

# Design Process, Process workbook

By Charlie William Field

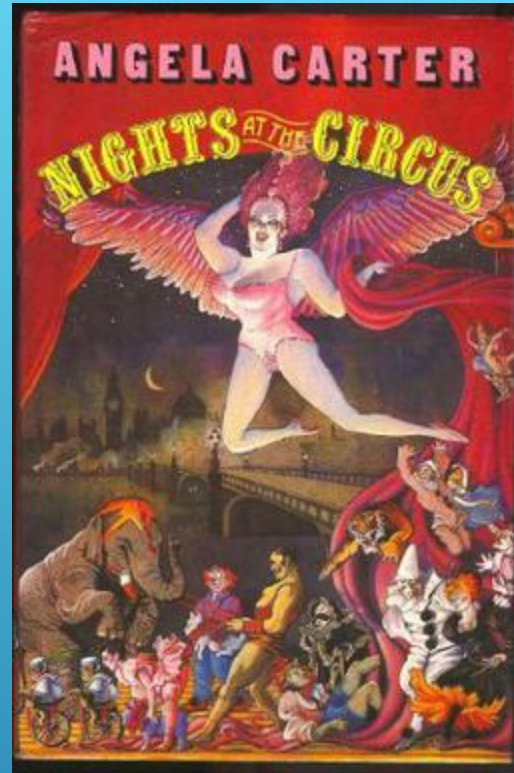
No AI has been used in the creation of this workbook.

'A Night at the Circus' by Angela Carter, Adapted Tom Morris and Emma Rice

'Night at the Circus' follows the story of Jack Walser, A reporter of the New York Times who travels to London as part of his Article on fakes across the world. This path leads him to encounter Fevver's, The Cockney Venus otherwise known as the Winged Woman of London. Over the course of the interview, Jack falls in love with Fevvers and decides to follow her to St.Petersburg with the Circus as a clown much to Lizzie (Fevver adopted Mother) disappointment.

At the Circus, He meets the owners, Colonial Kerney and Sybil the Mystic pig as well as an European Strong man called Samson, Princess who is a tiger queen from Abyseenia and Buffo the clown and his wife. The Play reaches its peak with the Circus going wrong with Buffo and one of the Tigers dying and a bomb going off.

The Play ends with jack and Fevvers flying off in a white void.



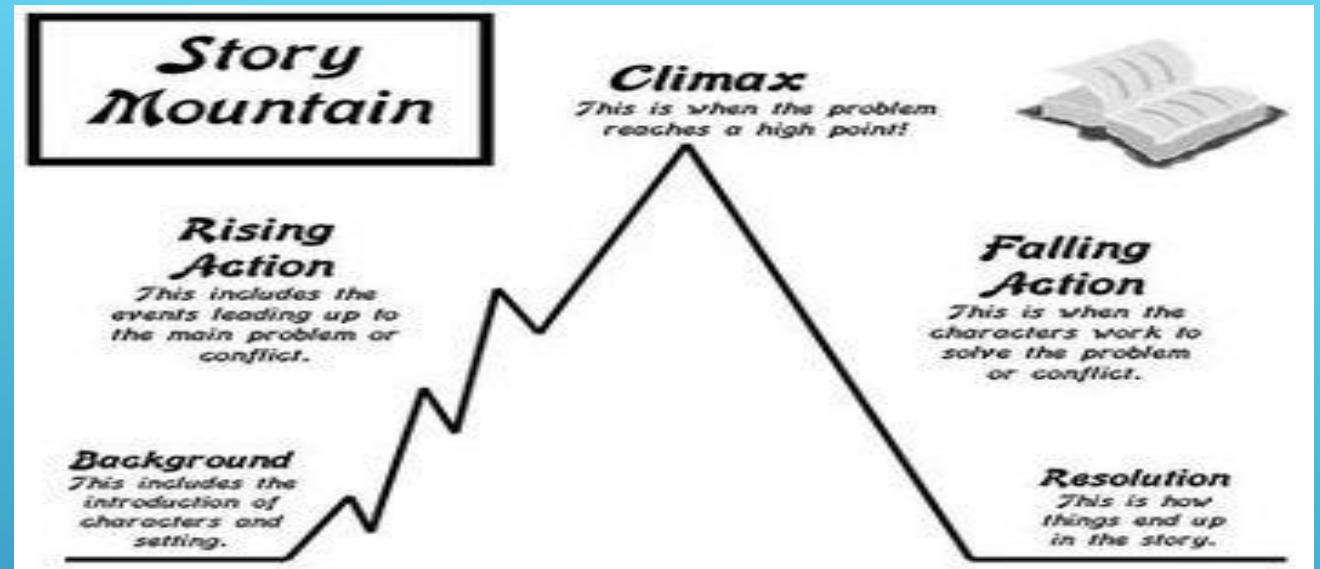
Book Cover, Illustrated by  
Barabara kaiser. First  
Published on the 4th  
March 1984

## Read throughs

A member of a production team on any production (be that stage or on film/TV) must know the script like the back of their hand, now this doesn't have to mean they know every word but they must know what happens on each page. To do this, read throughs of the Script are required with the minimum being three read thoughts.

My First read through of the script left me feeling what could only be described as Queasy and confused however, with a understanding of the story and themes throughout the play. This was due to the unothadox way that the play is presented in. The play does follow the Plot structure of a preformance with the 5 stages.

- .Background
- .Rising Action
- .Climax
- .Falling action
- .Resoultion/Finish



Picture Sourced from [Diagram of Stages of Plot | Quizlet](#)

Other than that, the Play doesn't follow the conventual techqunes used in writing and preforming a production such as it not meantioning when actors leave or enter a set and not mentioning when it goes into flashbacks which when reading it for the first time, did cause me some confusion. As I began to close on my first read through, my notes began to focus on a common theme I noticed throughout the play and that was the 7 deadly sins. I will talk more when I get to discussing themes but I found it a struggle to pull my mind away from this though so instead of focusing on writing about different themes, my notes became more of a way to find evidence to support my idea, This (will good for allowing me to form my opinon) isn't a good thing to do as it stops me from seeing ideas and themes that can influence me in a creative way when coming up with ideas and creating for the production.

## 2nd Read through – Table read

The second read through was done as a table read. This was very helpful as it managed to allow me to push the idea I had tunnelled visioned myself into throughout my first read through. Table reads are an industry standard in the Business as it allows for everyone involved in the production to come together and not only meet but to read through the story together as it allows the actors to get the feeling of their characters but for all members of the production team to map out possible ideas as well as cues for when lighting, sound or AV may be needed.

The Table read for me as I mentioned earlier allowed me to see new ideas and to push my intental ideas to the side. The table read also lead to discussion and helped massively in the breakdown of the script we did later which allowed more ideas to form as a group as we began to look through themes, characters and Locations.

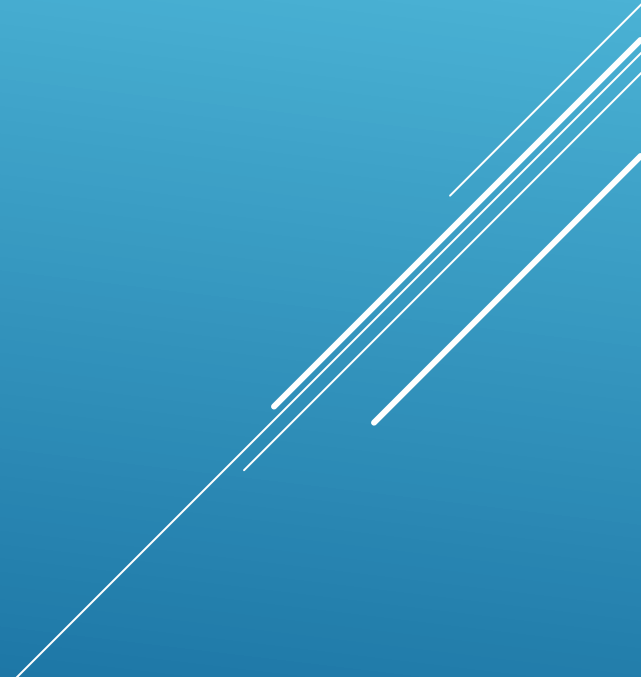
## 3rd Read Through – Me and Anne

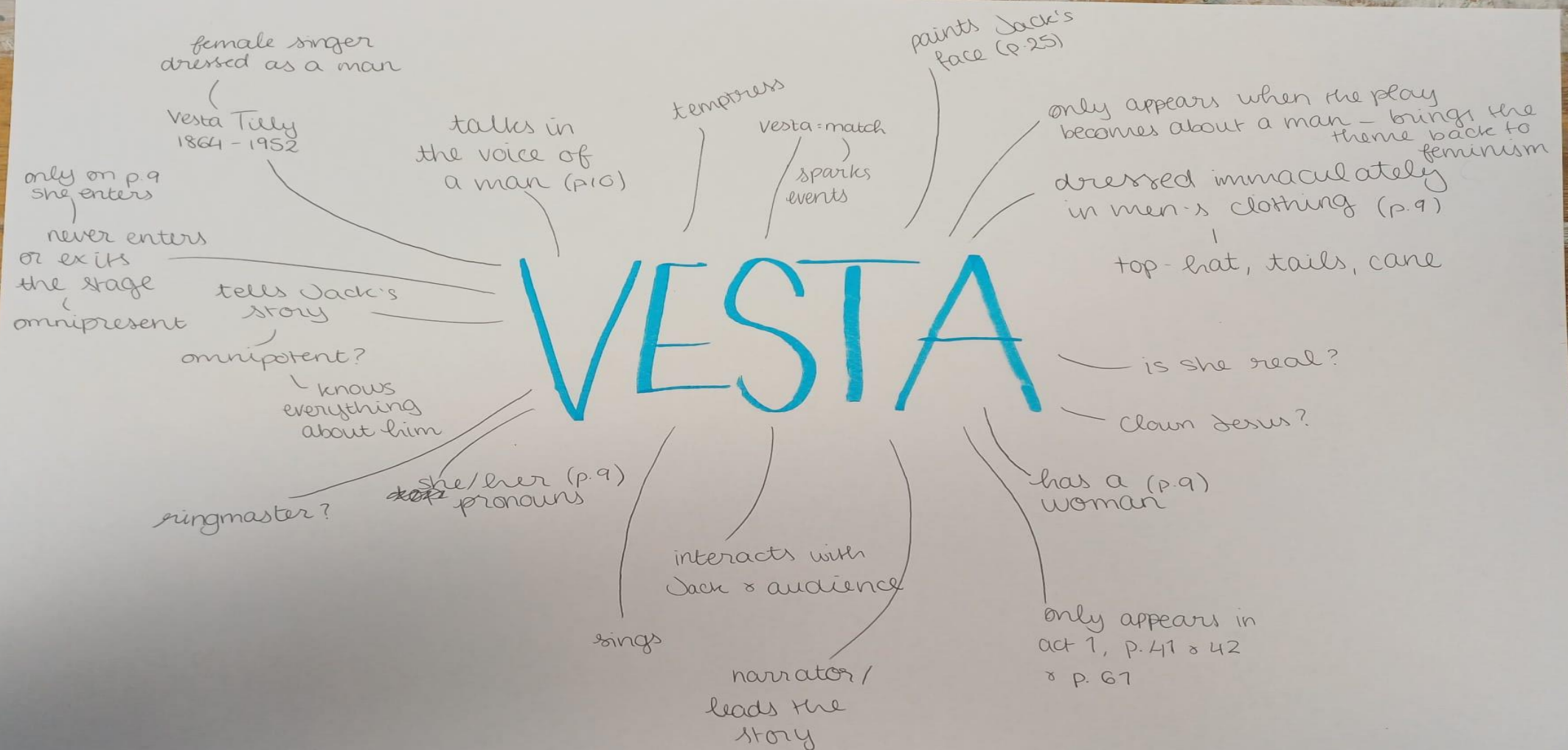
Hyde  
The third read through that I did was also done alongside my friend and Course member Anne Hyde. While the 1st read through was about reading the script and producing internal ideas and notes and the 2nd read through was to pull every theme and idea we could for the Characters, themes and locations. The 3rd read through was to look for anything which could be a direction for the production team such as sound, lighting and set ques and props whether that be character props or set dressing.

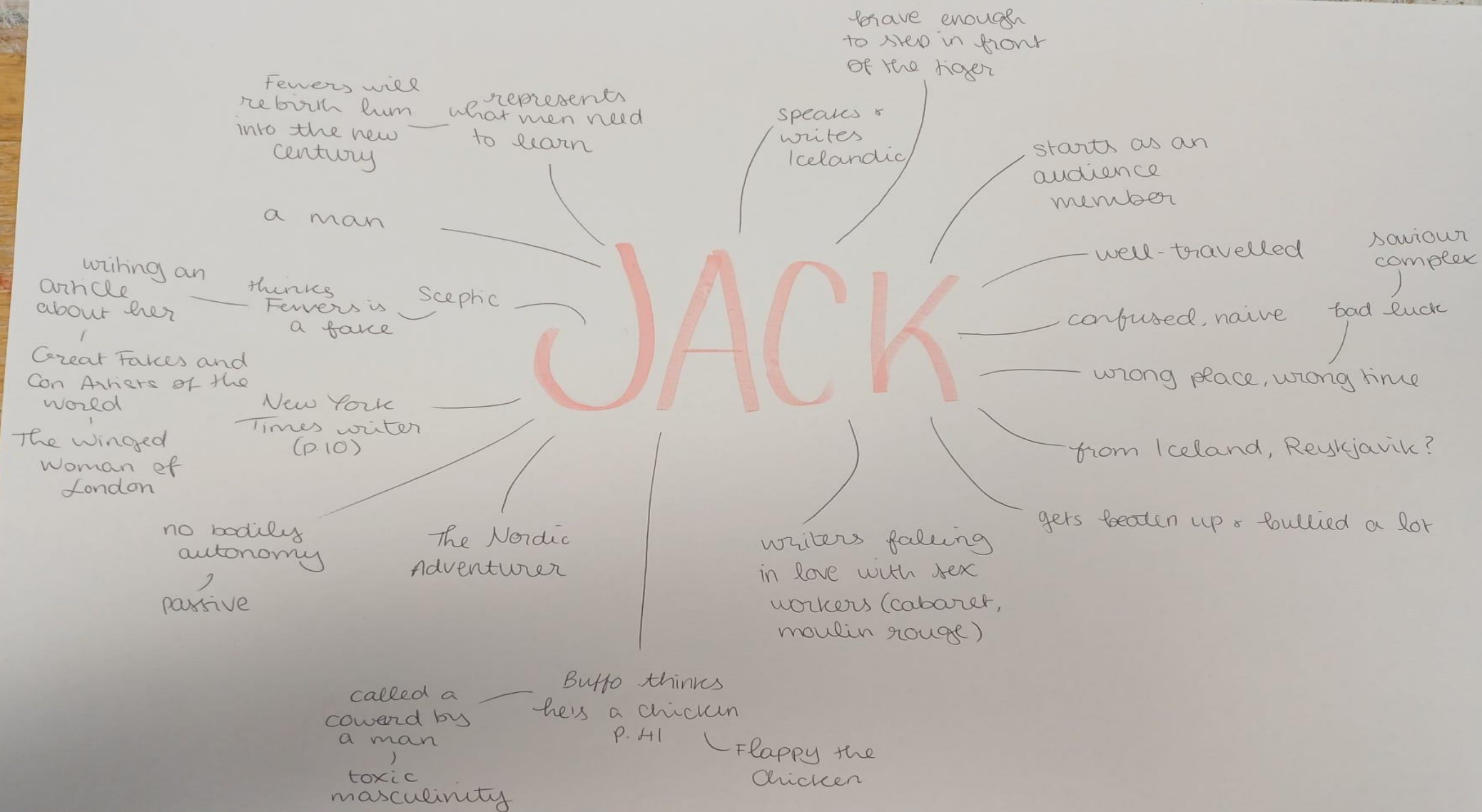
This worked as it offered a good middle ground between reading it alone and doing a table read. When reading alone, it is only you to find what you can and when you are with a group, you are pulling everything out of the script and presenting it as a fact. These are all neccary parts of the production process but being able to read it with just another person and going through each bit slowly, allowed us to weed through the themes, locations, characters, stage directions etc and focus on them each at a time. A simpler explination of what I am trying to say is if the table read was sorting items into a basket, then reading it with another person allowed me and Anne to coam through it with a fine brush allowing us to create a finer list of things that would have to appear in the production.

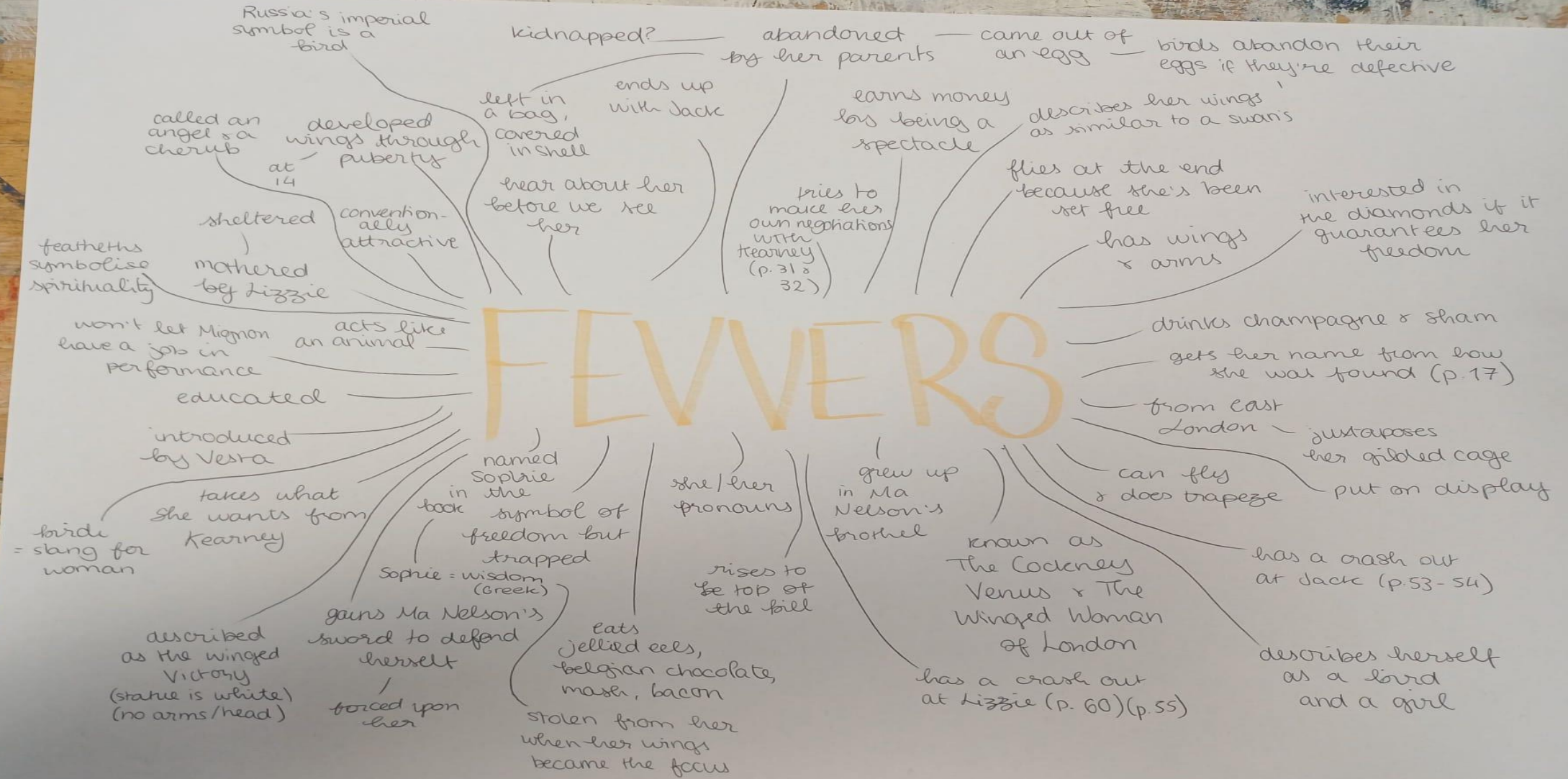
# Characters

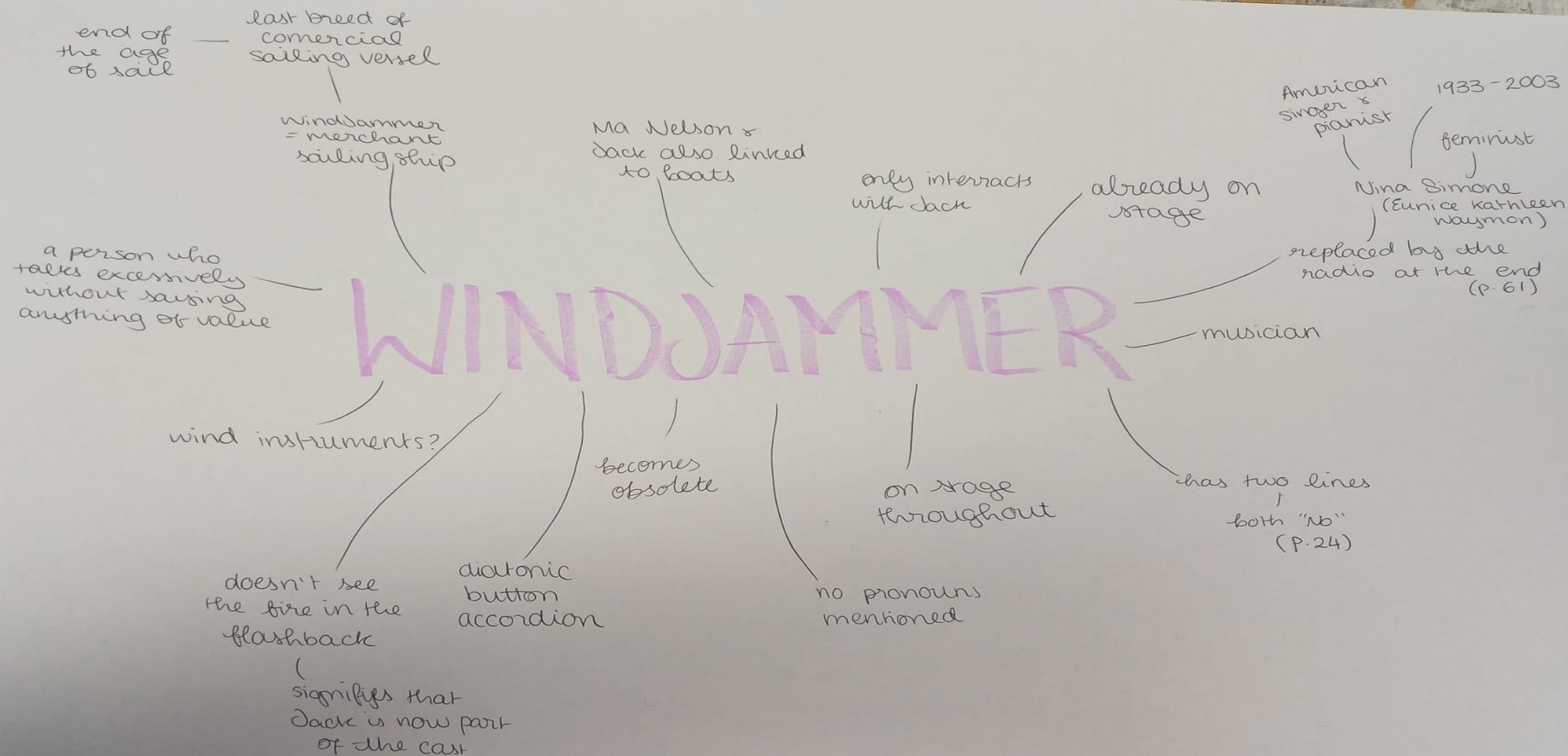
Every slide from here till Research was done in groupwork with the whole group of Year 2 Set Design and Production Students.

