

Study tasks 2023-2024

1. From the drawing provided produce a cutting list for the flat. Estimate the overall amount of wood used and estimate what the difference would be if the flat were to be constructed using the Hollywood method. How do you think these two flats would be used –what are the advantages/disadvantages of each.
2. Research four different types of rostra used in theatre. How are they built and why is there a need for using different methods? Give advantages and disadvantages of these. From books in the library and digital research, find picture references of a set that uses rostra and explain what type you think may have been used.
3. Research theatre trucks. What they are, how they can be moved and what safety measures need to be put in place when doing so. Find examples of sets that use trucks and research about and fill out a risk assessment for using a truck.
4. Research how treads are made for theatre – consider form and function. Are all treads built in the same way, what are the safety regulations for the use of treads –i.e. where does the critical angle come into play and why is it so important? Is the use of handrails necessary? What is important about tread and riser sizes? How do you stop noise? Again, find references to sets that use steps or treads. (Internet or books in the library). Why would you normally not clad these in Shuttering Ply, but when may this be possible?
5. What are revolves and how can they be operated? Is it possible to operate a revolve on a raked stage? As usual find images to supplement your research, start to widen your research area and try forums – speak to people in the industry.
6. I would like you to find 2 references to theatrical or screen design that you find interesting in a scenic construction sense. These can be found from shows or events you have seen or been involved with, you may know how it was made or have no idea at all! The idea is to bring

something to the table that will generate an interesting discussion between us. Bring 3 images of each design you like.

7. Research into welding and metal working, what are the different types of welders, why are they different? We know wood comes in a variety of sections (3x1, 3x2 etc) but in what forms can you buy lengths of metal?
8. Find out about the different types of plywood used in scenic building. You may need to think laterally on this one and look much further afield than just books in the library. Explain how they can be used in a context.
9. Name four ways that flats or sets can be joined together. Explain the advantage and short comings of each method. Also write a comparison between our workshop and the ones we have seen on visits.
10. What are the benefits of using metal to build scenery? Show at least three examples to illustrate your answer and show that you understand these. This means that your answer should not just be a picture but be accompanied by notes referring to these points. Over the next couple of weeks go back over your process workbook and readdress any areas that you consider you have not fully recorded. Does your workbook clearly show your learning journey so far? It is not a case of recording merely what you have done in class but where did you start from and where are you now? Consider mistakes and successes alike. Look at 'how is my work marked'.
11. Research how you could construct a tree which has cast members climbing on it. How would it be fixed to the stage and how could you make something so prominent not overwhelm the stage. This should include materials and some estimate about cost, time and resources needed. Don't panic-just think it through.
12. Explore what materials you can use to clad scenic elements that need to be three-dimensional. You should include any protective coatings and explain why they are necessary.
13. What happens when something goes wrong – individual scenarios will be handed out to you in session – good luck!

14. What is the role of a Production Manager and art director as far as Scenic Construction is concerned? Consider their full job description and responsibilities - find an example of a management hierarchy, typical of a theatre company and film set setup.

15. Going back through your own experiences now, how would you have scheduled the build you have just undertaken? Where could time be saved, or planning altered? From the records that you have kept review how much each piece of scenery has cost (labour not included, though extra points for those who can show how many people hours were actually involved). Spend the next week going through this, putting together material suppliers and contact details and price lists etc. How much time and money was wasted? (This is a valuable learning curve and not one you are judged on).

16. Produce a CAD drawing of scenery. This must be a third angle orthographic projection.