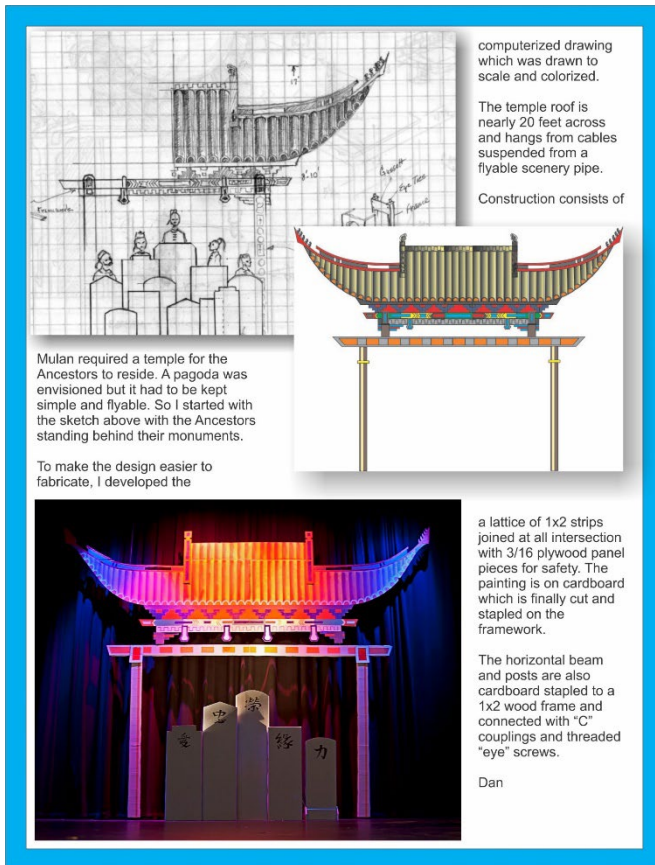


Staging – Set Design

Creating Scenery that Generates Emotion or Imagination

A set takes the audience on a visual journey by creating the world of the play. Everything on the stage, except for the actors and what they are wearing is a creation of the set designer. Sometimes stage sets and scenery are very literal, they look like real life; other times sets and scenery are styled for the imagination – the ‘how did they do that?’ reaction.



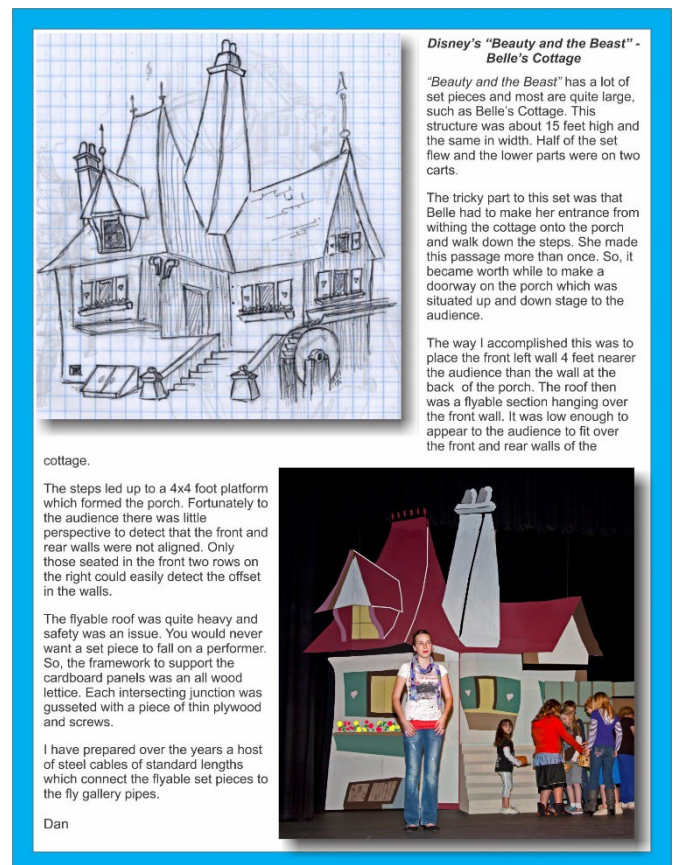
Disney's Mulan Jr. – Ancestors' Temple

Whatever you can glean from the design ideas will get you that much closer to your end set piece. Have fun!