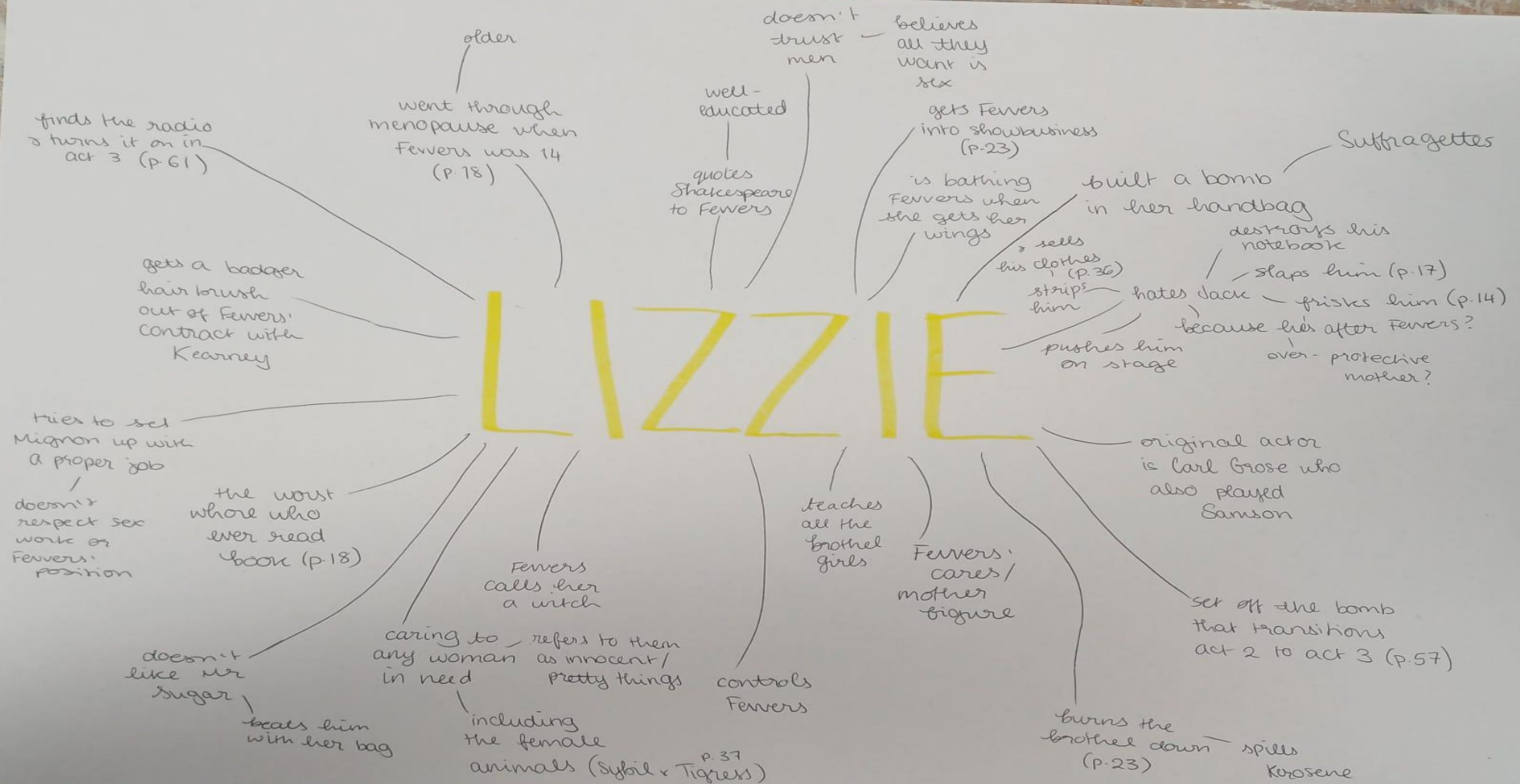


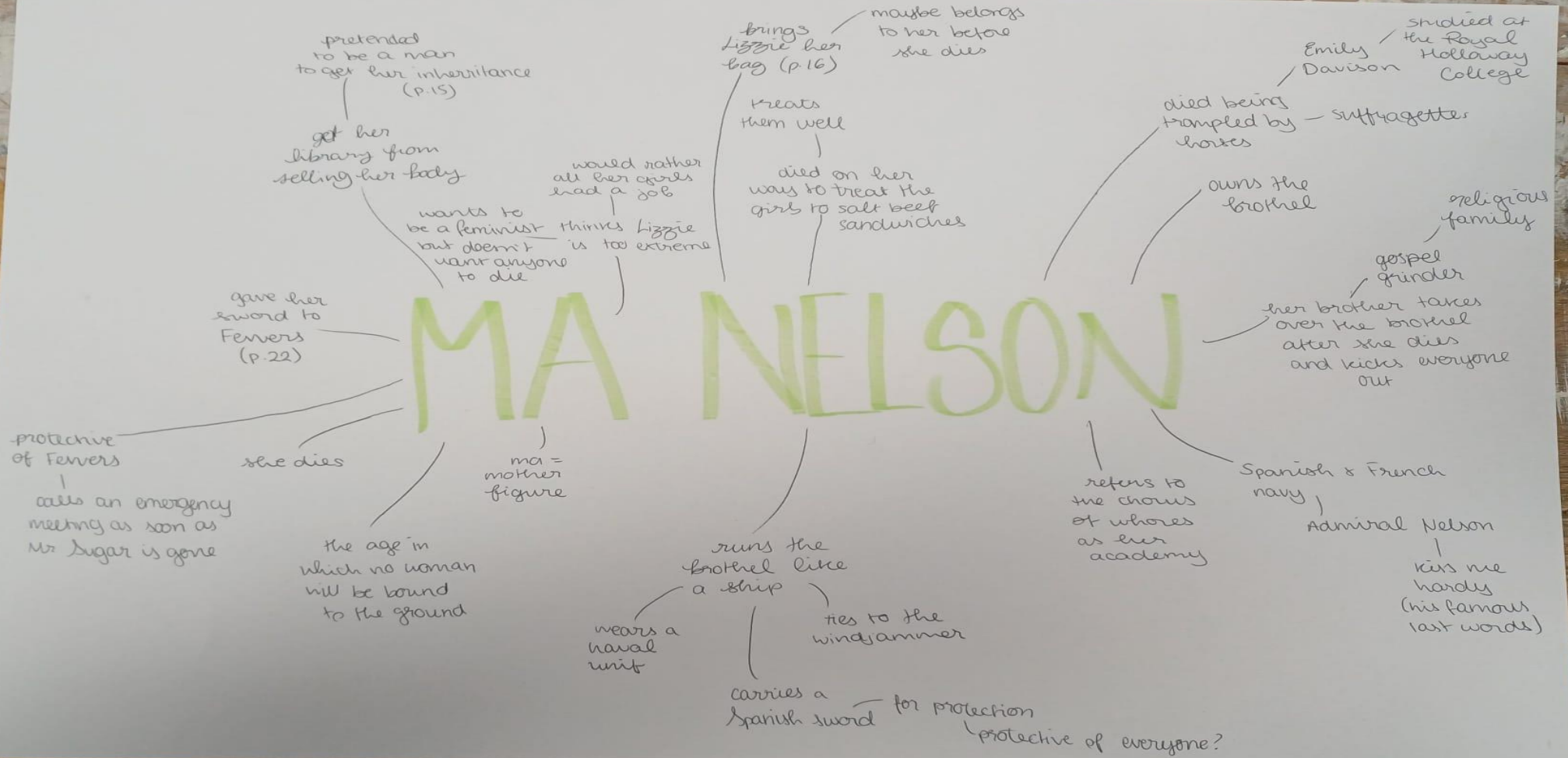


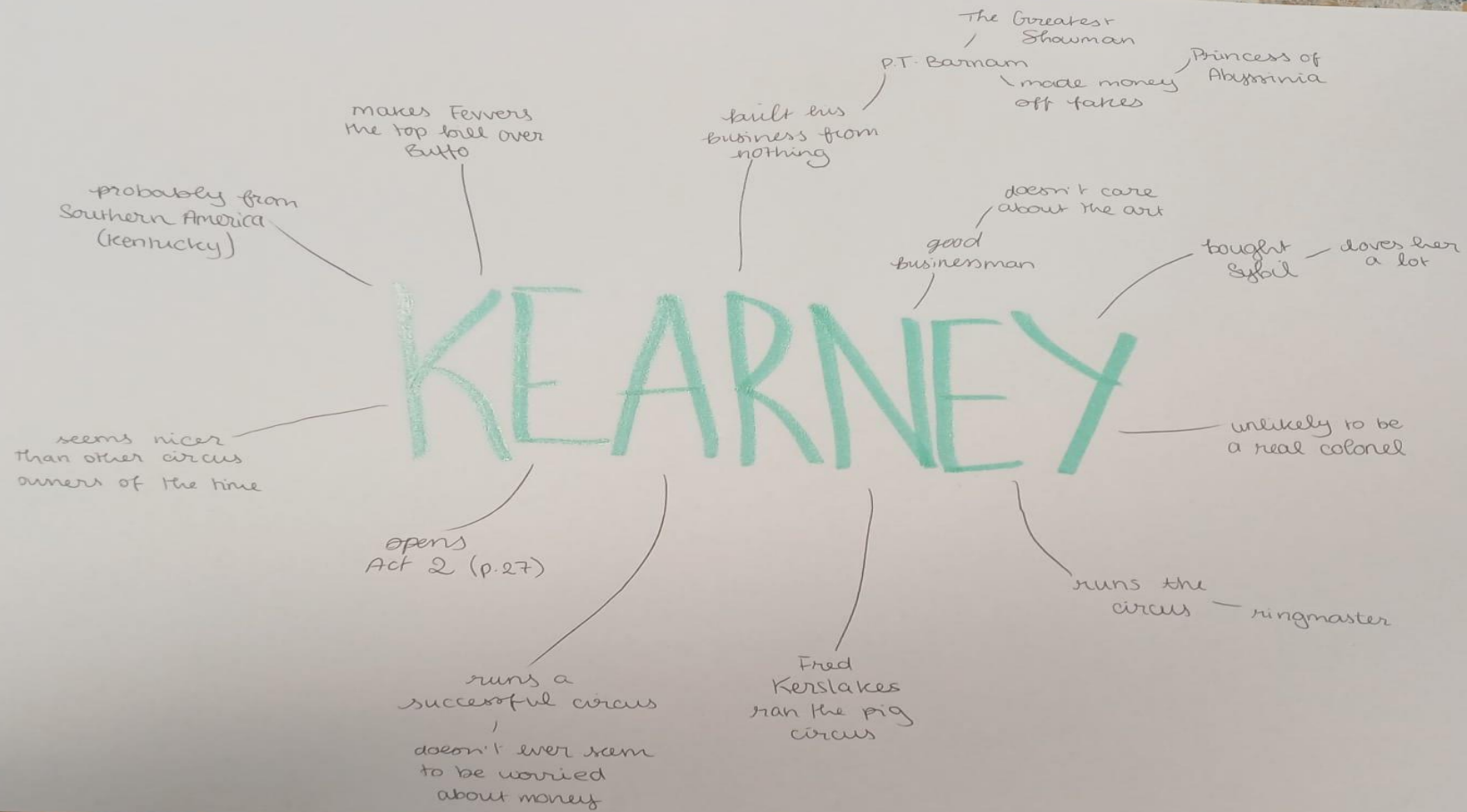


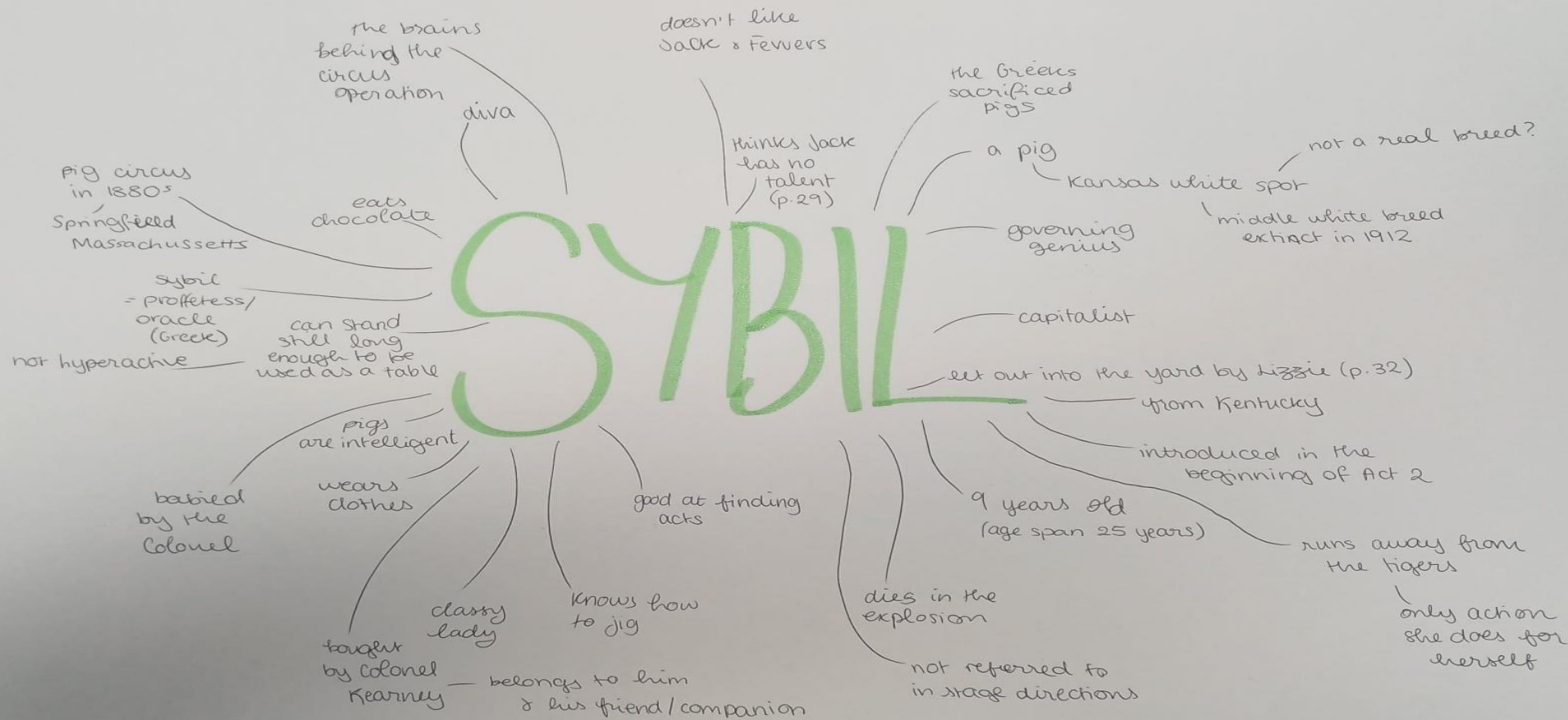


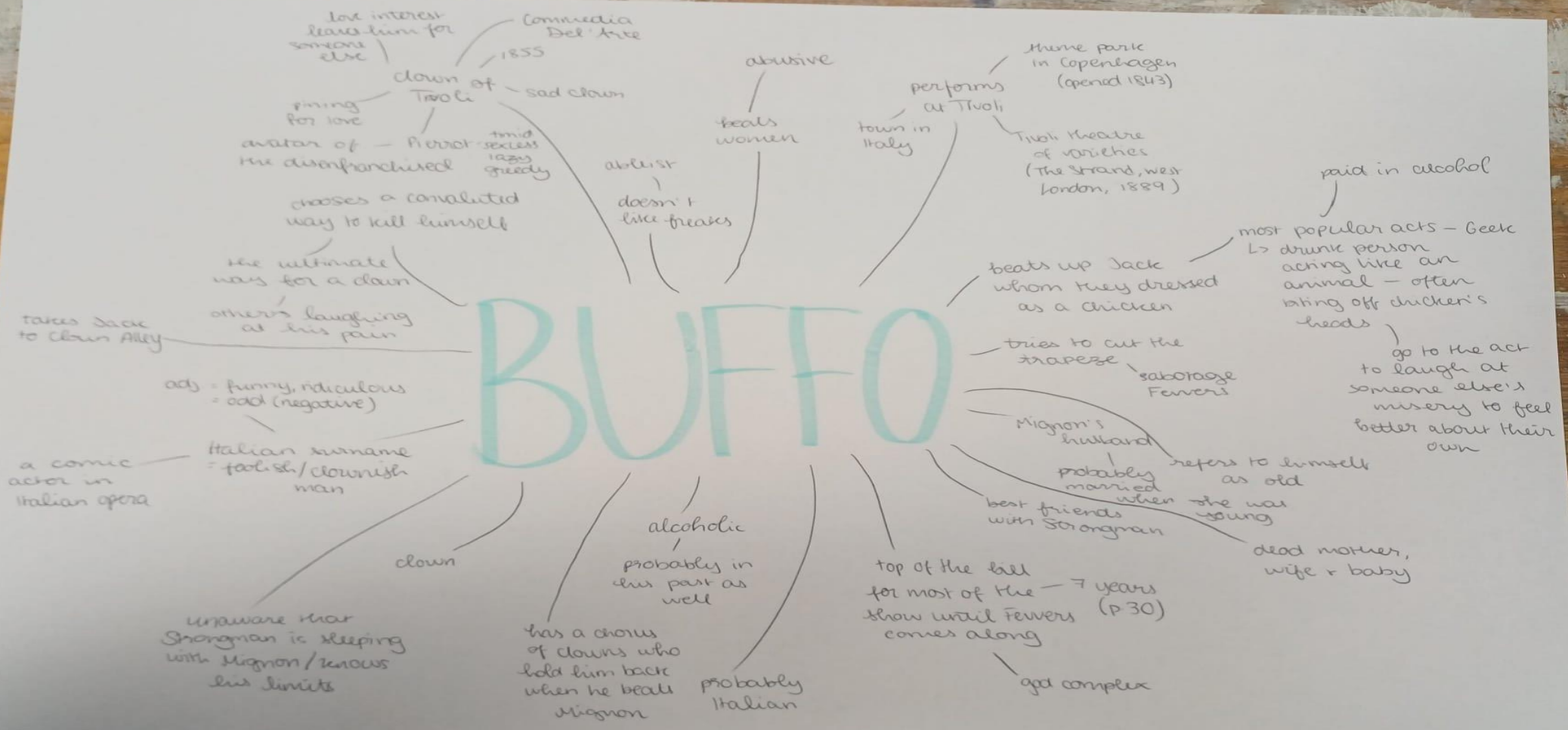


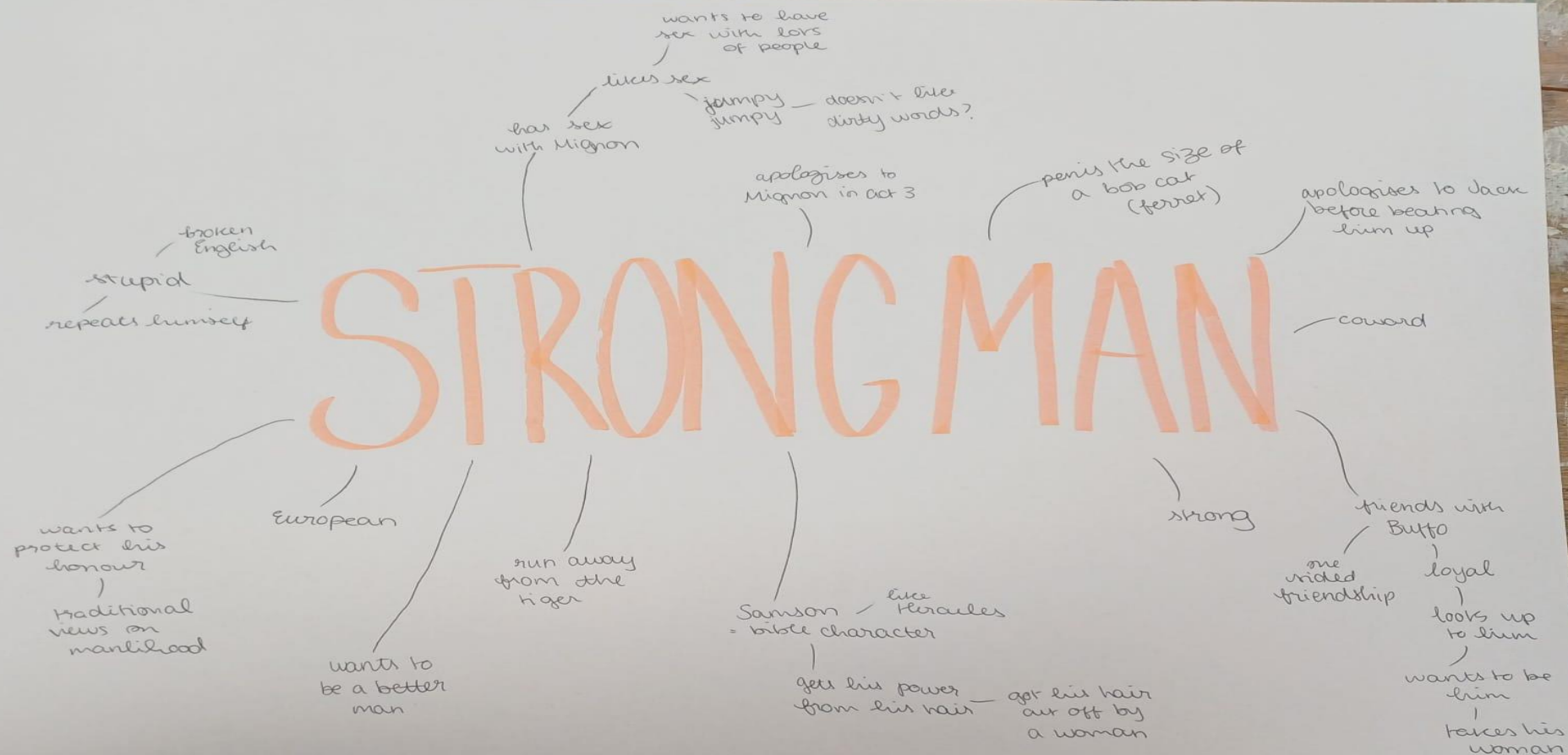


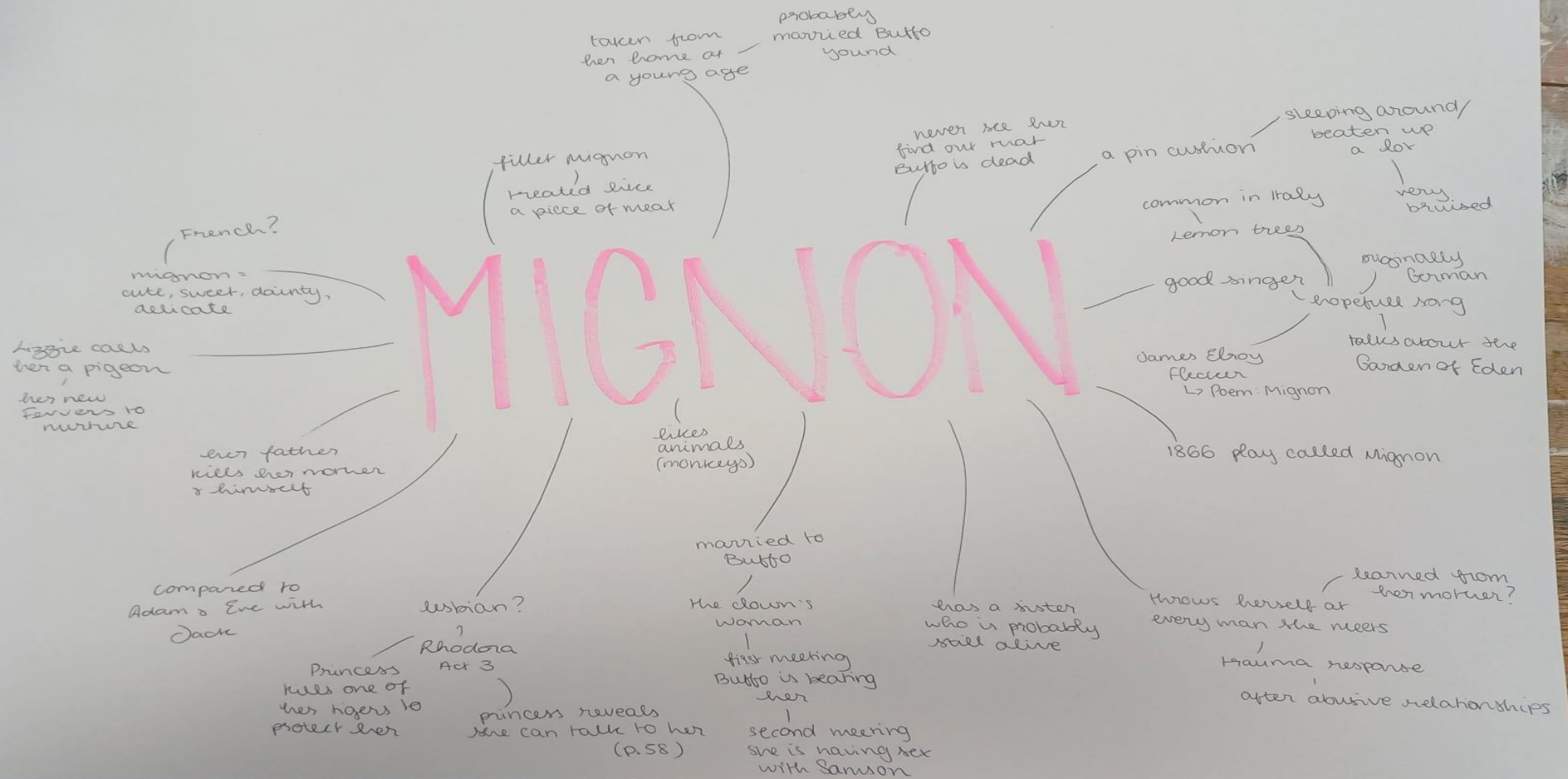


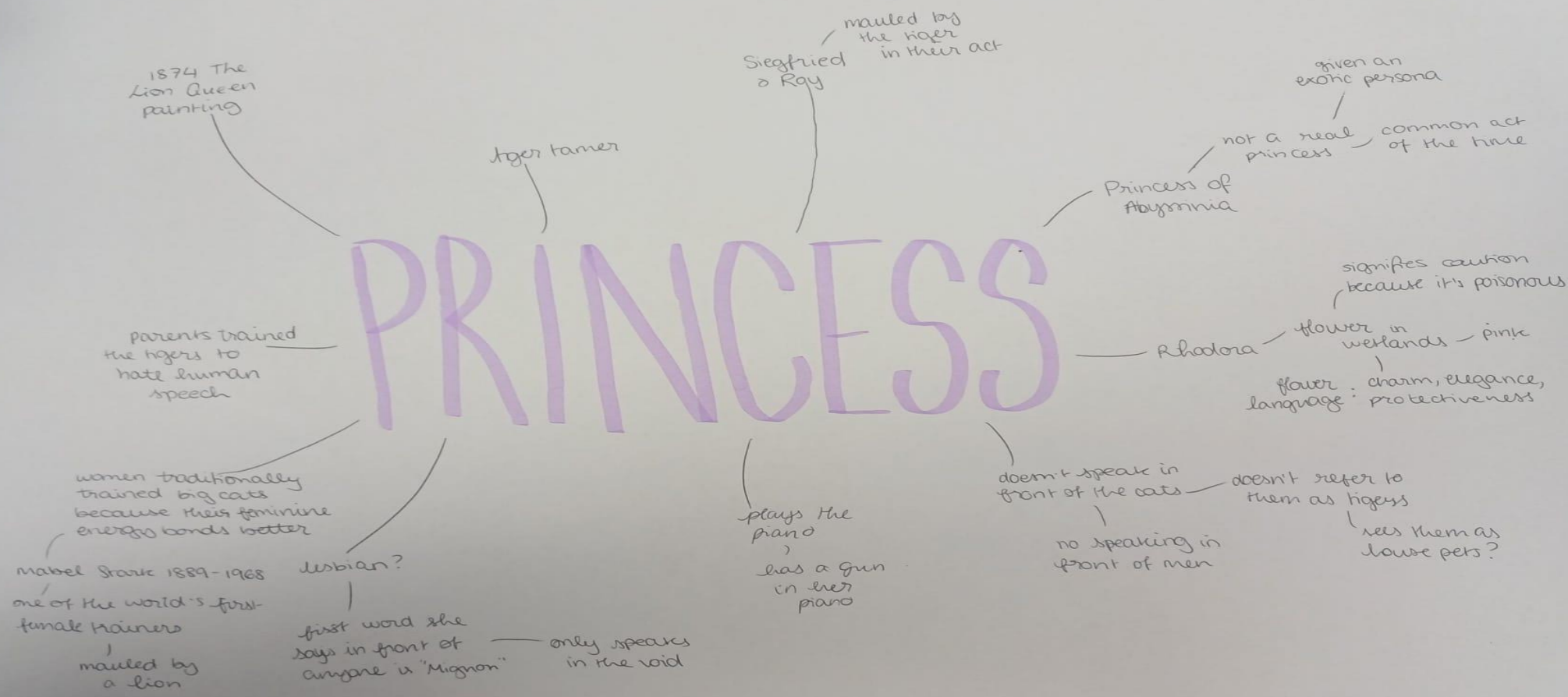


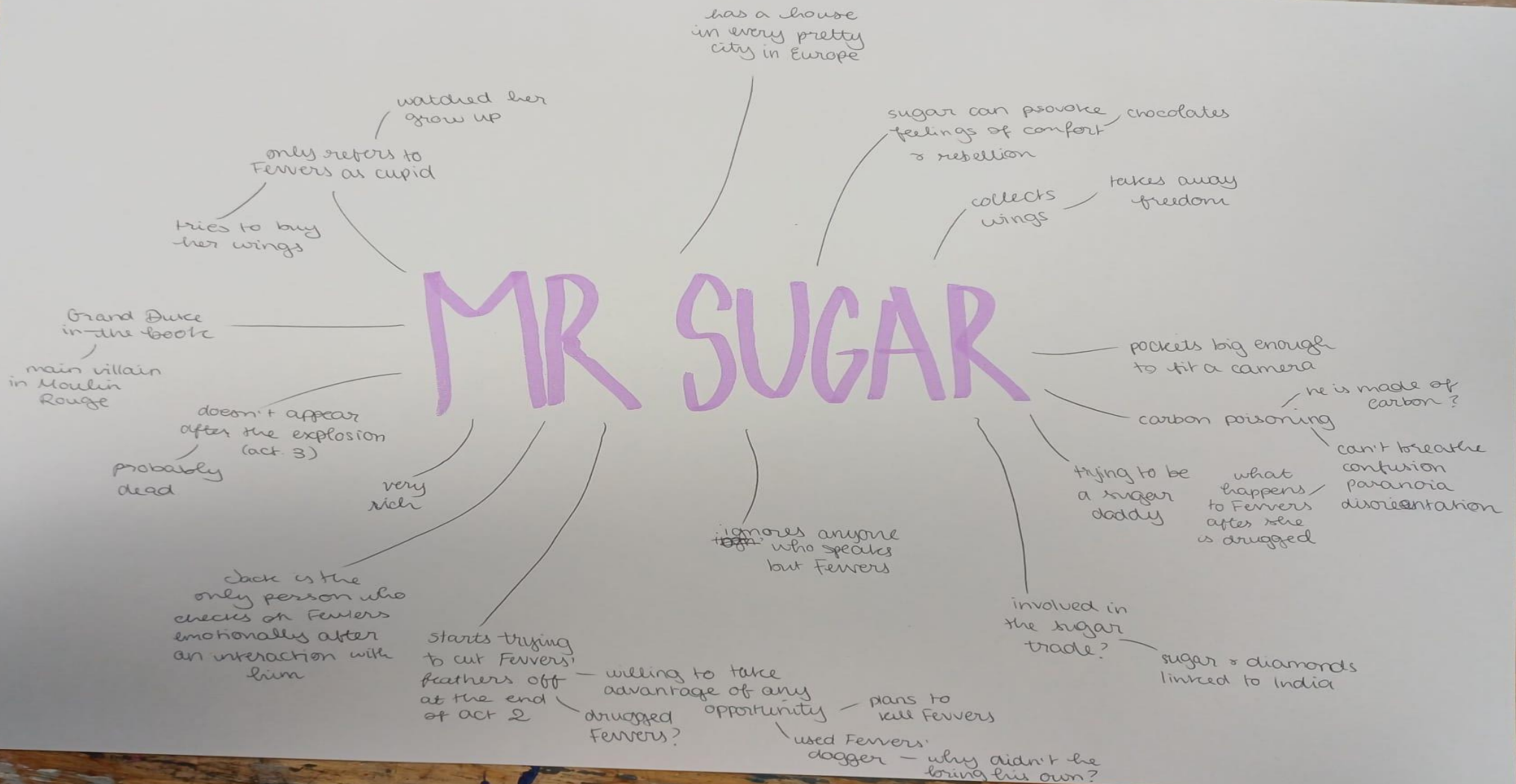




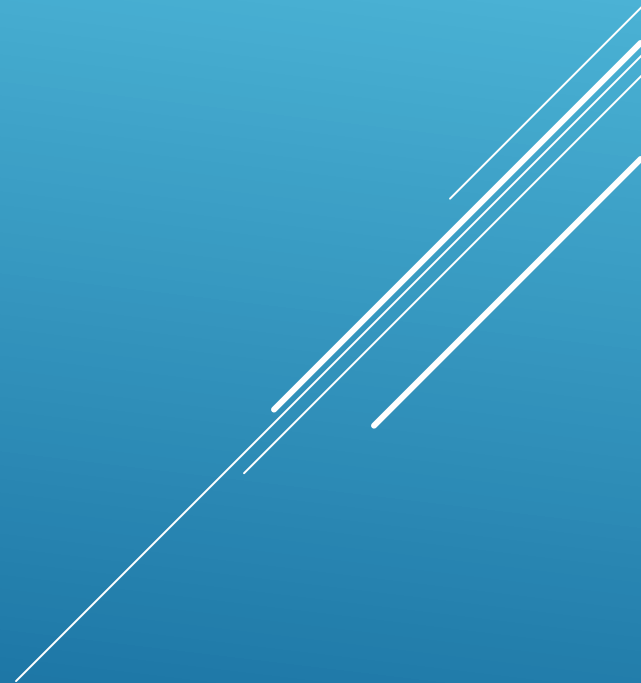


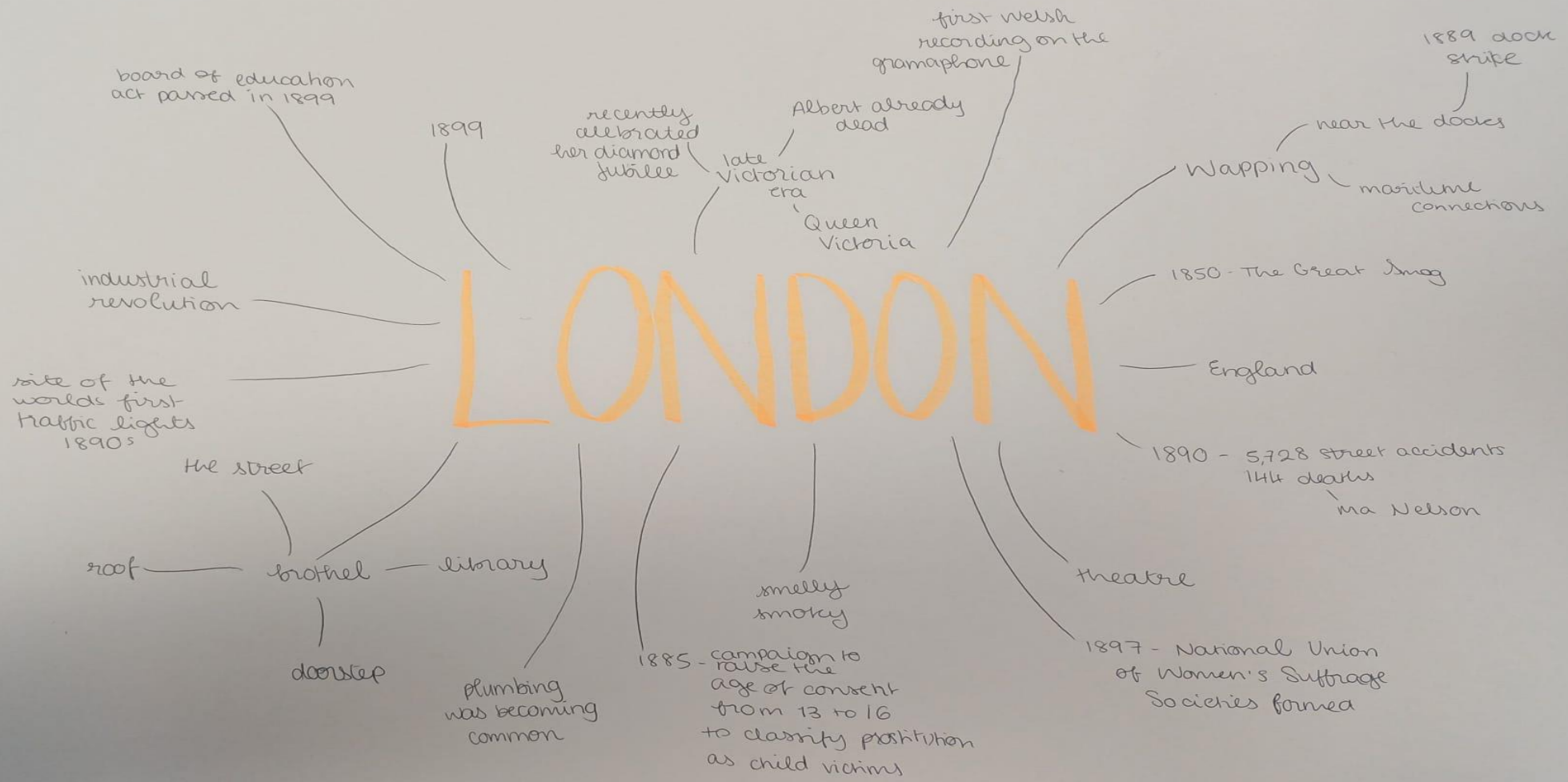


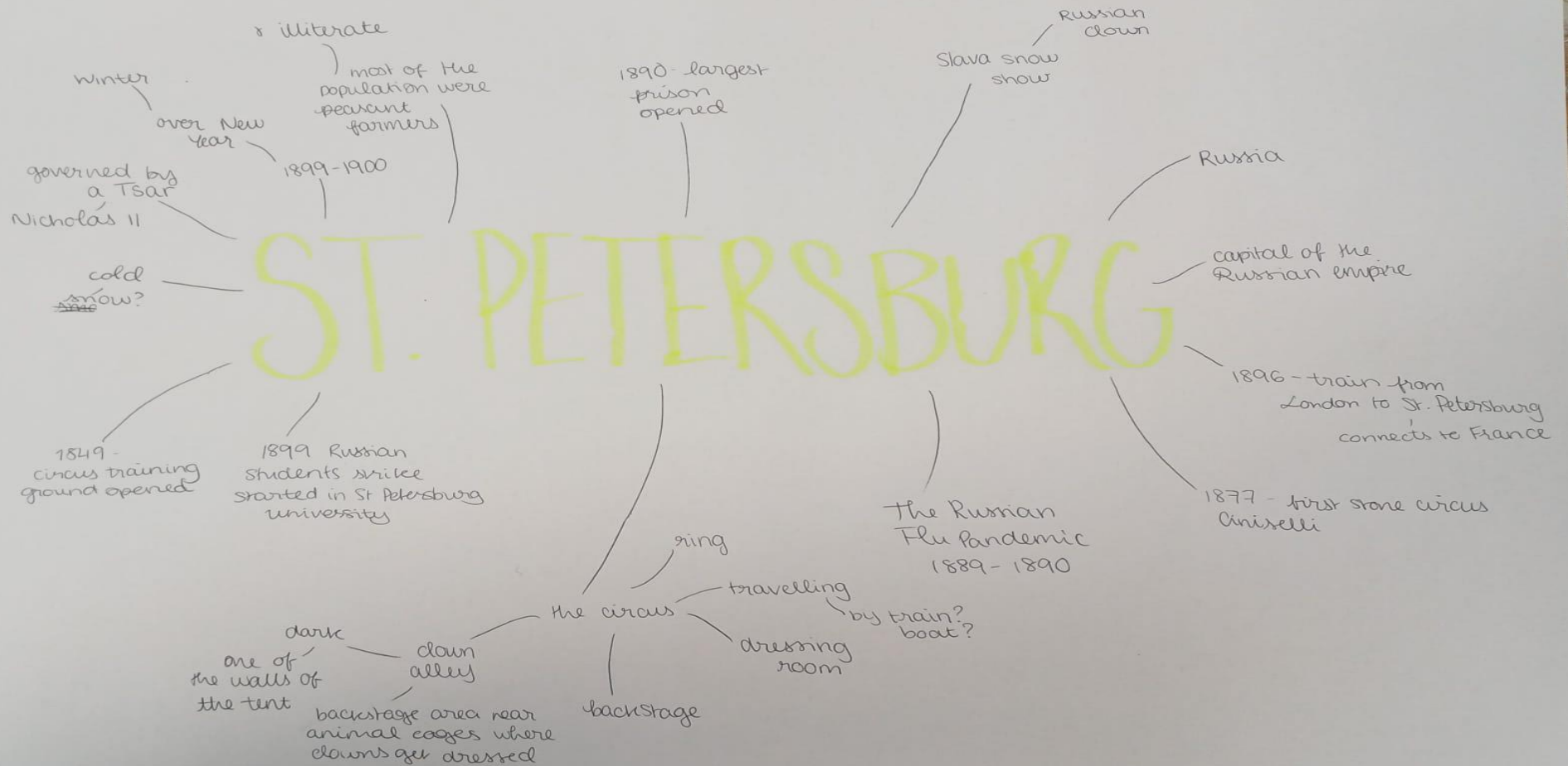


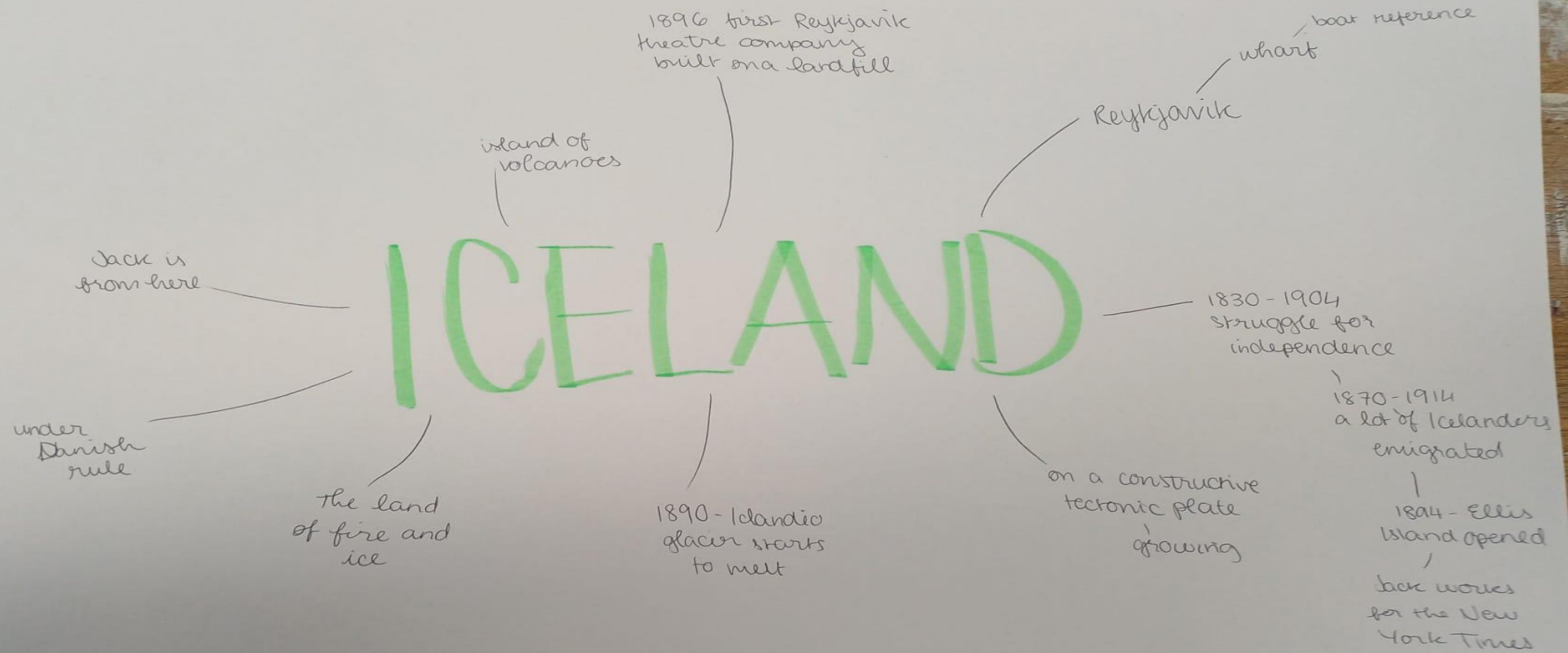


# Locations









# Theme s



19th-20th  
century  
first wave  
feminism

# FEMINISM

Queen Victoria  
as head of  
state

Lizzie looks  
after the other  
women

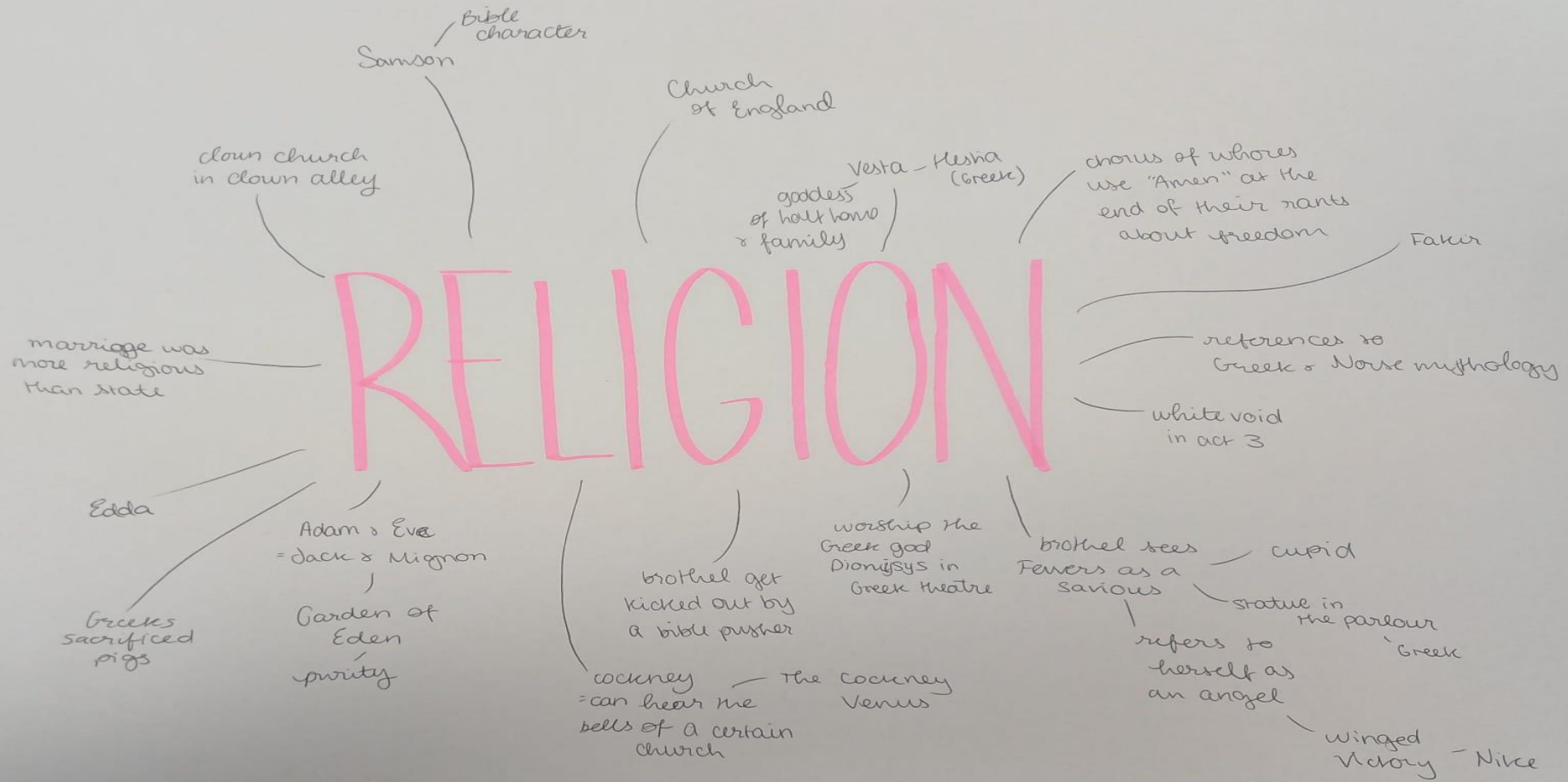
Suffragette  
connections

1870  
married women's  
property act

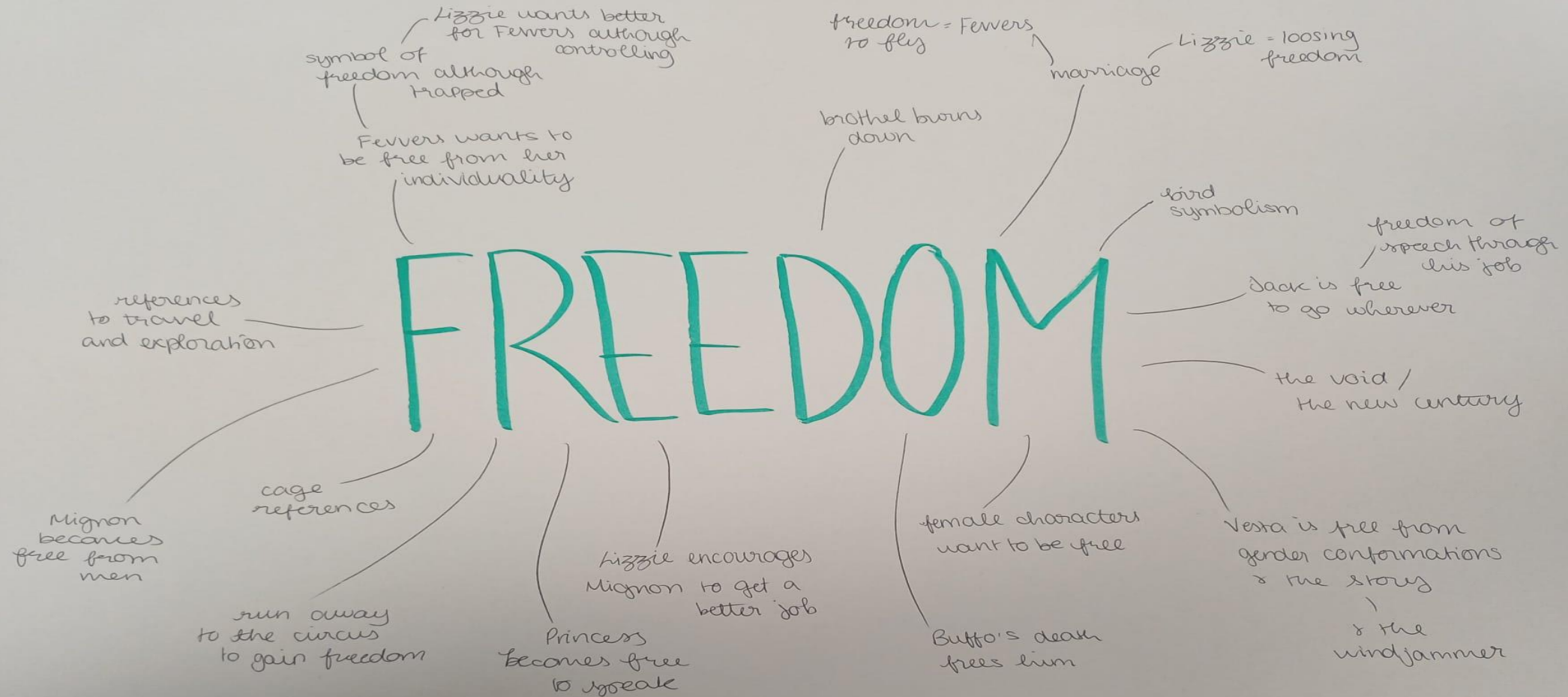
allowed their  
own money  
for the first  
time

lots of female  
characters

want the turn of  
the century to be  
big for women's  
rights



# FREEDOM



# Analysis



The story is about a New York Times Reporter called 'Jack Walser' who is sent across the world to report on fakes that bring money in. We meet him as he's about to meet the 'Winged Woman of London' While sceptical at first "Seen better in Reykjavik" pg.8, He is soon enraptured by the beauty and story of the 'Winged Woman' otherwise known as 'Fevvers'. He learns her story about how she was left on the steps of Brothel run by 'Ma Nelson' who assigns 'Lizzie' as her adopted Mother before they were turfed out by Ma Nelson's brother when she died. Act one ends with her leaving to join Colonel Kerneys circus to which Jack follows her.

At the Circus, He meets the owners, Colonial Kerney and Sybil the Mystic pig as well as an European Strong man called Samson, Princess who is a tiger queen from Abyseenia and Buffo the clown and his wife. The Play reaches its peak with the Circus going wrong with Buffo and one of the Tigers dying and a bomb going off.

