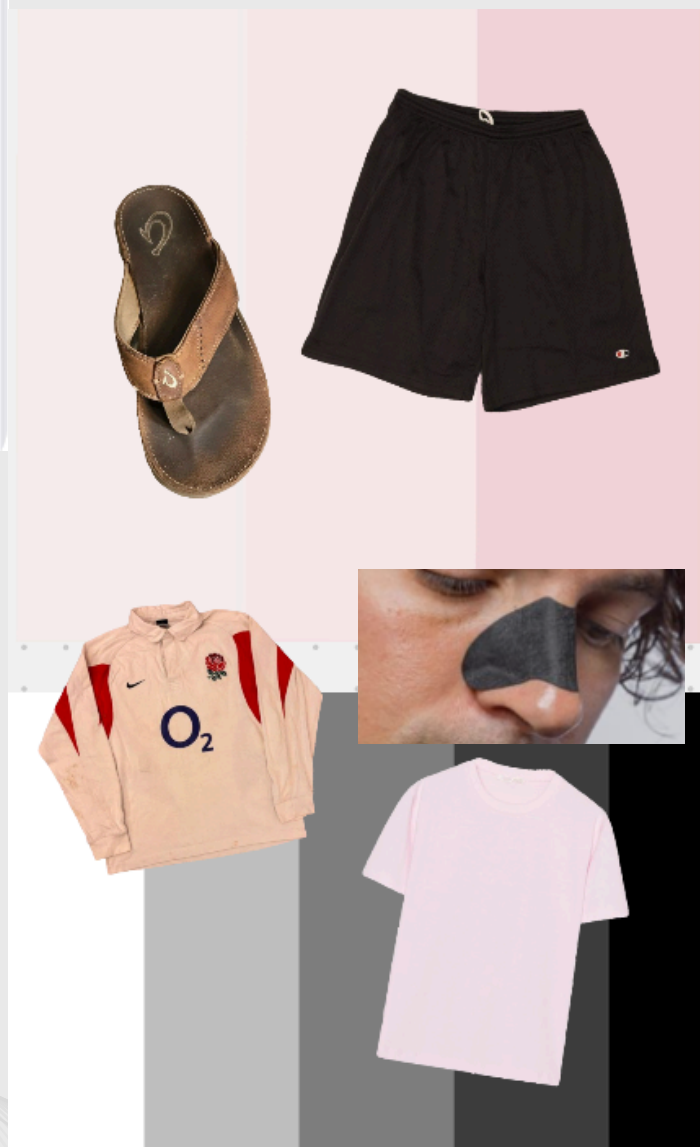


For the sound I went through the script and highlighted any sounds that would need to be played during the scene for example, the dog barking and the car alarm.

# COSTUMES



In the script Kate is described as wearing “shorts and a t-shirt, and a baseball cap” Breathing corpses (2005) So i started looking into those clothes in the early 2000s and used this to decide what style of clothing she would wear. For Kate I also went for a red and white color pallet, the red to reflect her rage and aggression and the white to reflect her underlying vulnerability after finding the dead body the day prior.



For Ben the script says “he also wears shorts and a t-shirt. He has a pore-cleansing strip on his nose” Breathing corpses (2005). Therefore for ben I also looked into mens fashion in the early 2000s. For Bens costume I gave him a pale pink t-shirt to show his naivety and also how Kate makes him insecure in his masculinity as pink is a stereotypically female colour. The pale pink also shows the power dynamic between them as red is a very powerful colour and pink is the lighter weaker version of it.

# EVALUATION OF PRESENTATION

I believe that my groups final presentation overall went very well and we clearly communicated our ideas. I was happy with my contributions to the presentation, however if I where to do this again I would make flash cards to read off of as I believe this would of helped with my pace and allow me to looks more at the audience rather than the board. I would also like to of practiced more with my group before the presentation to make it flow better and to get feedback on my part to make it smoother before I presented my section. One issue in our presentation was the sound going off at the wrong time as during my section the dog barking and car alarm went off during the costume section therefore, if I did this again I would ensure the sounds went off at the correct time. I would also liked to have made a model of my set as i think this would have displayed my ideas better and also could have tested the lighting on it. Despite these issues I was pleased with my contribution and think the presentation was ultimately successful.

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

Performed at the Arthur Cotterall Theatre Final Major  
Performance for third year BA students Acting for Stage  
& Media Class of 2021

28th July 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMNngoZ4SiKU>

The WTC crews production of breathing corpses  
(2005).

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjXzieu\\_Jwk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjXzieu_Jwk)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9E1g5lpNI4&t=1s>

# APPENDIX