The Play ends with jack and Fevvers flying off in a white void.

The Themes present throughout the play are Feminism, Love, changing of times and ownership.

The story is presented in the right order, with every scene happening one after another, yet the way the play is acted add Elements into it which make the play no longer be in order.

Throughout the play, the actors think and do different things, Fevvers starts the play wanting to be free and ends the play finally free.

The complication in the play is Fevvers and lizzie believing jack had slept with Mingion, another complication is Fevvers joining the circus causing jack to leave his job to follow her.

The tension throughout the play is created by characters like Lizzie and Buffo who create tension by committing actions like Buffo beating Migion

The main question throughout the play is who will change. Fevvers is constantly trapped and leaves the audience wondering if she will ever be free.

The main action through out the play is the Circus at St.Petersburg as it is where most of the play takes place.

The cause of the action is jack following Fevvers to st.petersburg.

The answer to the main question is yes, in the end, Fevvers is finally free and chooses to go with jack.

the story ends with jack and Fevvers flying off together to start a new life.

The protagonist is Jack Walser, a New York Times reporter who has traveled the world to debunk fake acts around the world, his final stop being the winged woman of London.

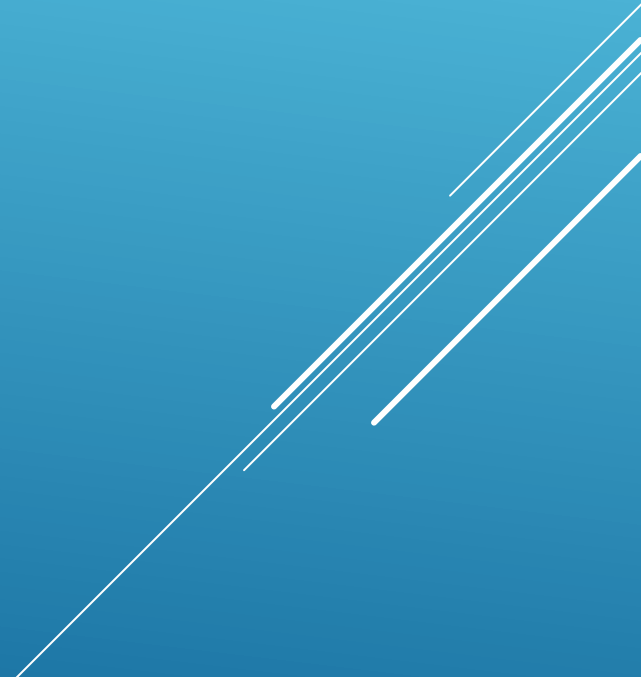
The main antagonists are Mr. Sugar and Buffo, due to Mr. Sugar doing everything he can to get Fevvers wings (resorting to drugging her at the end) and Buffo who actively goes out of his way to ruin the circus when he doesn't get his way.

The most interesting character is Vestra as they only ever seem to be seen and speak to Jack as well as being the driving force through out the play by introducing Jack to Fevvers. This leads to them being almost a temptress/ devil figure.

The story jumps about but takes place in the year 1899 and is set in London and St. Petersburg.

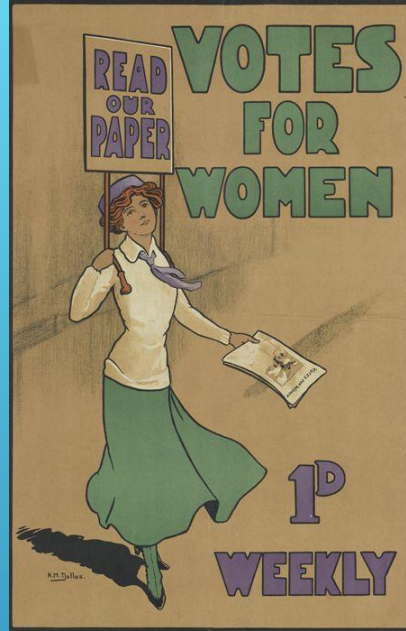


# Research



# First Wave Feminism

The Late Victorian Period (1870 to 1901) saw the biggest social change throughout Britain such as the Public Health Act 1875 saw massive improvements in Public Sanitation. The Biggest social change/Movement starting at the time was the Womens Suffrage Movement. This saw Women protesting for rights on the same level as a man. These protests would be organized through small Womens Suffrage societies across the country. The Biggest groups towards the end of the Victorian Period and into the Early 20th century was The Suffragists (NUWS) and the more militant and famous Movement, The Suffragettes (WSPU).



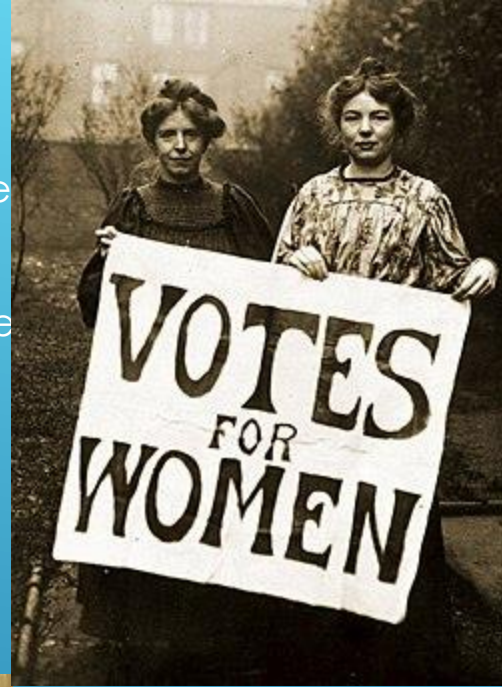
University of Cambridge,  
date Unknown.

The Movement itself can trace its way back to 1825 with an Article written by William Thompson and Anna Wheeler called 'An Appeal of One Half the Human Race, Women, Against the Pretensions of the Other Half, Men, to Retain Them in Political, and Thence in Civil and Domestic Slavery' (VL McBeath, Date Unknown) Which was written in response to another article that stated that "...women did not need the vote because their interests were the same as that of their fathers or husbands, who did have the vote." (VL McBeath, Date Unknown). This shows that the movement for Women's suffrage has been going on for some time before it is usually covered by the Mainstream media such as Education when teaching children about the movement.

This could be seen as a correlation to the Character of Mignon and Fevvers as even those we see that Mignon is treated by far the worst, all the attention is on the developing story of Fevvers, Lizzie and Jack.

# The Suffragettes

The Suffragettes also known as the WPSU was created on 10th October 1903 by the Pankhurst Family. Its creation was due to the discontent in the Suffragists move as many believed that they couldn't get what they wanted through peaceful Protesttesting and believed that more drastic action was required. Led by Emily Pankhurst, This group began to



Annie Kenney and Christabel Pankhurst of the WSPU in 1906, "Women's Suffrage" The National Achieves.



Emily Pankhurst speaking at a WPSU meeting, 1912, English Heritage by Dr.Lisa Berry-Waite.



An Imagine from the Mud March in the Illustrated News, London, 1907, English Heritage, Wikimedia Commans

One of the Famous actions of the Suffragettes was posting Bombs into Politicians homes and buildings across the United Kingdom. The outcomes of this bombing Campaign was a stalemate with the outbreak of the First World War putting most Woman's Suffrage movements to a stop so that everyone could do their bit for their country "Many suffrage organisations suspended their activities during the First World War... The WSPU leadership ended its militant campaigning and Emmeline Pankhurst assisted the government to recruit women into war work" (English Heritage, Dr. Lisa Berry-Waite).

The Bombing Campaign did cause the death of 4 people including a suffragette and injured over 21 people. One of the places they hit was st. Paul's Cathedral, a place nearly always busy due to it being a religious sight. The Bombs themselves would be home made, falling under the current British Government Definition of a 'Single Use Terrorism device'.



Two Suffragette Bombs (1912) that were disarmed before detonation, City of London Police Museum, 2019

# Swords and war

Swords have been used by Humanity for Centuries but it was only as Muskets properly began to faze the swords out of mainline use that they began to become more decretive pieces for someone's home or uniform. Of course in military use they still stayed such as Calvary swords and it was expected of all officers no matter what area of the military they served, that they must have a sword.

During the 1800, Britain fought in some of its most famous war's as well as saw the final British Soldier wearing a redcoat. The 5 most famous British Wars of the period was the Napoleonic wars, The Cremains war, The Zulu War and the 1st and 2nd Boar War.



'The battle of Waterloo, 1815' by Sir William Allan, 1843, Apsley House, London, English Heritage



A Toledo sword with cup hilt and 86cm blade, 20th June 2018, Denhams



A Spanish Artillery Saber Sword, Date Unknown, Liveauctioneers



A Spanish Toledo 1899 Artillery sidearm short sword, May 14th 2022, SOFE Design Auctions

By the time the Zulu war arrived, the 'Scramble for Africa' was already into its twilight with Britain and France being the most heavily invested into securing large parts of the African Content. By this point, Swords had mainly been fazed out of use by mainline infantry and replaced to a more Symbolic role, mainly being worn as a part of Parade dress or during special Military Celebrations such as 'The Changing of the Guard'. This was not the same for the Calvary as they kept their swords up until the first world war when it became clear that Calvary Charges couldn't happen due to the mainstreamed use of the Machine gun.

At least, that's what it was for Britain, France and Germany. Spain, still kept using the sword as a mainline weapon for many years after Britain and other major European Countries moved them to Ceremonial duty. Throughout History, Spain was known for its expert Swordsmith due to the Spanish Militaries constant need for them as their soldiers and explorers (Along with Portugal) Explored and mapped the world while building their Empires.

Spain was known throughout Europe for its sword making with its most famous area being Toledo, a town south west of Madrid. This is where Toledo steel comes from and throughout history, no major city in Europe could match the High Quality and Large production of the Town. However, by the mid 1800, sword smithing in the town was nearly over causing the Spanish Royal Family to create two sword forges which still survive to this day.

## Nelson

Admiral Nelson (Horatio Nelson, 1st Viscount of Nelson 29th September 1758 – 21st October 1805) was the most famous British Admiral in British History. It was under him that Napoleon was stopped from amassing a fleet which could stop British Naval Dominance at the battle of Trafalgar and stopped the French Fleet at the Battle of the Nile which caused Napoleon to Abandon his troops in Egypt.

His Other battles include the Capturing of Corsica, Copenhagen, Naples, Cape Vincent as well marrying and then finding his Sole mate in Naples (the two remained in their previous Marriages but did have children)

Nelson met his end during the battle of Trafalgar hours after he told his men "England expects that every man will do his duty" (Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson (1758 – 1805) BBC History, 2014) due to a French Sniper that hit him during the battle. His last words famously being 'Kiss me, Hardy' which are the same words used to describe the lack of a goodbye said by Fevvers, Lizzie and the girls at the brothel to Ma Nelson on Page



Admiral Nelson Column, Trafalgar Square, London, Date Unknown, Photographer unknown, [Image: Admiral Horatio](#)

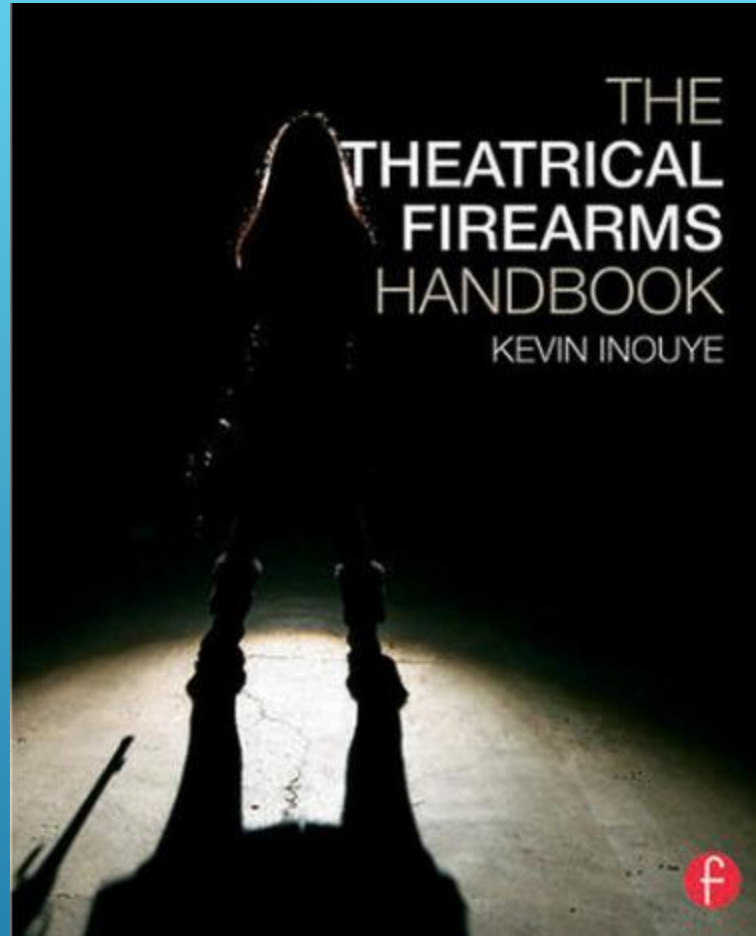
Nelson, Nelson's Column, Trafalgar Square, London

## Armours (The Weapon handlers of the Industry)

According to the sight 'The Numbers' the most popular Genre in 2024 was Action, a trend which has continued from around the 2010's till now. Action Films are usually 90 minutes of high Octain, adrineline fueled action. A common trend throughout all action films are weapons.

Weapon's are a type of prop that has to be handled correctly and is usually handled by an Armourer. Armourers should "Whenever possible you should hire an expert to provide in house training" (the theatrical firearms handbook, Kevin Inouye, 2014, Focal Press). They are incharge of any weapons used on set.

One thing I looked at throughout this Module was the 'Theatrical Firearms Handbook' by Kevin Inouye. This handbook provided an in-depth dive into being an Armourer and handling firearms in the industry. In the Uk, the main two Government acts you must follow when using Firearms or weapons in a production are any of the Firearms acts with the most important one being the Firearm's act 1968 as it outlines to strict rules behind about how an actor operating a weapon without a licensees, as well as the Health and safety in the workplace Act 1974 as well as all updated versions including the Management of Health and Safety at work regulation 1999.



Theatrical Firearms Handbook, Kevin Inouye, 2014, Focal Press

## Food and Drink of the Period

The Victorian Period in the UK was (like many items during the period) a showcase of the rich poor divide in the country but also how it changed. At the Beginning of the Victorian Period, Most food was of the season or what had been able to be pickled or had been preserved. This however changed as the Victorian period continued with canned food becoming increasingly Common. The Biggest problem was keeping things fresh which meant that most food items were produced and sold locally.

### Jelled Eels

Jelled eels are a type of food that includes Jelly and eels and is often served with pie and mash. During the Victorian period, it was a common food item due to how easy it was to make and the large eel population that lives in the Thames. Towards the end of the 1800 was when Jellied Eels began to die down in popularity with it only really remaining popular in the east end of London, espally in the Cockney area which Fevvers is from due to her other nickname being 'Cockney Venus'. It also explains her love of the Food Jellied eels due to her offering Jack some during their first meeting.

Drinks was the same in the Victorian period except for the move to water as a main source. Of course water was still a danger to drink due to the construction of many wells next to old sewers that would break constantly, spilling Sewage into the water and helping spread the many cholera outbreaks in London during the 1800's.

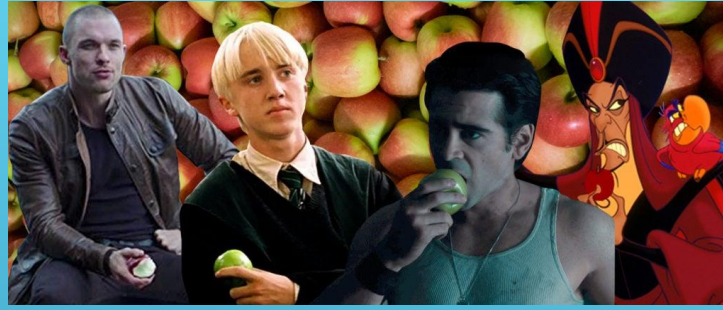
This was of course remedied with the building of Victoria sewers that are still in use today. However, many drinks such as wines, Champagne, brandies, whiskeys, port etc, were unavailable to the Average workers of the time and were instead a Luxury for the upper classes to enjoy.

Fevver's in the play is nearly always drinking Champagne or sham which are symbols of wealth in the period, this is therefore used to show the Wealth that Fevver's has as in her contract for Colonel's Kerney Circus, she asks for Champagne which shows her wealth espally when she's in Russia as Russia was still a very economically poor country so any Champagne would have to be Imported which would cost a lot.

# Foux Food and Drink Props

Food is often shown during shows or productions and 'Nights at the Circus' is no different. Throughout the play food such as 'Jellied Eel's', 'Champagne', and 'Chocolate'.

Food is often used as it adds Realism to the production and allows us to relate to them a little, it also helps ground the personalities of the Characters with a common example of a character eating an apple is usually a villain which comes originally from the idea of Original Sin "The go-to answer is biblical symbolism, mirroring the act of Adam and Eve eating that forbidden fruit" (Why are bad guys always chomping on Apples?, MelMagazines, 2021, Tristan Parker) however it can also be used because apples are never quiet to eat "Apples are a great way of adding in an extra "screw you"...they're super-noisy — that crunch is one of the loudest, most recognizable eating sounds there is." (Why are bad guys always chomping on Apples?, MelMagazines, 2021, Tristan Parker)



(Why are bad guys always chomping on Apples?, MelMagazines, 2021, Tristan Parker)

Of course, while food and drink is regularly consumed in Productions, food and drink has been known to cause problems such as food slowing down actors' lines and the obvious look that having an actor drunk on stage is more a safety risk then being a good idea. This is where fake (or Foux) food and drink come into the picture.

The Goal for most of these props are to allow the actor's to eat and drink without becoming drunk or full. They are also used to be set dressing so if a Roast Chicken is present on a table, then the Prop makers will create a fake one, so nobody must worry about it rotting. Some of the food may need to be eaten and so some food props need to be edible. An example of this would be the Jellied Eels which Fevvers is eating when she first meets jack in Act 1.

Jellied Eel's are an enquired taste so a edible prop would be made such as using marshmallows painted to look like Eel's mixed in with a clear jelly.

Foux drinks have begun to change with the advent of Alcohol Free Drinks which allow the actors to drink known Alcohol brands while remaining sober. Last year, I remember making a glass of Champagne with lemonade and a bit of food colouring.

# Russian Design Vs British Design

British Design in the 1899 was one of Gothic Revival which dominated the Victorian Period. Its style harking back to Medieval Architecture but by 1899 the movement was beginning to fade instead replaced by the British Arts and Crafts Movement. The Gothic Revival saw wealthy manors and homes decorated with gargols and other striking Features. However, for those living in the poorer class, small and cramped townhouses where the only thing they could have however, by 1899, more regular terraced houses which have become a staple of British Cities and can still be seen in Cities and towns across the UK to this day.

The Russian Empire by 1899 was a nation constantly tearing itself apart. Most of its people (or Serfs) lived in squalor under Russia's own form of Slavery called Serfdom which saw that the people were owned and had to pay high taxes on their work without much in return as well as poor working conditions in the factories lead to strikes often.

Most Russian Citizens still lived in Log Cabins with barely anything to show for themselves whereas, the cities were often beautiful and Grand. St. Petersburg was a port city heavily inspired by Western Architecture mixed with classic Russian Designs such as the domes on Orthodox Churches. This Movement was called the Russian Revival and was heavily inspired the Byzantine Empire.

This movement was ongoing until the Russian Civil War after which it was replaced with Brutalism.

# Adam Savage



Adam Savage (Adam Whitney Savage) is an American Based Special effects designer as well as Producer, Fabricator, Actor, Presenter and Tv Educator most well Known For his role at Co presenter of the Discovery Channel 'MythBusters'.

While Adam Savage has had a long history in the Tv and Film Industry, Where I have taken the most inspiration and interest from is his Youtube channel 'Adam Savage Tested'. On this channel, he goes over props and the pratitcal items used in different Film Productions such as the Alien's film. He also is often making props and costumes to use at events.

The Series that inspired me from him was his one day builds where he attempts a prop build in under a day. His ability to create props from small items has allowed me to look at everything in a more out of the box way instead of dismissing items that could be useful.

Adam Savage at an Event for Green Hornet (2011), By Jordon Stauss, Date Unknown, Found on IMDB.com, Image courtesy [WireImage.com](http://WireImage.com)

## Kevin Inouye

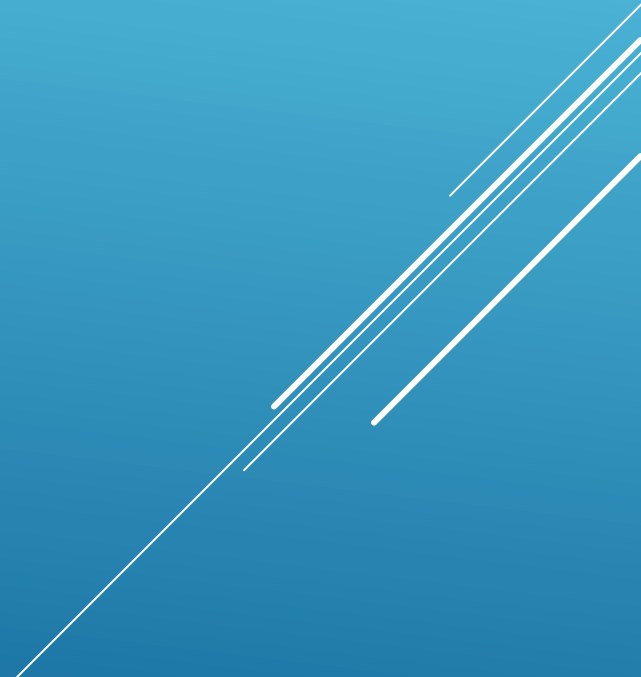


Kevin Inouye, Date Unknown,  
Picture taker unknown, Sources  
from [Stunt Players | KEVIN INOUE](#)

Kevin Inouye is an American professional fight/ Intimacy coordinator, stuntman and Stage Combat instructor who has made a very Large Career in the Tv and Film industry with him working heavily with the company 'Stunt Predators USA'.

Throughout this module

I have been reading 'The Theatrical Firearms Handbook' written by Kevin Inouye. This book cover's everything that someone would need to know about using Firearms in a theatrical production from the handling of the weapon to the legal and paperwork side that you have to complete. This has been a good stand point when it comes to looking at any weapons in the play 'Nights at the Circus' and how they would be handled from a prop makers perspective.



# Historia Normannis

Historia Normannis is a British based historical enactment society that specialises in the late 12th to early 13th Century. They are 'bringing history to life in a historically accurate, engaging and exciting way.' (Historia Normannis Website, date unknown, Author unknown, [We Are Historia Normannis | Historia Normannis](#))



Historia Normannis Lampeter at Lampeter Medieval day, Daz Photography, March 22 2025, [Historia Normannis Lampeter at Lampeter Medieval Day 22.03... | Flickr](#)

I am apart of this society and there two reason's why I looked at the society for inspiration. The Crafting and Combat.

In the Society, a big part of what we do is crafting, wether that be small items or who historically accurate costumes. While this particularly didn't effect what materials I'd want to use, it did make me think about what different traditional ways I could use to make props due to places like the Russian empire still be running mainly of Cottage industries at the time the play takes place in.

The Other area that Historia Normannis is combat. Unlike other reenactment groups, most of historia Normannis combat is unscripted, with the focus more on realistic combat for the time. This is done with the combat system called 'Bataille' (Battle in French). This system operates of a hit based system and is formed around a t-shirt and shorts. Effectively, anything that a t-shirt and shorts covers is where a hit can be scored (Minus Groin, Collar bone and head due to safety concern).

Why I have looked at his is that it was a good point of reference to look at whenever weapons were brought up as even though there isn't any true combat with swords, the battle System of 'Bataille' is good for blocking fight scenes.



Historia Normannis Lampeter at Lampeter Medieval day, Daz Photography, March 22 2025, [Historia Normannis Lampeter at Lampeter Medieval Day 22.03... | Flickr](#)

The way it would work is that using this meothed allows the fight to look dramatic while staying safe and with the hit system, it allows you to plot out what moves you want before one character is defeated or the fight ends.

Designing



## Props List

Prop's list was an important first step when it came to planning the props I was going to mock up. This was important because it allowed me to have an list of props, who used them and what scene it appeared in.

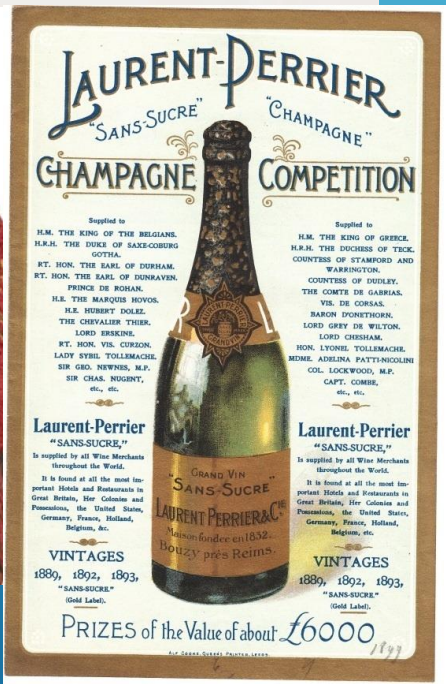
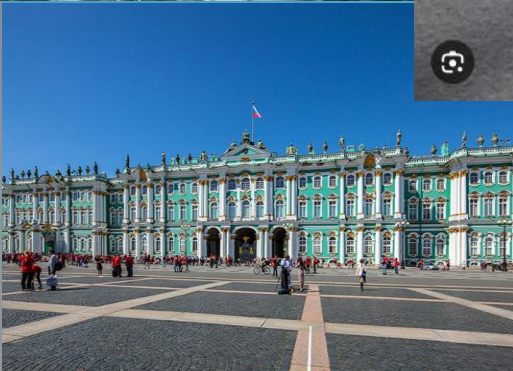
This would be done on Exel which would allow it to be made in a table and ease of printing.

If there is one thing I can confidently say that I needed to improve on was my timing, I wrote down a basic prop list to focus be never moved on to make the proper list, this was a mistake because it meant that I didn't have a full list which did lead to me feeling a bit trapped in to doing certain props. A simple fix for this for the next module, would be to make a checklist that has to be completed.

[illegible]

Prop list template, Stage Management The essential Handbook, Chapter 16, Page unknown, Gail Pallin,

Props moodboard



# Sourcing

One of my first ideas after creating the prop's list, mood board and research was to look at what Props I could source. This was done so I could further eliminate what I would need to make to what I could find.

This helped as it allowed me to narrow down what props I could make. Not all of the Prop's were perfect however, the Champagne glasses that I sourced were only just coming into the style at the turn of the Century.

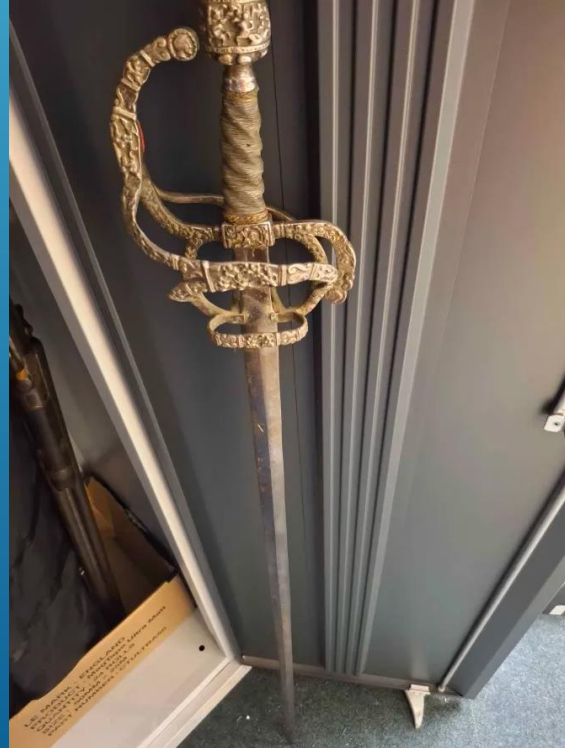
To counter this, a visit to the charity/ antiques shops would yield some props that would work better, however, due to the short nature of this project, I didn't want to get too distracted in jumping into shops, which in hindsight, was something I probably could have done on a spare day off.



## Armory and Props Store

To tie into sourcing, throughout the play, weapons such as Fevver's dagger, Ma Nelson's sword and Princess gun as shown. This meant a look through the Theatre armoury (Weapon's Cabinet). This really helped because it allowed me to see the weapons.

every weapon has there own texture and feel and so being able to hold and feel the design on the Sword Hilt, while I didn't end up using a sword during the group presentation, I did draw plans and begin cutting Cardboard out to begin a small mock up of what I would imagine Ma Nelson's sword hilt to look like taking heavy inspiration from Admiral Nelson's sword however, it was started too late into the module for it to get any significant progress done on it.

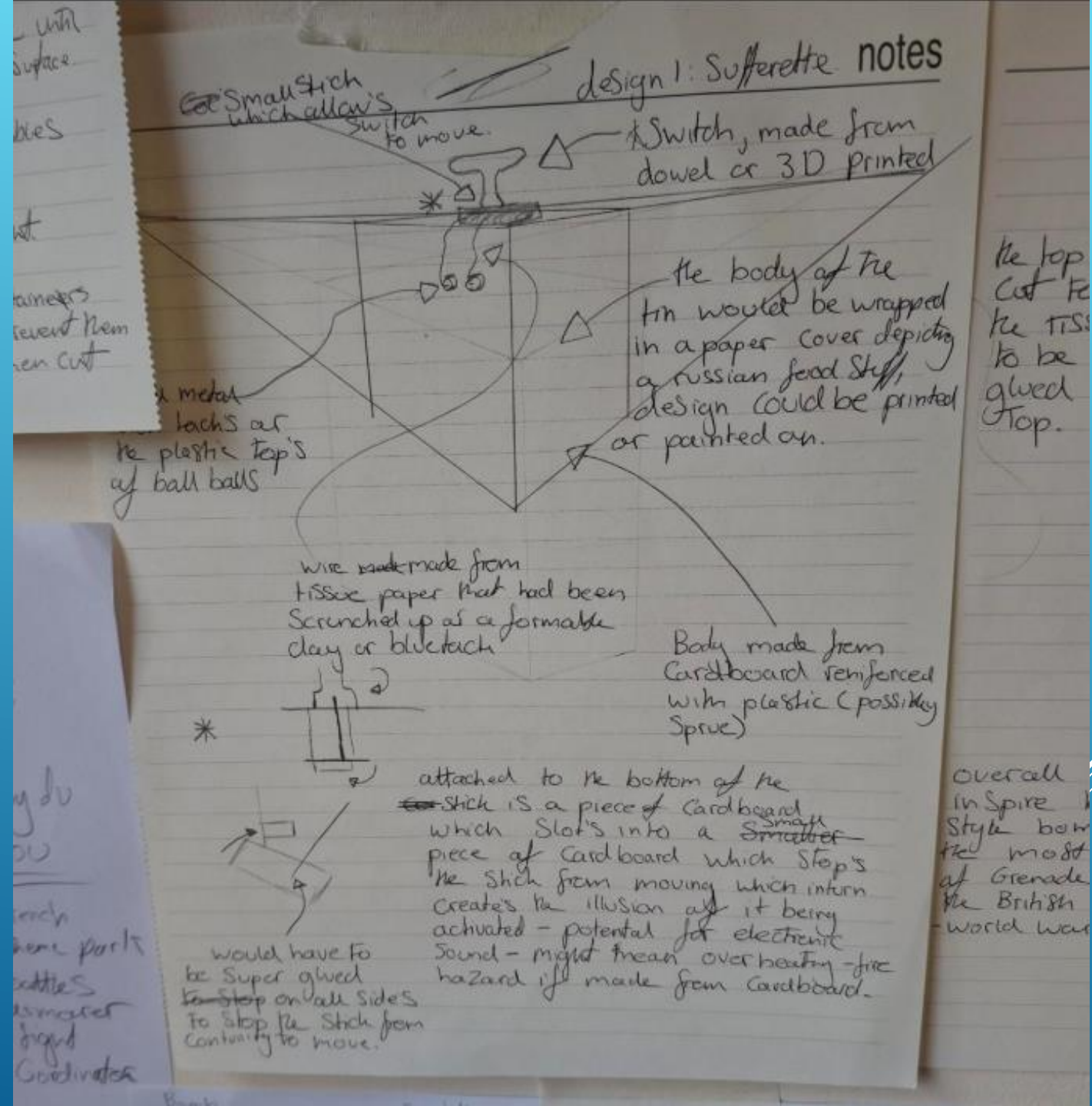


## Intertail Design Ideas

My first design idea for the prop bomb was to go for one that was a near carbon copy of the Suffragette mustard tin bomb in the Metropolitan police museum in London. This design would have been a square wooden box with a 3d printed lever on top which would twist (Arming the prop - wouldn't do anything) and some decoration on the side with wires and small metal caps that would be made out of the plastic tops of Ballbuls.

this design was quickly stopped and put to one side when I realised the main draw back to it. There was just no creativity with it. Sure it would have done it's job but it just wouldn't have looked as good.

If this design was to do anything for this project, it would be act as a base line for all of my designs and show where I started. Its basicness as well allowed me to gage creativity to make sure nothing was simple in its look.

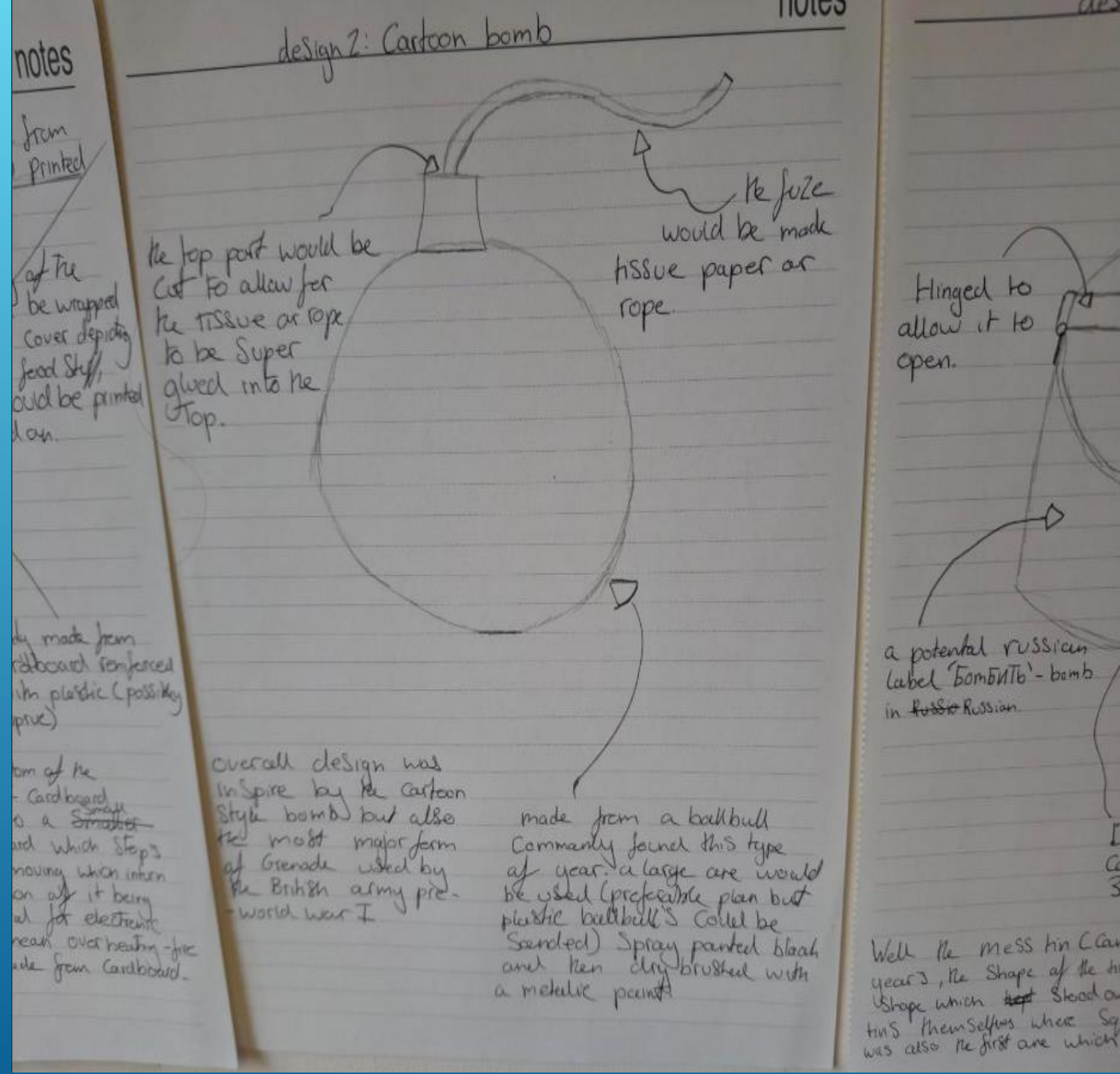


My second design was by far my favourite and it blended with the idea of Surrealism that the group had noticed when we started the module.

When I was looking for inspiration on bombs in media, no matter how hard I look, I couldn't escape the design of a cartoon bomb and so I decided to experiment with it.

The main body would be made out of a large plain ballbulb (which would be common around this time of year) which would act as the actual bomb with tissue paper or rope as the Fuse which would be placed in a hold in the plastic top which would have been cut open to allow it to be superglued in. The ballbulb itself would be painted black and then dry brushed with a metallic paint to add weathering to the piece.

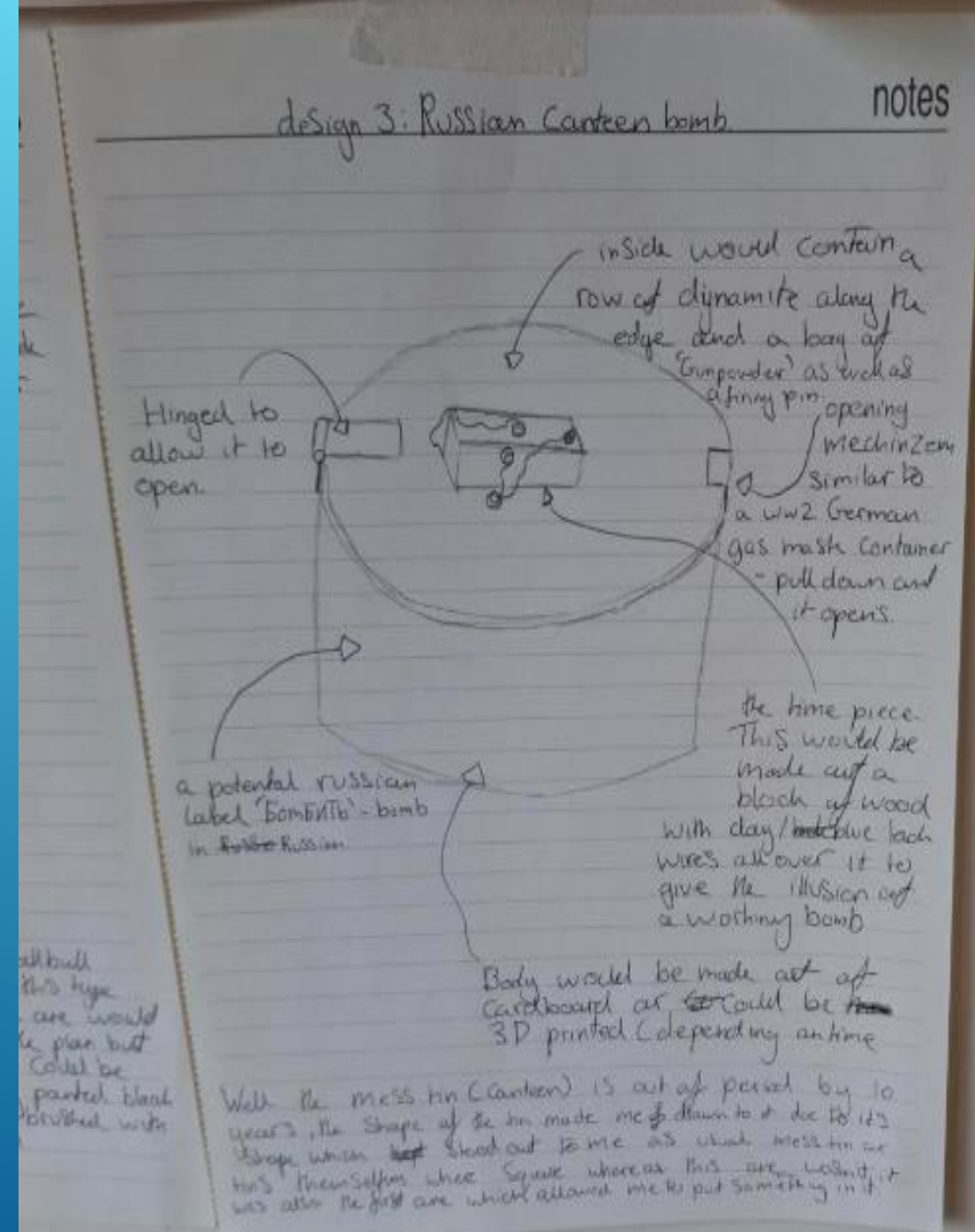
There were two big downsides to this design, the first being that it would have to fit in Lizzie's bag and the second being the design requires it to be shown under construction which this bomb couldn't, it was due to these that I moved onto my Next design.



My third design resolved around a Russian Canteen. This design choice came from the idea I had that Lizzie would get most of the items to build the bomb in Russia, therefore, the main body should be something Russian.

This design was in my opinion was the most complex with the design being able to open, allowing items in the inside to be shown, this would have required a hinge and a latch which I did begin to experiment with my main idea coming from the latch mechanism from a German Gas Mask container.

However, what stopped this design was that it was moving heavily away from the tin idea. I liked the tin idea and wanted to include some things to refer to the origin as a suffragette tin bomb, it was through searching that I finally found the inspiration which led to my final design.

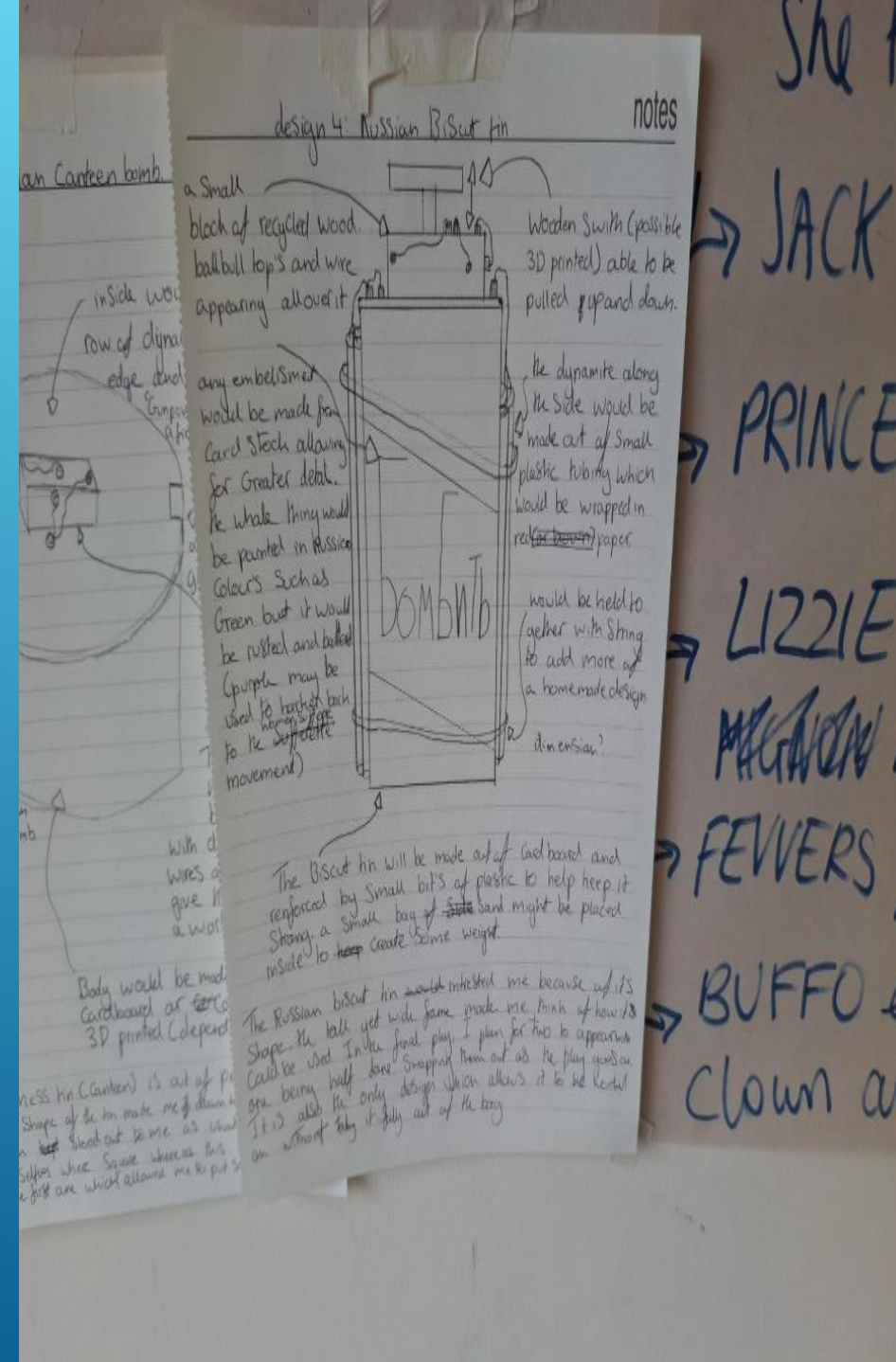


## Design's - Bomb

When researching, I found the Image of a Russian Biscuit tin which I found really unique and matched the idea of a tin bomb while allowing enough room for Improvement.

The design I came up with did change over time but it's main premiss stayed the same.

The Design itself was focused on the large biscuit tin with dynimite sticks on the side wired into the tin with a plunger. I did orginally plan to write the Russian word for Bomb on it as a fun little message just incase anyone in the audience understood Russian and/or as a Surrealist way of hiding the Bomb in front of the Audience eyes however, I felt once the dynimite was on, it didn't work and felt pointless.

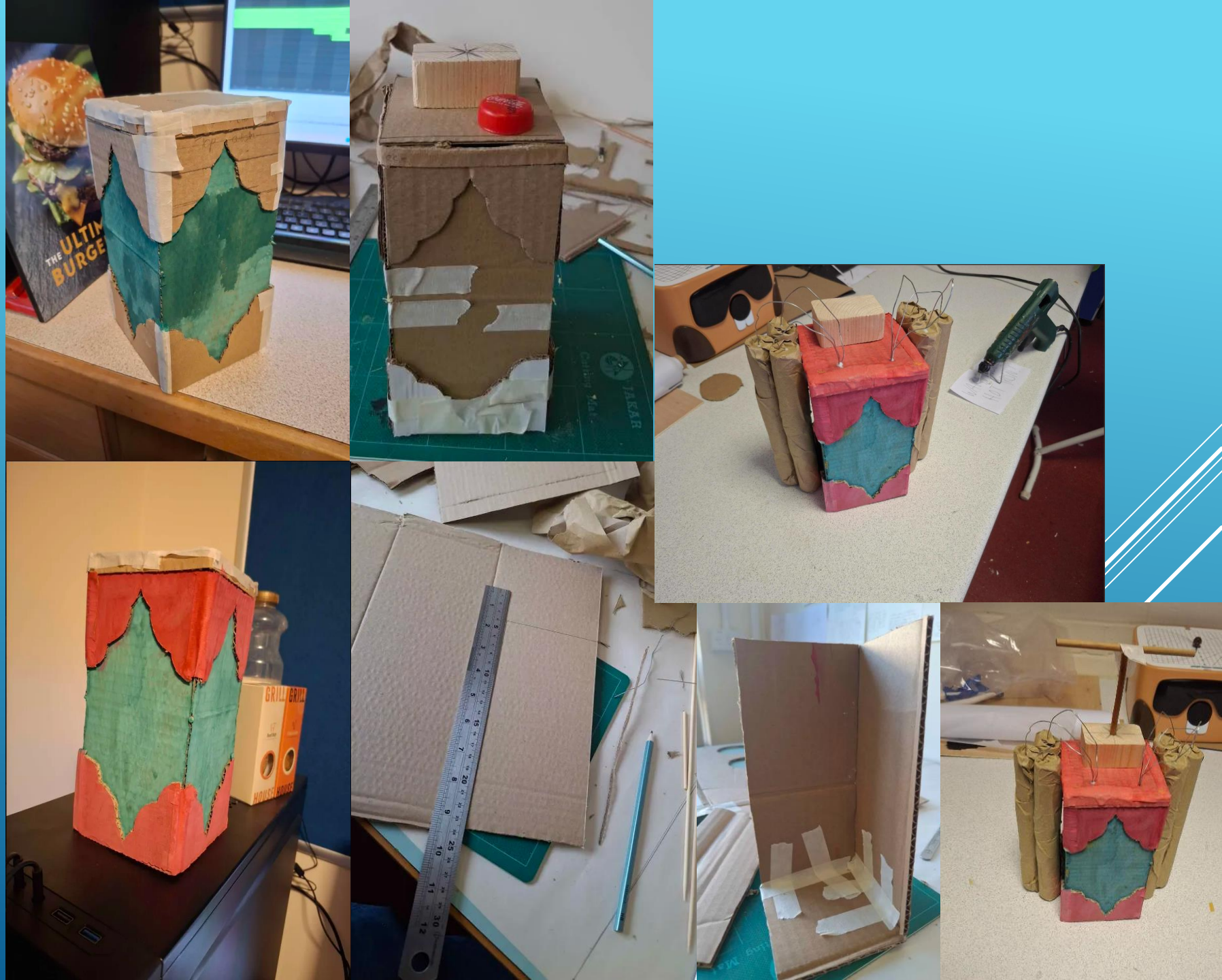


(Russian Biscuit tin from 1899, Date Unknown, place of Origin unknown)

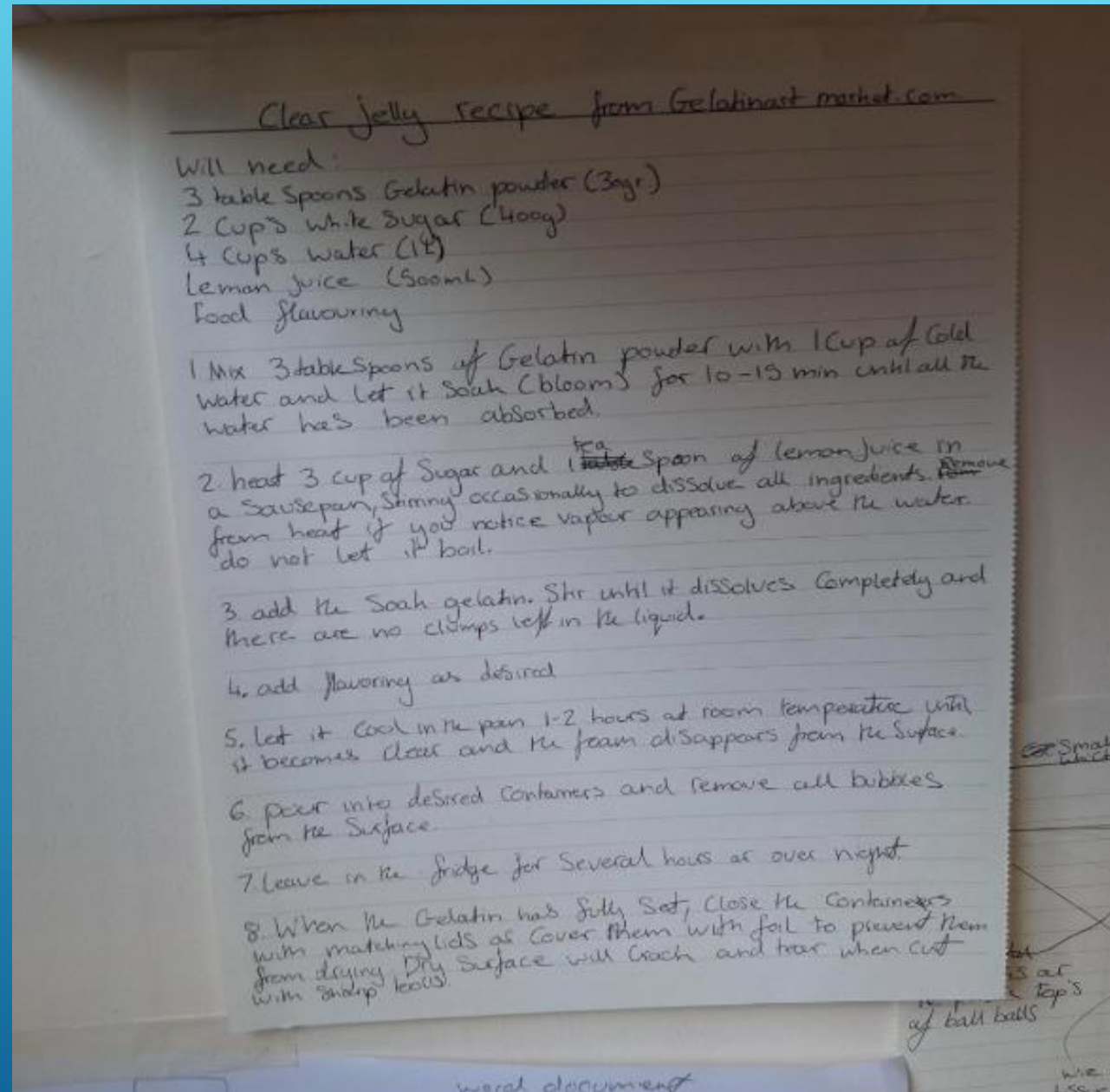
## Mockup - Bomb

During the module, I made two versions of the bomb, a very basic version to make sure I had everything cut out and what to see the base look like and then the version I showed during the design pitch.

Both versions were made from Cardboard (the real prop would be made out of wood) with the version made for the pitch being reinforced by wooden sticks which held the pieces along with glue together. Tape was then used to smooth the edges out. The Dynimate was made from PVC pipe that had been cut down and then wrapped in brown packing paper before being glued to the bomb, the wires where simple chicken wire that where pushed into the paper and the tin. The Plunger and wooden block was a small square block of wood that had been drilled with two small sticks glued together as a plunger, acting as a way to hold the block to the tin.



# Jellied Eel Recipe



(Clear Jelly Recipe, Gelatinartmarket.com, Date unknown, Author unknown, written down by me)

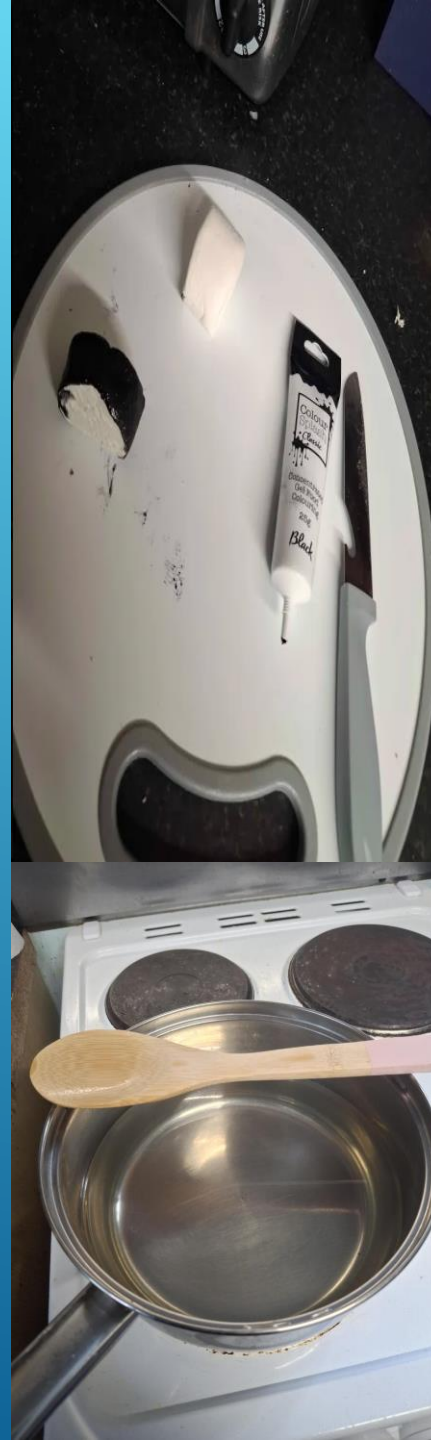
## Making Foux Jellied Eels (and making props you can eat)

The making of Fake Jellied Eel was a process that (Atleast to me) was a pain. My first attempt went ok except for the fact that the Jelly didn't set.

My second attempt went better. The Jelly set this time which allowed me to move onto the final part of the fake food prop with the Marshmallows. The Marshmallows where meant to be the eel and so where painted to with black to match the skin of an eel. The biggest problem came after I had put them all together.

while waiting for the group I was a part of to present our design pitch, the Eatable black paint leaked into the jelly which caused the clear jelly to turn to black, which led to the Jellied eel becoming (as my group later called) Eellied Jelly. The Paint leaking into the Jelly did throw me off due to the amount of work I'd put into it only for it to go wrong at the last possible moment.

Before that happened, the only problem that I was going to talk about was how the Jelly recipe I had used was not Vegan or Vegetarian safe which would be easy to fix by using Ager which is a Seaweed based Gelatin which would make it safe to eat.



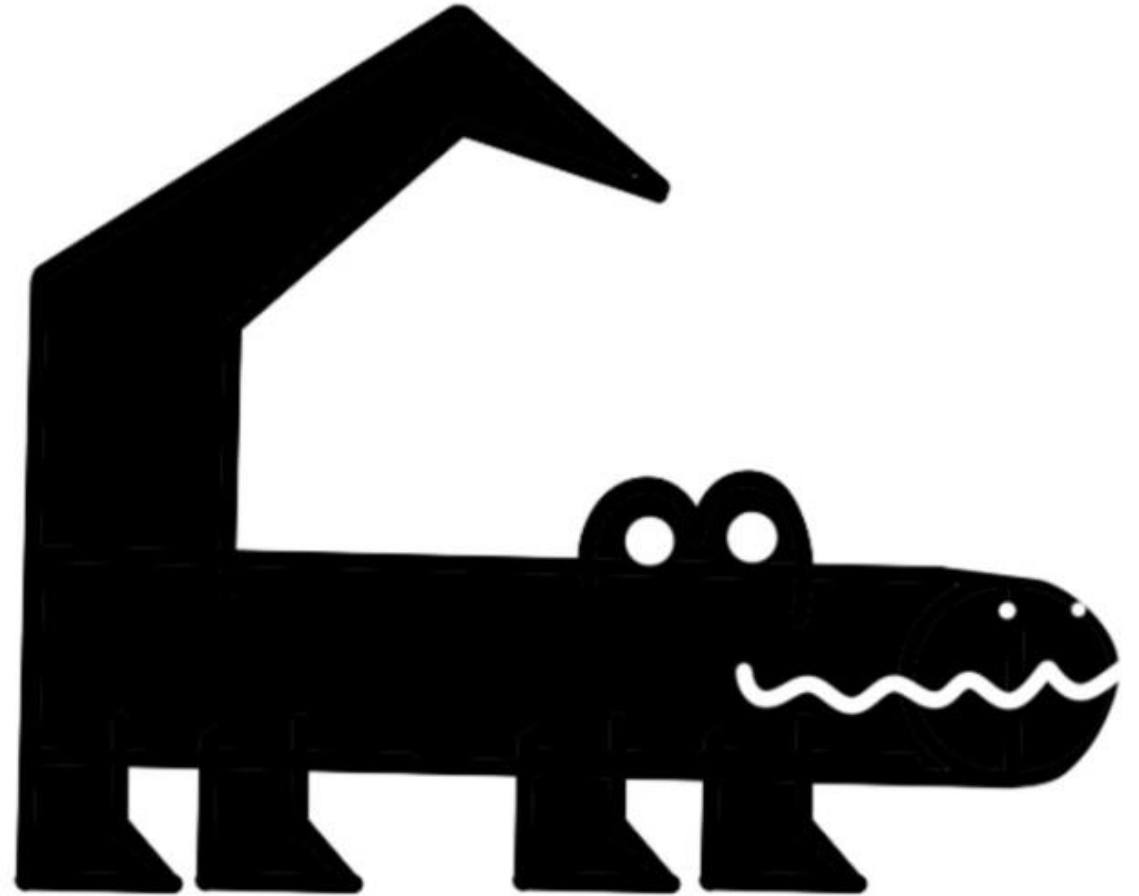
## Presentation

The Presentation on the next slides was done by the Casa Crocodile Group, Sarah, Alice, Alyia, Charlie

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# CASA CROCODILE

Nights at the Circus Design Pitch  
Sarah, Alice, Alaya, Charlie



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# WHO WE ARE

Sarah  
Set Design



Alice  
Lighting



Alaya  
Puppets



Charlie  
Props



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# OUR BRIEF

A design for Nights at the Circus, performed in Y Llwyfan

Nights at the Circus, novel by Angela Carter

Adapted for the stage by Emma Rice and Tom Morris

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# OUR APPROACH

## Key themes

- Freedom
  - Feminism
  - Technological advancements
- 
- Sticking to the time setting of the play, inspired by the 18th–19th century
  - Immersive theatre style
  - In the round staging
-

*VESTA opens the curtains, revealing FEVVERS, who sings her song. The CHORUS and JACK stay and watch.*

performance line of things, but I'd give my eye teeth to get you a nice steady job in an ice cream parlour or a brassworks or something respectable like that. By any means possible, we will be free, Amen.

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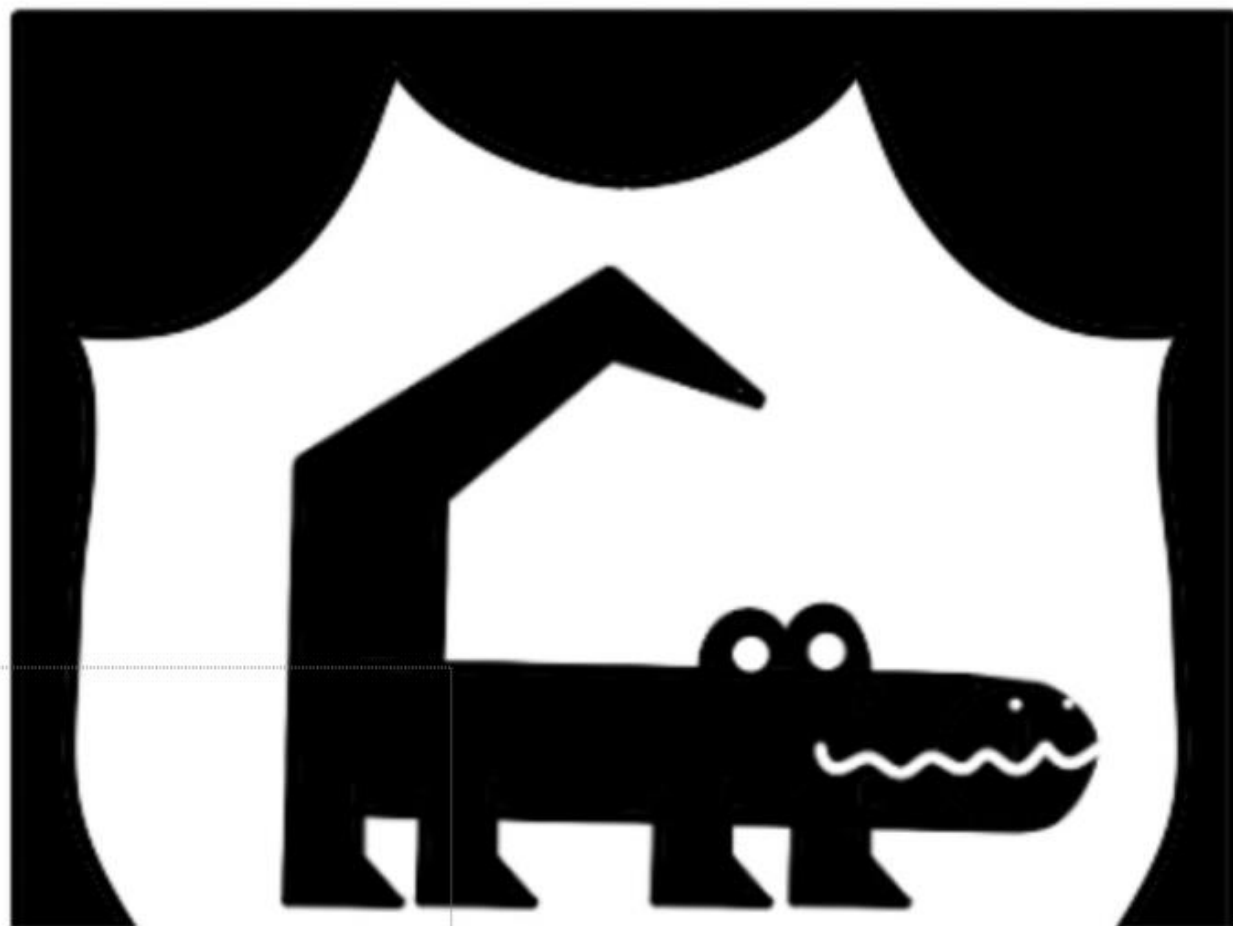
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# SET DESIGN



Click to add subtitle

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# BLOCKING

Act 1

Flashback

Act 2

1st Movement

2nd Movement

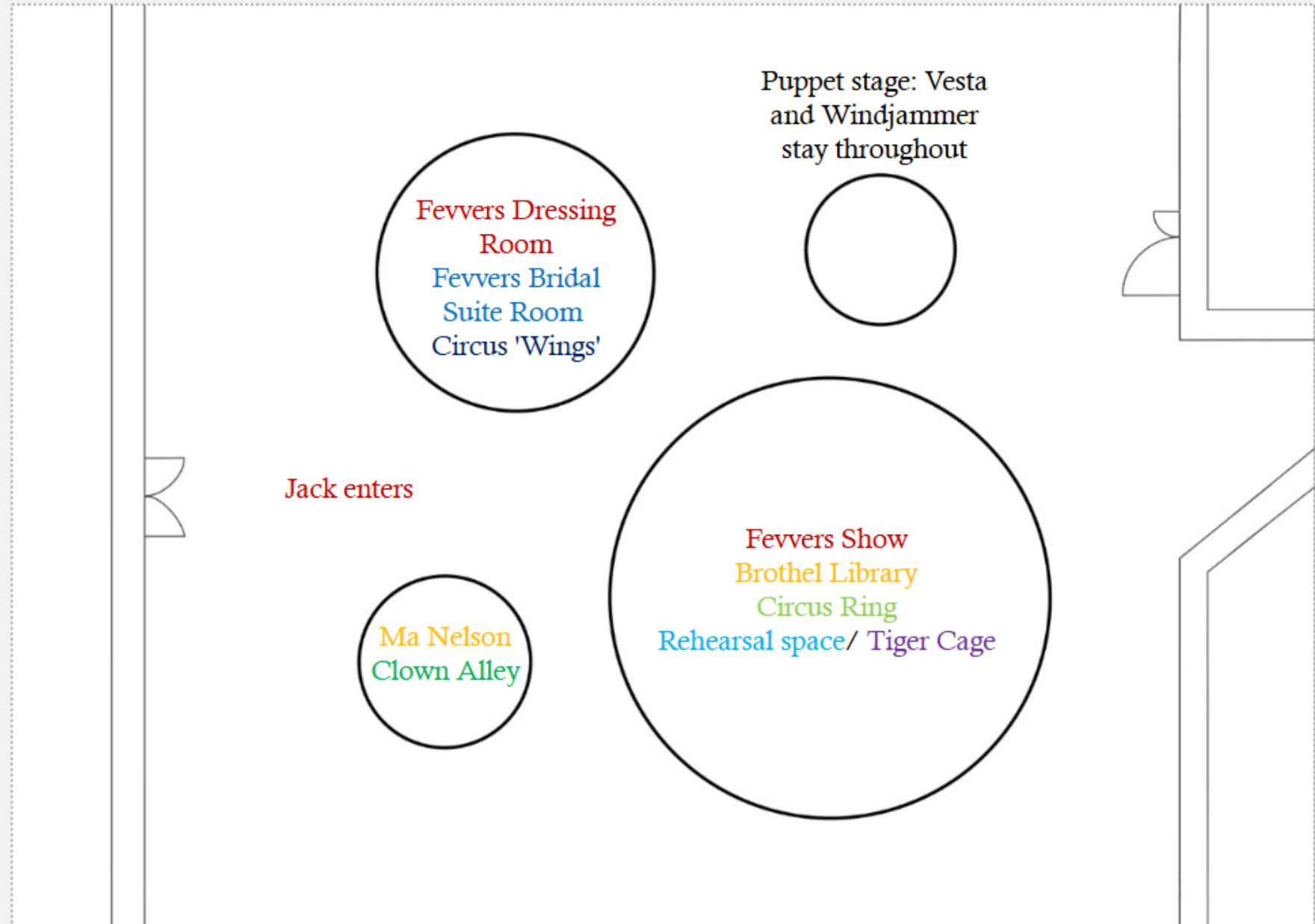
3rd Movement

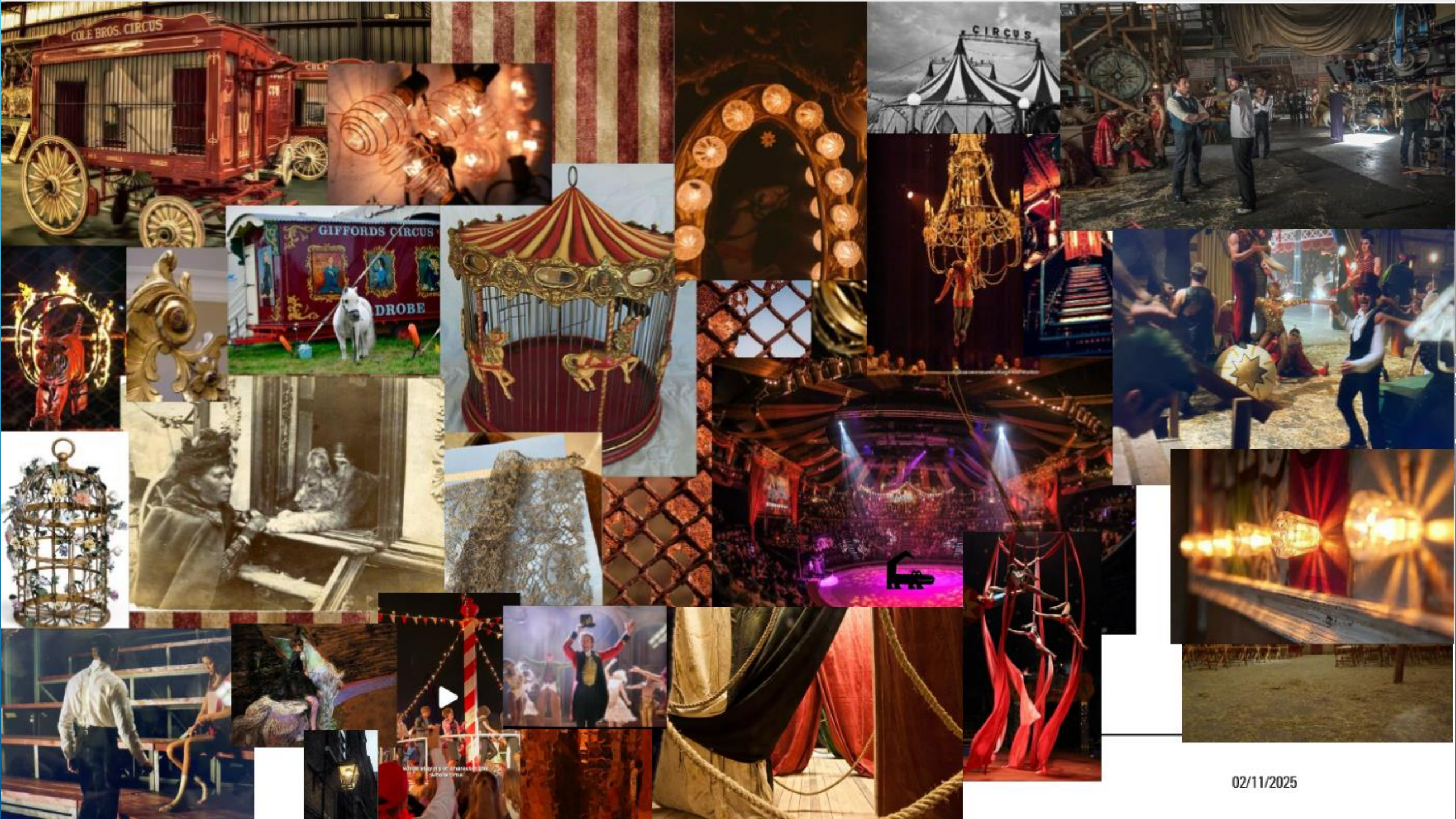
4th Movement

5th Movement

6th Movement

Act 3





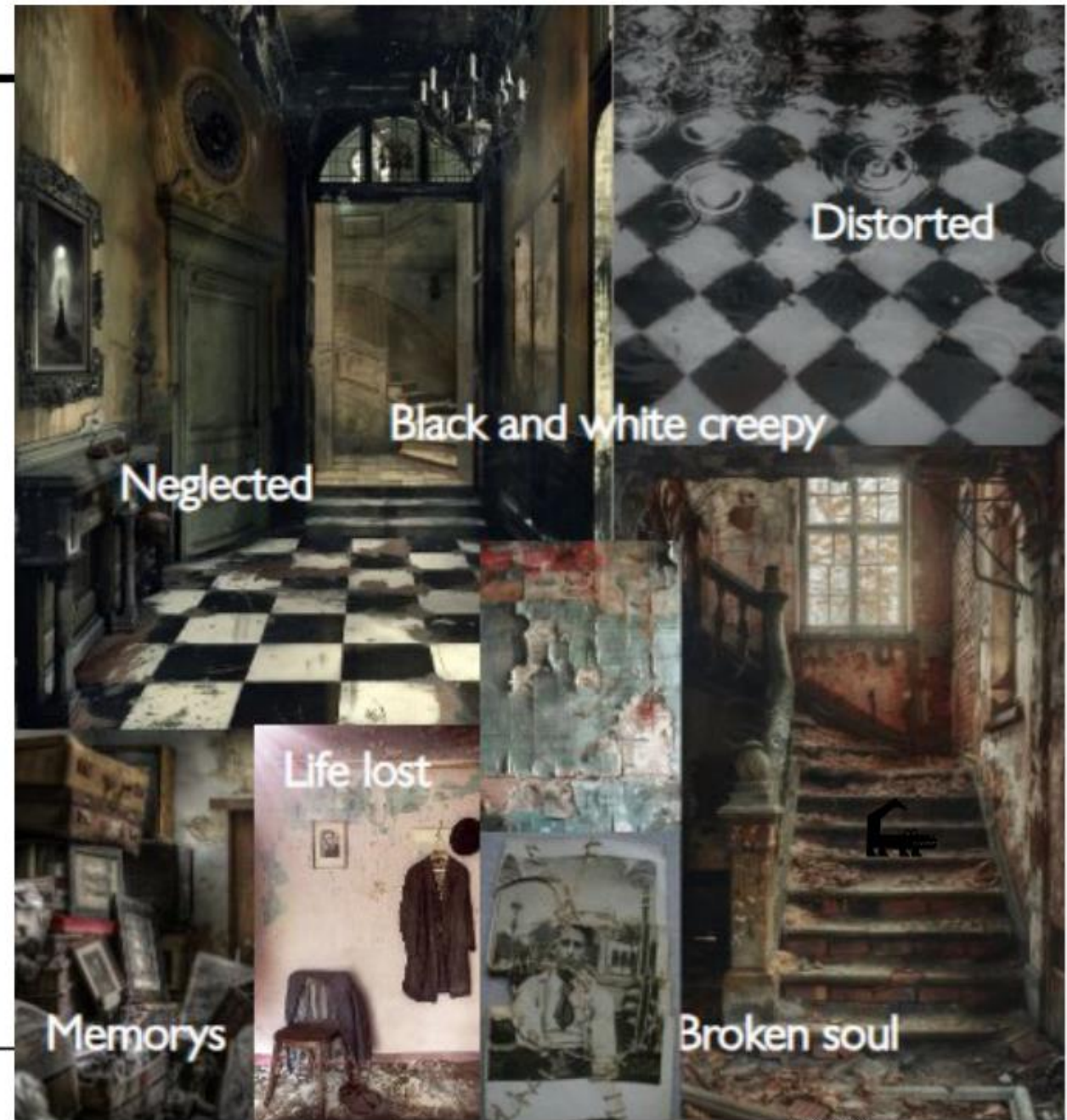
02/11/2025

# FLOORS FOR THE DIFFERENT STAGES



Dream

Note really



Distorted

Black and white creepy

Neglected

Life lost

Memorys

Broken soul

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Cast will be able to drop  
down the second hoop to  
create the tent



## Act 1 = Flashback

Fevvers jumps of  
the piano to fly

Fevvers  
Jack

lizzie

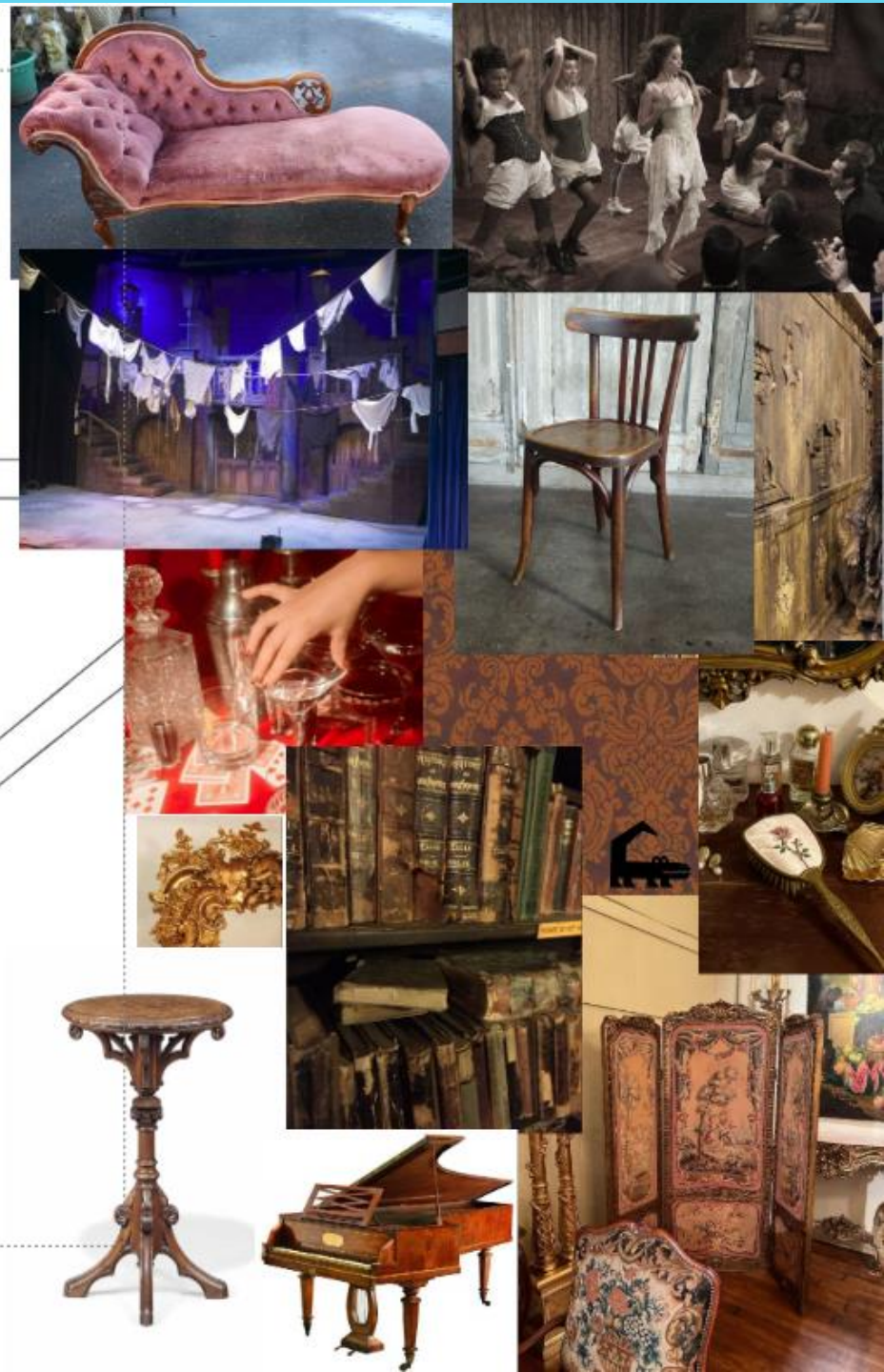
Chores of whore

Ma Nelson

Fevver crashes  
on the stage

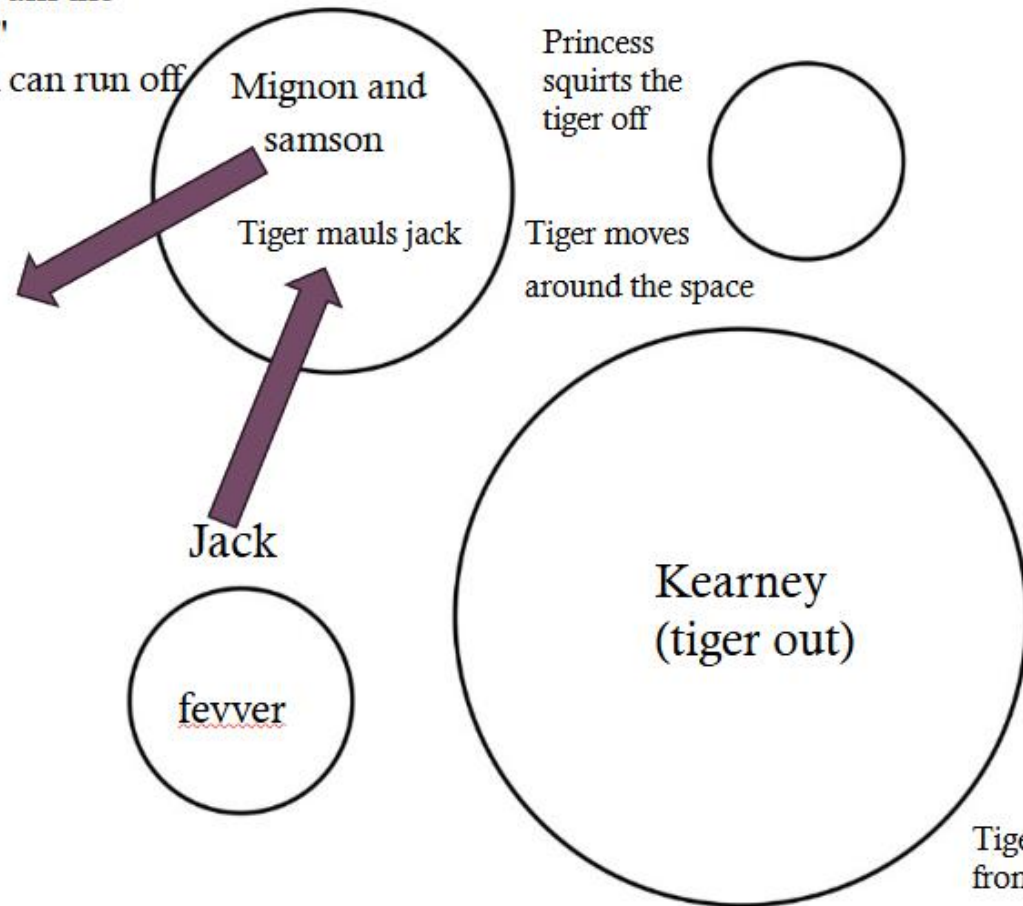
Library  
(gender politics)

They throw the party  
for fevver flying



## Act 2 = 2nd movement

"don't eat me, tiger.  
Please I am the  
samson"  
Samson can run off



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# LIGHTING







Theatre Auditorium

## Fevvers' Show: The Winged Woman of London





## Colonel Kearney's Circus



## The Circus Wings

## Clown Alley



## Bridal Suite

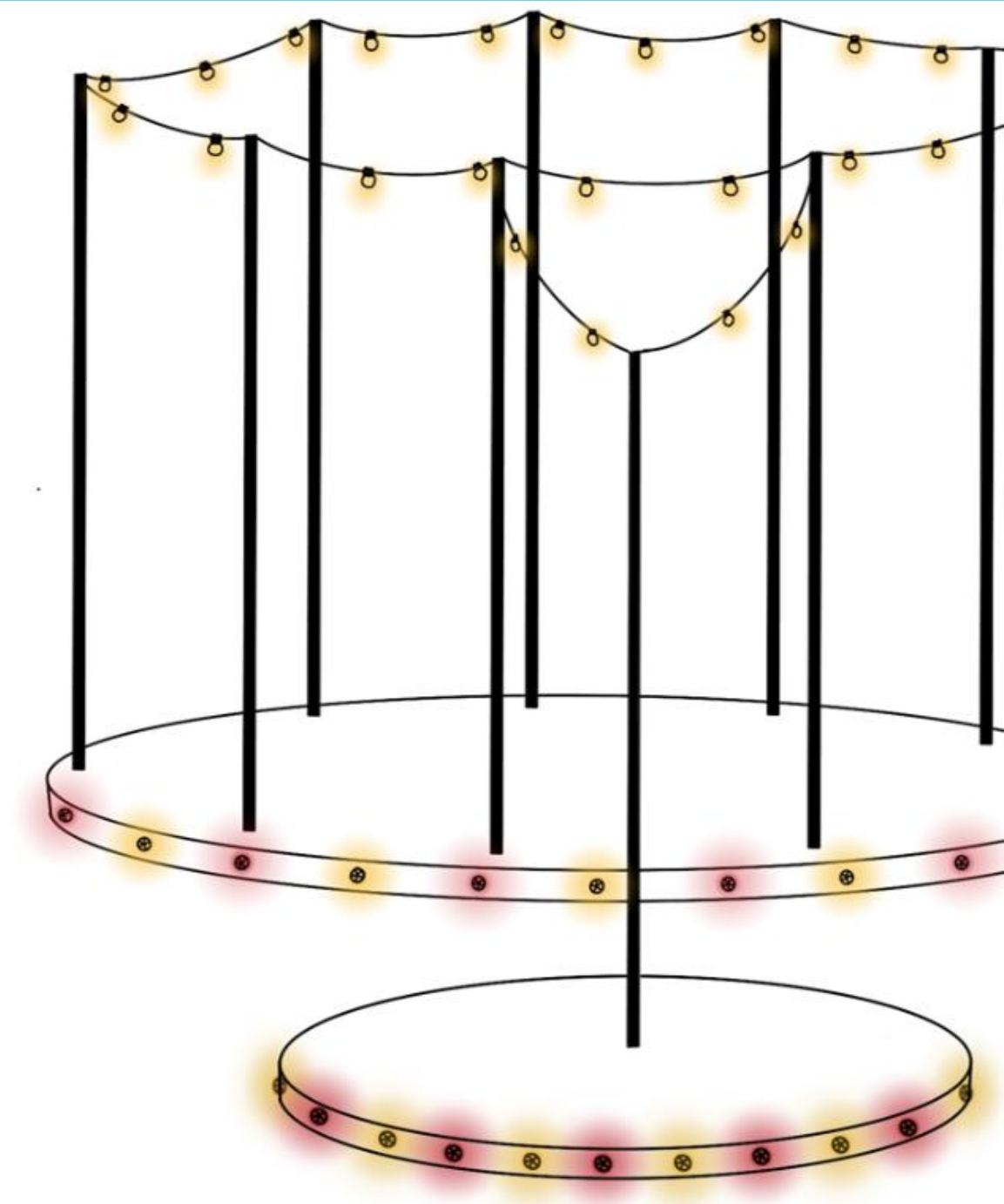


# Bare Landscape



# CABOCHON LIGHTS AND LANTERNS

- Cabochon lights (Carnival bulb lighting) line the edge of the stages
- Stages and Walkways are lit by Festoon (string) lights
- Around the stages, they are normal bulbs, the string lights that branch off to other stages have varying lampshade designs

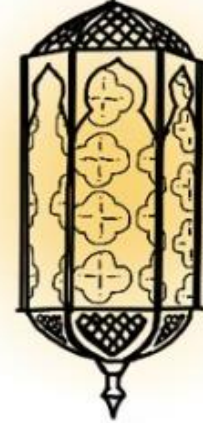




London



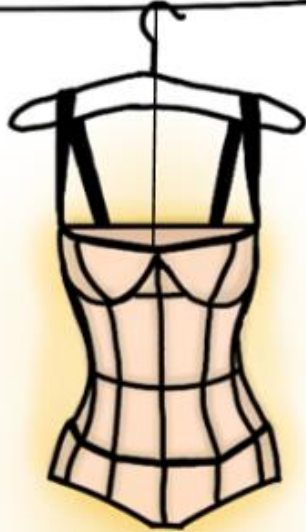
St Petersburg



Mediterranean and Middle East



The Brothel



Circus



Dressing room and hotel



# TECHNICAL APPROACH

NATC LEX Rig Plan

Chauvet Batten 3000mm (W)



ADB F101 1000W



Acclaim F 600W



Acclaim Profile 600W



Fan 400mm (D)



Chauvet moving head LED



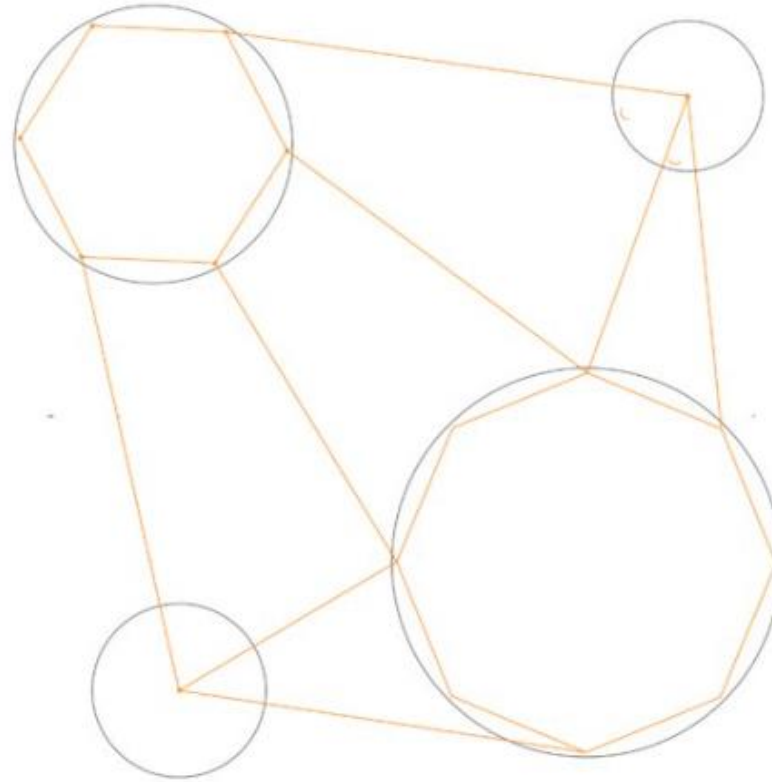
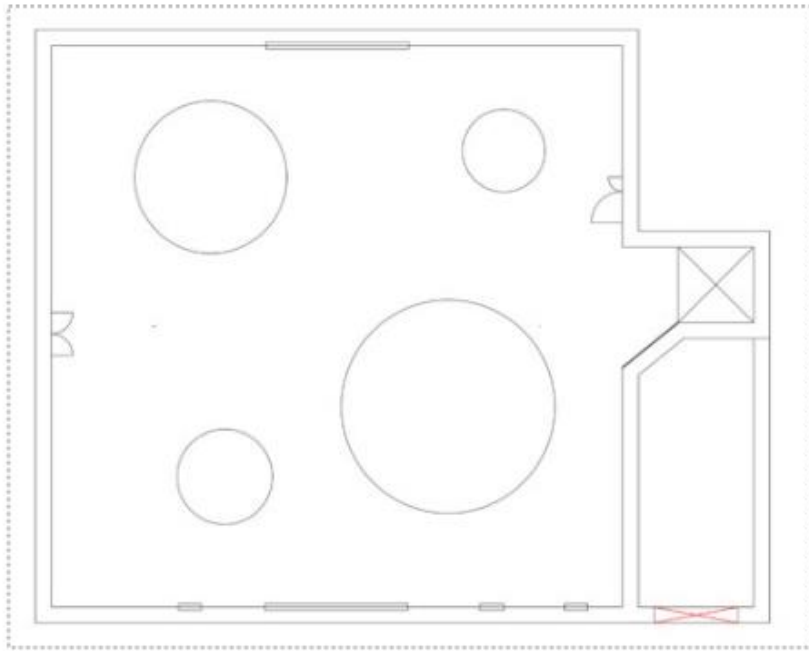
LED Batten



- Fans above & next to drapes to generate movement
- 2x2 LED Battens on lower truss, one pointing upward to top hoop and one down the drapes
- LED wash heads for decorative spots
- Hotel window profile
- Fresnel with gel L283 (Converts tungsten (3200K) to daylight (8888K))

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# TECHNICAL APPROACH



- Stage placement within Llwyfan
- Map of Festoon Lighting

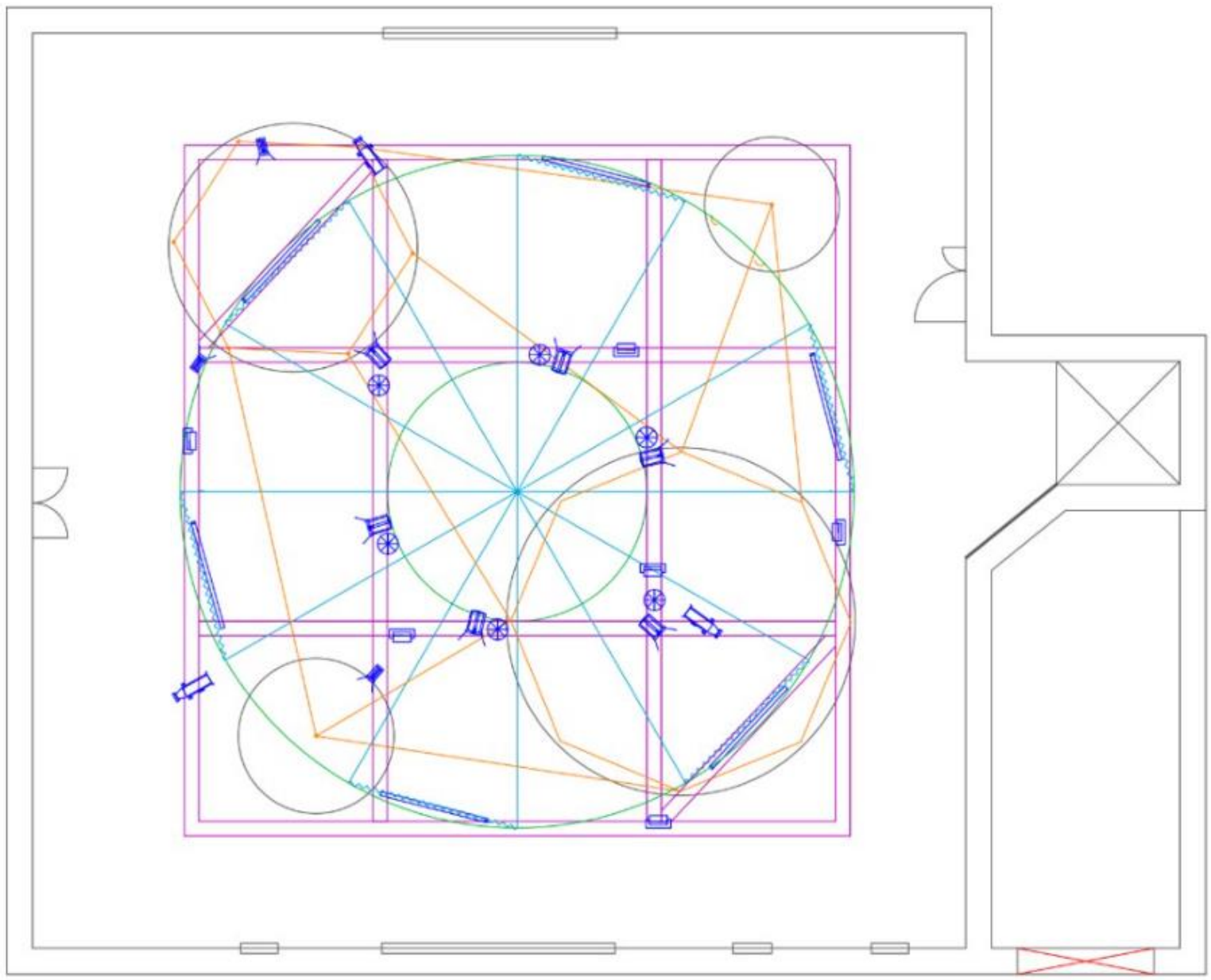


Around stages



Between stages  
(with lampshades)

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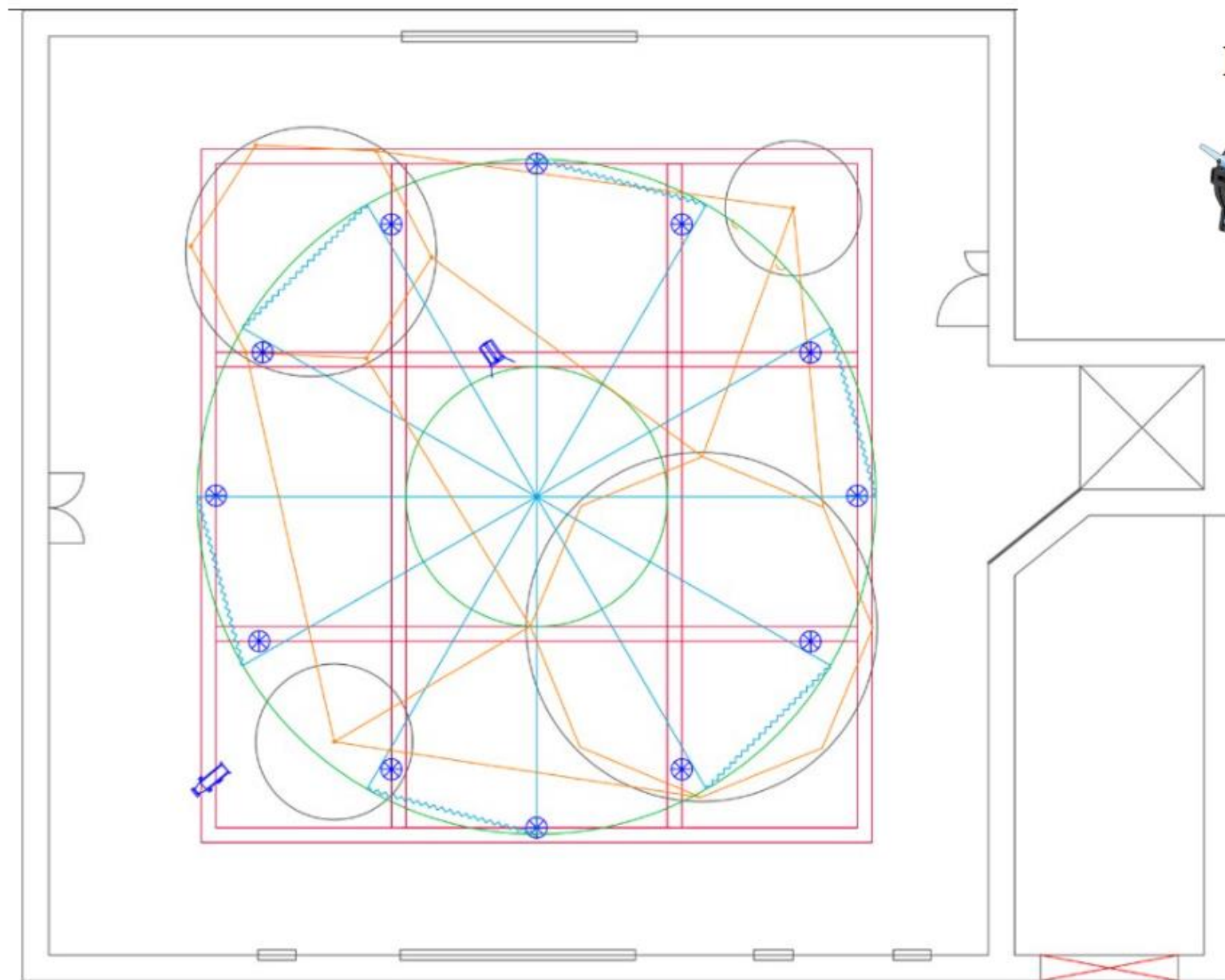


PAN VIEW 1

- Chauvet Batten 150mm (W)  

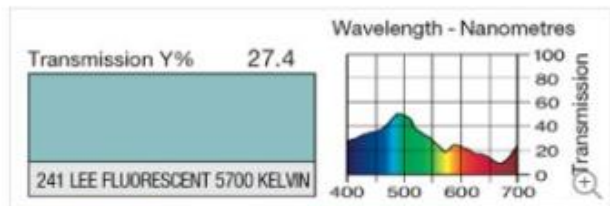
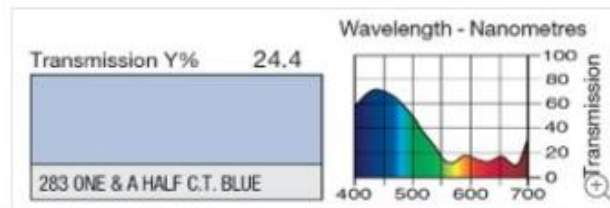
-  ADB F101 1000W
-  Acclaim F 600W
-  Acclaim Profile 600W
-  Fan 400mm (D)
-  Chauvet moving head LED



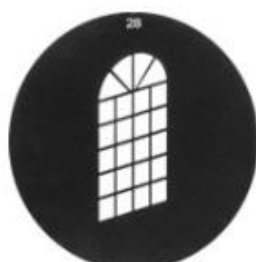
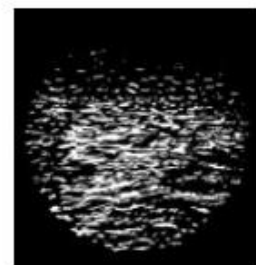


PAN VIEW 2

ADB  
Fresnel



Profile



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# PUPPETRY



# CHOICE OF CHARACTERS

## Characters for puppets

### Vesta

- Only interacts with Jack
- Based on real person
- Crossdressing fashion/Dandy
- Top hat, Cane, Tails
- Sings
- Opens curtains, physically or gestures?
- Pushes story along
- Makes three main appearances

### Windjammer

- Only interacts with Jack
- On stage the whole show
- Plays instruments
- Named after merchant boat

### Creatures/Chorus

- Debatable if same as chorus
- Could change but differences?
- Clowns, Whores, Creatures

### Sibel

- Pig
- Potentially overdone
- I don't actually like his character

### Fever's

- Lack of freedom
- Maybe just her wings?
- "Puppet on a string"
- Are they real or not?

explains  
Jack's  
connection  
to Fever's

### Buffo + Mignon

- Punch and Judy  
Abuse within a relationship  
would soften the violence



---

# THE EFFECT PUPPETS HAVE ON AN AUDIENCE

**Uncanny Valley** - the sense of unease given from a humanoid object almost but not quite being realistic



←

Comforting, educational, child friendly, cute

Nightmarish, creepy, older audience, unsettling

→

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# TYPES OF PUPPETS

## Marionette



(Punches head (1800s))

*"-for you to waltz up and fiddle me  
about like a puppet on a straffing  
string" -Fevvers*



(Tiller-Clowes marionettes, (1870s))

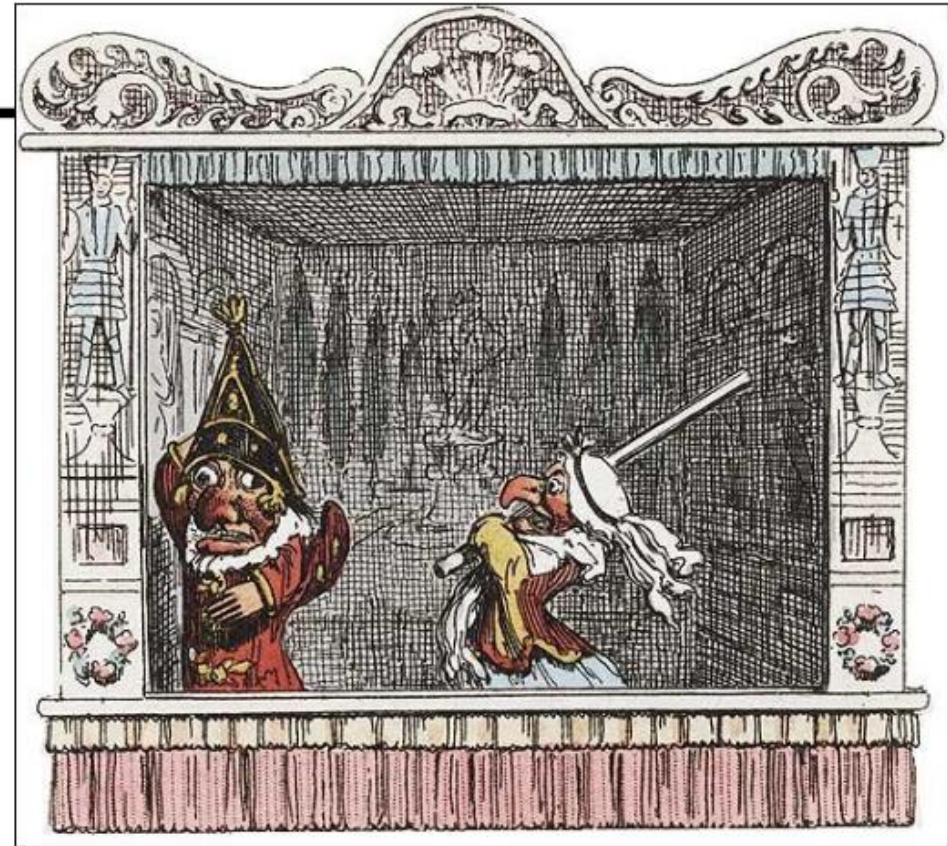
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# TYPES OF PUPPETS

## Glove Puppet



(French Glove Puppets (1800s))



(Punch and Judy Illustration, George Cruikshank, (1827))

*"A finger sticks out through the curtains and points at him"*

*"The finger summons him onto the stage,  
then punches him"*

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# TYPES OF PUPPETS

## Automatons



(Maillardet Automaton (1800s))



(The Scribe, an automaton by Pierre Jaquet-Droz (1721-90))

*"The WINDJAMMER (musician)  
is onstage throughout"*

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# TYPES OF PUPPETS

## Paper dolls



(Anne Sanders Wilson (1832s))

*"VESTA enters. She is dressed immaculately in men's clothing, top hat, tails and a cane"*

# TYPES OF PUPPETS

## Pantins



Vintage "Pantin" Jumping Jack Doll - Courtesy of EKDuncan



(d'Epinal (1832s))



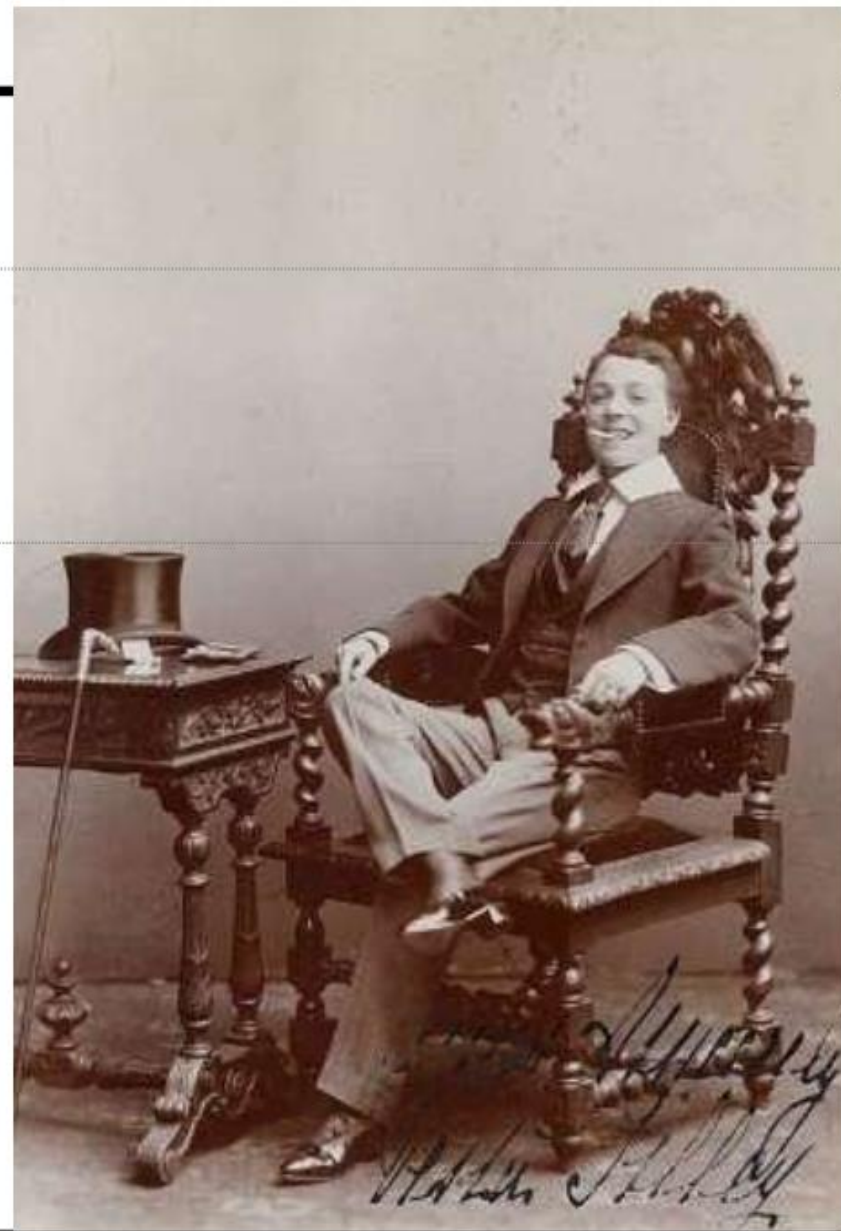
# VESTA TILLEY



12th NOTARY PHOTO. & C. MISS VESTA TILLEY

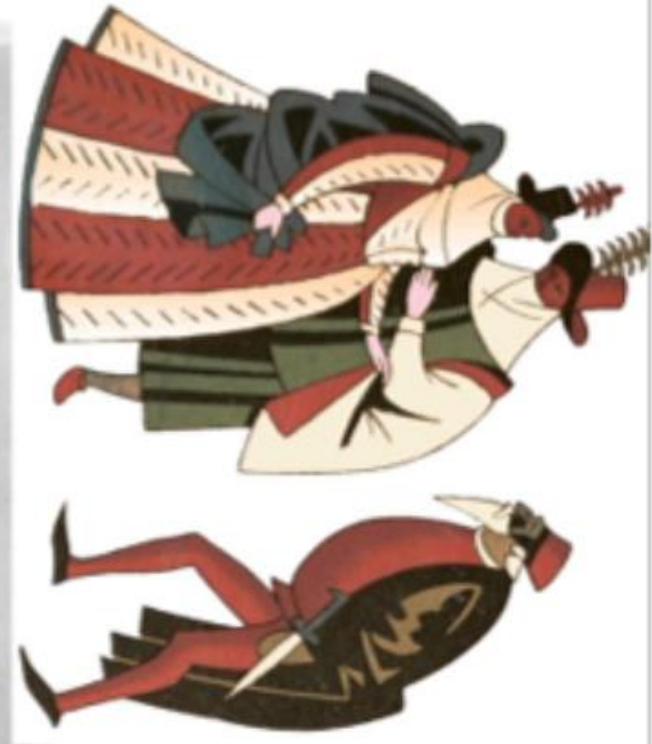


175 D. VESTA TILLEY. NOTARY PHOTO. & C.

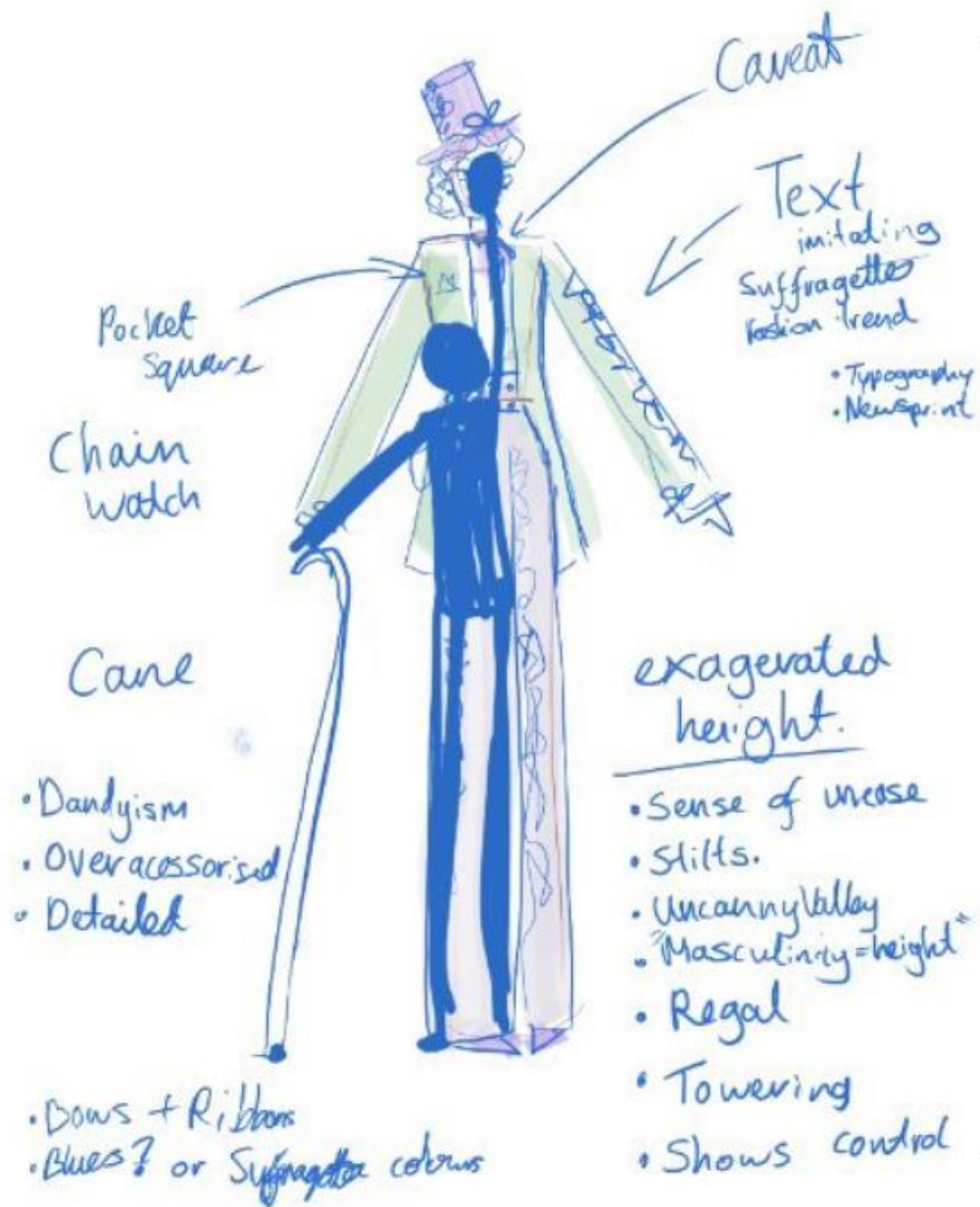




PHILOD SERIES SHIP A VESTA TILLEY.







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# SKETCHING



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# CUTTING THE BODY

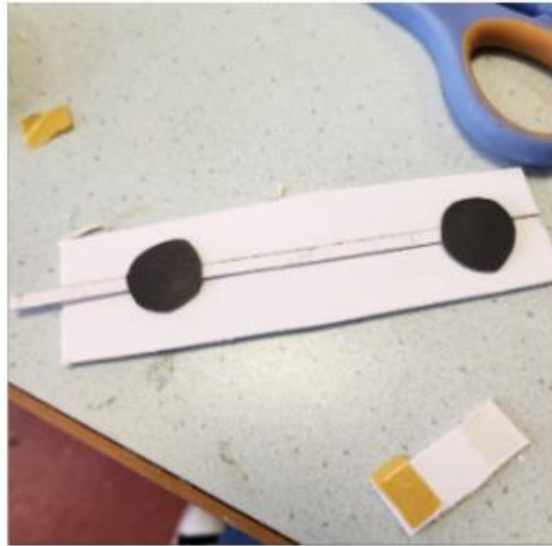


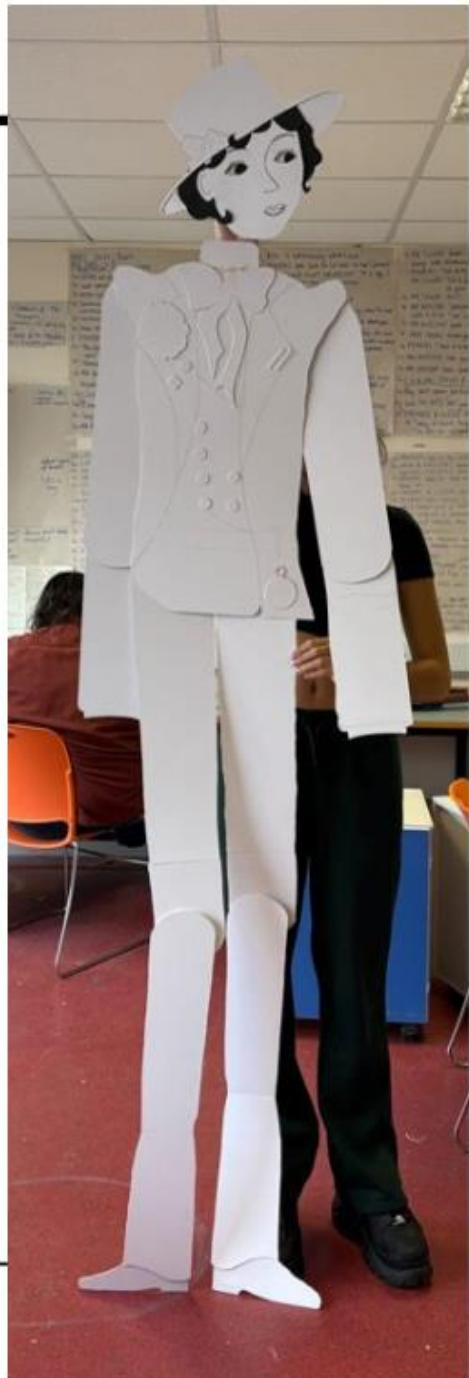
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# JOINTS



# FACE





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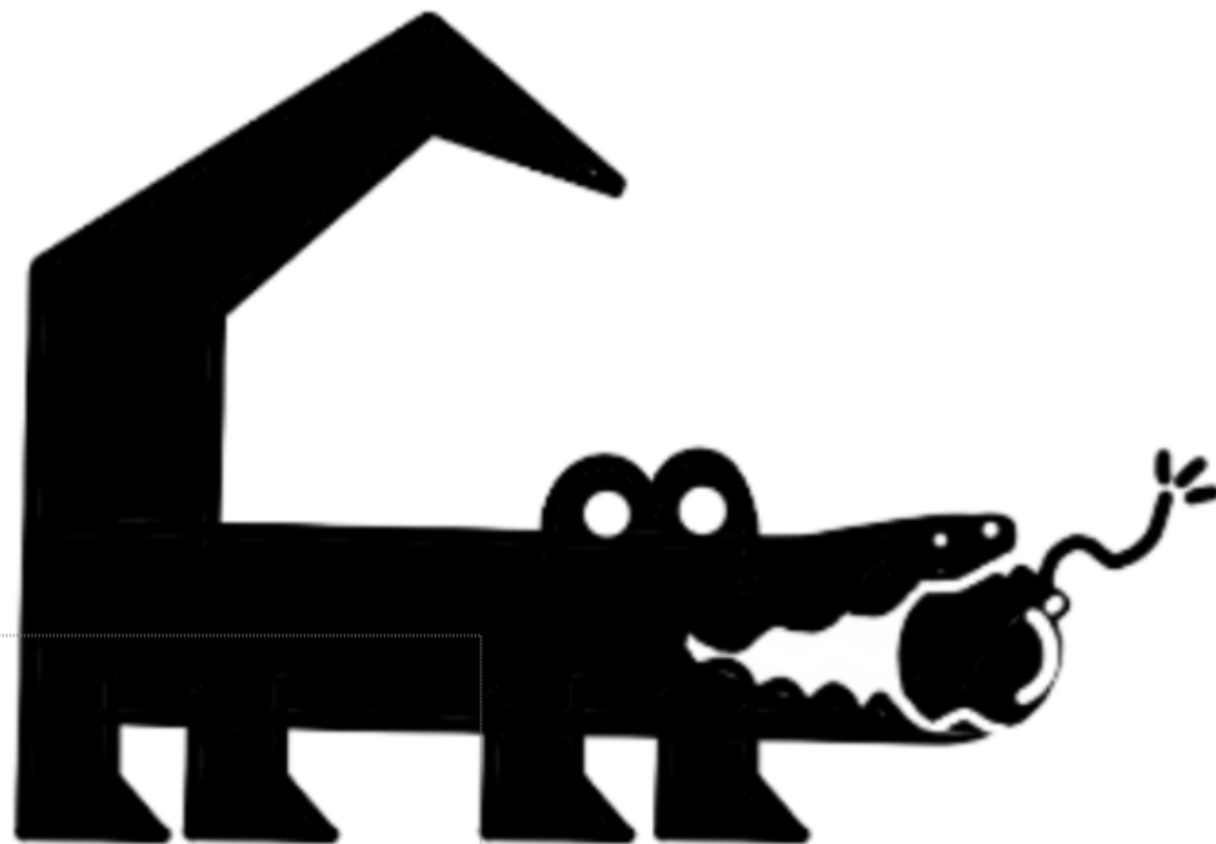
# COLOUR EDIT

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# PROPS



Click to add subtitle

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# MOOD BOARD (PROPS)



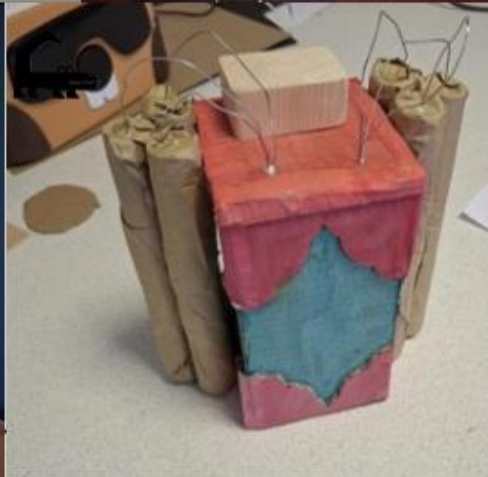
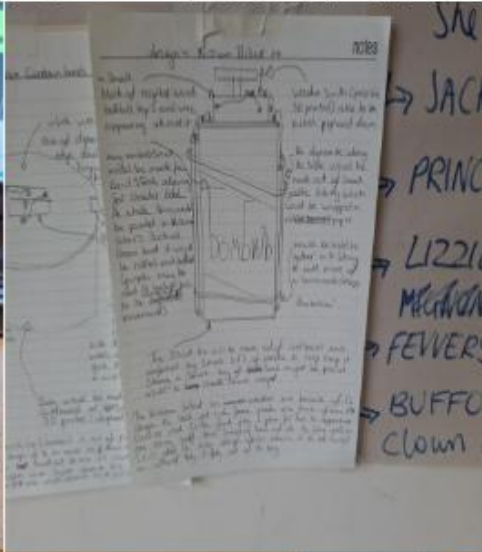
# PROP BOMB – HISTORICAL CONTEXT



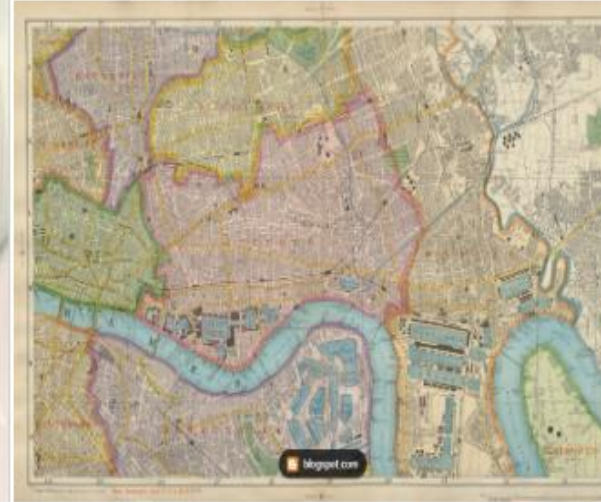
Newslij Prospekt in St. Petersburg



# PROP BOMB – FINAL DESIGN



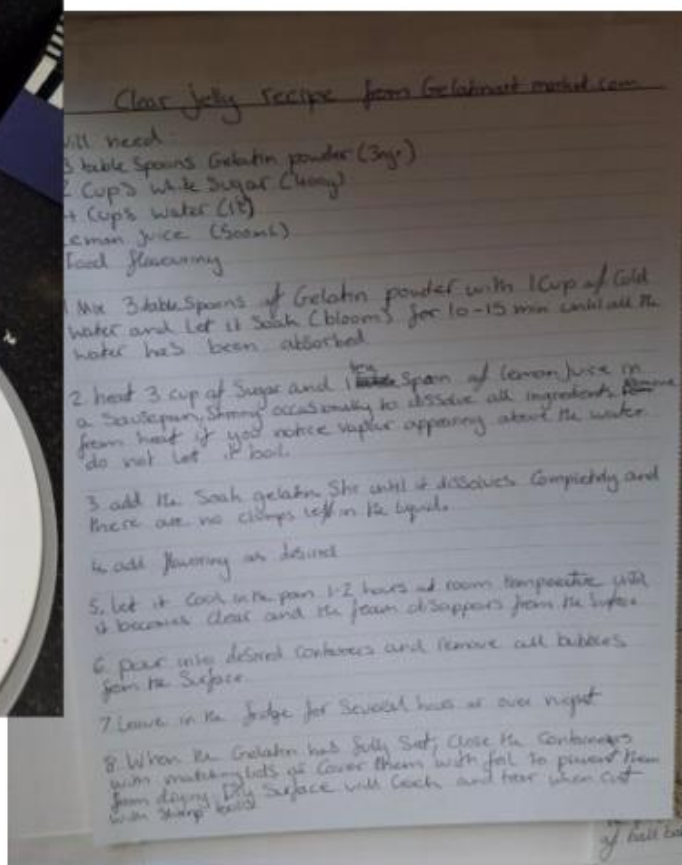
# FOOD PROP – JELLIED EEL'S



## 8 foods that cause allergic reactions

|                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br>Eggs        | <p>The body's immune system overreacts to proteins in egg whites and yolks</p> <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Rash or hives, respiratory problems, stomach pain</p> <p><b>Foods to avoid:</b> Eggs, mayonnaise, salad dressings, pretzels</p>                                                                |
| <br>Milk        | <p>The most common food allergy in infants and young children</p> <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Hives, upset stomach, vomiting, bloody stool, anaphylaxis - impaired breathing and shock</p> <p><b>Foods to avoid:</b> Milk or other dairy products containing milk protein</p>                             |
| <br>Peanuts     | <p>Peanuts are legumes, not nuts. This is one of the food allergies most commonly associated with anaphylaxis.</p> <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Hives, itching in mouth or throat, nausea, runny nose or congestion, anaphylaxis</p> <p><b>Foods to avoid:</b> Peanuts, peanut butter, chocolate candy</p> |
| <br>Tree Nuts   | <p>One of the most common food allergies in adults and children</p> <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Cramping, vomiting, diarrhea, nasal congestion or runny nose, anaphylaxis</p> <p><b>Foods to avoid:</b> Almonds, cashews, walnuts</p>                                                                     |
| <br>Fish       | <p>An allergy to finned fish</p> <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Rash or hives, headaches, asthma, stomach pain, anaphylaxis</p> <p><b>Foods to avoid:</b> Tuna, halibut, salmon</p>                                                                                                                          |
| <br>Shellfish | <p>One of the most dangerous food allergies. It sends more people to the hospital than any other allergy.</p> <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Vomiting, cramps, hives all over, wheezing, dizziness</p> <p><b>Foods to avoid:</b> Shrimp, lobster, crab</p>                                                   |
| <br>Wheat     | <p>The body's immune system overreacts to wheat and gluten</p> <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Rash or hives, nausea, stuffy nose, headaches, asthma</p> <p><b>Foods to avoid:</b> Cereal, bread, pasta</p>                                                                                                   |
| <br>Soy       | <p>An allergy to the legume soy</p> <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Rash or hives, itching in the mouth, nausea, wheezing</p> <p><b>Foods to avoid:</b> Soy milk, soy sauce, edamame, tofu</p>                                                                                                                |

# JELLIED EEL'S – FINISHED PROP



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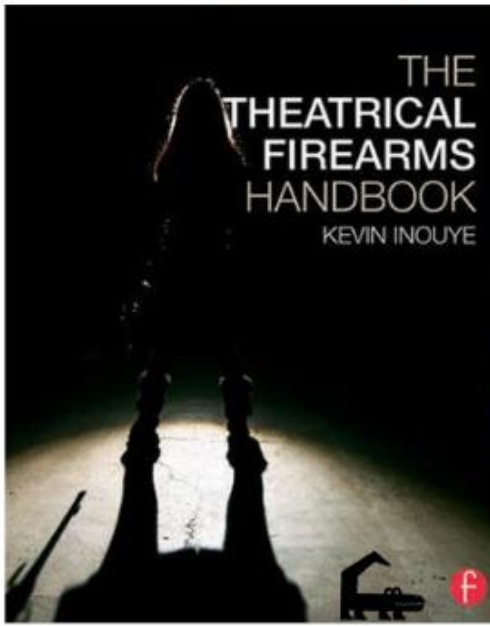
# OTHER PROPS AND WERE TO SOURCE THEM



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# ARMORER

An Armourer's role on a Production is to look after and to ensure that any weaponry used during the production is handled safely and more importantly, is done within the law. During the play, Ma Nelson's Sword and the dagger dropped by Fevvers as well as the gun used by Princess and Samson. Throughout this process I found myself, reading through the 'Theatrical Firearms handbook' by Kevin Inouye which covers everything an Armourer would need to perform their job role correctly.



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# THANKYOU FOR LISTENING!



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# ANY QUESTIONS FOR THE TEAM?

Sarah  
Set Design



Alice  
Lighting



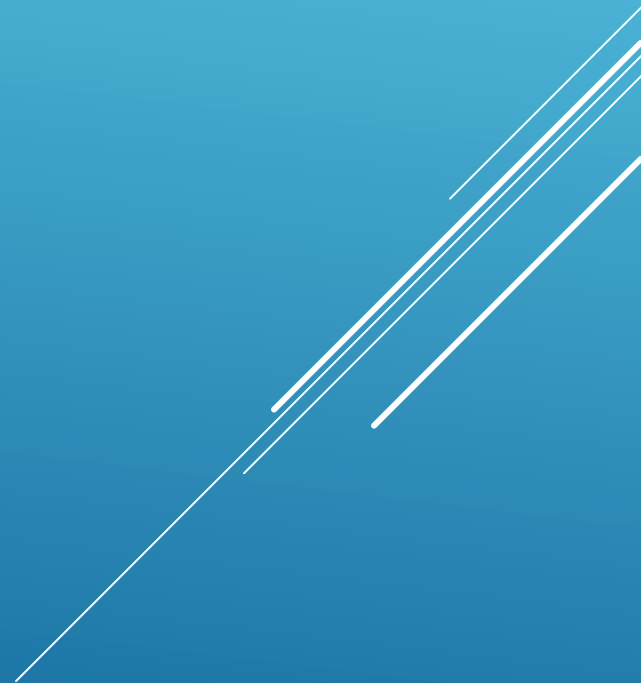
Alaya  
Puppets



Charlie  
Props



Evaluation



## Evaluation

This Module has been both fun and exsorsting at the same time. My favourite part was making the props as I have always enjoyed making things, I often make things through hobbies such as wargaming and with the Renactment society im apart of all involve crafting so making props felt natural to me. It was also fun to look through what I could use to make it and trying to find ways of turning items that people may glance over into the prop. While it was also a lot of pressure under the time limit to make them and due to things outside my control meant I didn't have the full time to get the props made, I felt stressed but also somewhat at ease with the strict time limit of the module to make the props because it meant I had to pick something and stick to it instead of sitting there for ages and Procrastination about what to do which is what usually happens with projects that I try to do which leads to me falling behind and not producing the best that I can.

the main element that I struggled with during this module was time management. Of course part of this was due to an event outside of my Control but even then, I felt like when I got back, I struggled to get everything I needed to do done in time. A good example was once the making process started, I focused completely on that to the point that by the time we were doing presentations, I hadn't done anything on my Process workbook in days which led to me needing an extended deadline to get the workbook finished. There are way's that I can improve this such as introducing a checklist that I have to complete or even creating the layout of the process workbook on flashcards and pinning it to my pin board, therefore creating a planned layout of what I have to complete for the workbook. These will have to be tested as I have often noticed that I stick to things only to find them not working for me after a couple of days. This could be because I find that I often thrive in chaos or it could be to Potental Neurodivergent traits which have been identified in me. There is only one way to truly find out if it will work and that is to try it for the next module.

The most important thing I will take with me to the next module and project is to not let stress get ontop of me. During this project, the stress did get to me at some parts which led to me panicking and not do everything that I had planned to do that day, One way that this can be fixed is by planning one thing at a time, this allows me to not feel like I have a backlog of work that I need to get done which should hopefully lead to less stress.

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