The purpose of the set is to draw the audience into the play. For instance, a patron might think that a set looks like a room in their home. Other times the scenery is there to evoke a feeling about a place, or depicts no place in particular. The set might just be a pile of dirt, blue carpeting across the floor and up the walls. These are all in the choices the set designer makes to bring the story to the audience.

Designers are challenged to bring the audience into the scene without moving the audience. They must think of ways to position the scenery and set objects to give the audience the best view. Unlike in a

Please enjoy these examples of set design ideas used in prior plays by New Artists Productions: Just click on them to enlarge and see the thought that went into each design. There is no correct way to design a set. It all comes from a vision or idea of the designer after reviewing the situation. It might look difficult or complicated at first, but once the rationale is discovered, you'll see why the designs were as they are.

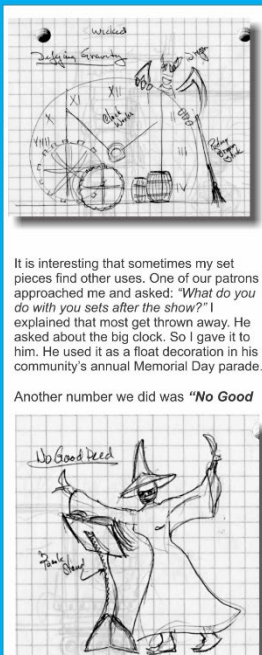


Disney Jr. - Beauty & the Beast - Belle's Cottage

Staging – Set Design

Creating Scenery that Generates Emotion or Imagination

movie where the camera directs the 'point of view' of the viewer, the theatrical set designer must make sure that each person in the audience gets the most impact possible.



In our big musical "A Taste of Broadway," we did some numbers from the musical, "Wicked." One number required a big clock. So here was my version of that big clock.

It is interesting that sometimes my set pieces find other uses. One of our patrons approached me and asked: "What do you do with you sets after the show?" I explained that most get thrown away. He asked about the big clock. So I gave it to him. He used it as a float decoration in his community's annual Memorial Day parade.

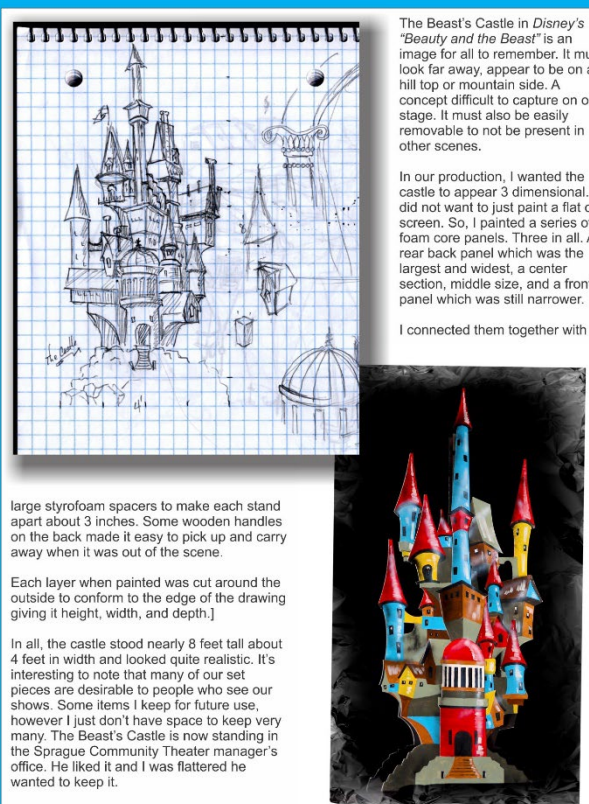
Another number we did was "No Good Deed."

Here to complement our performer's wonderful costume we needed a large book of magic spells and an interesting book stand to support it.

Dan

Some plays only have one set; others have several which are moved on and off the stage by the stage crew. Multiple sets create different perspectives for the audience in their understanding and appreciation of the play.

The set designer works hand-in-hand with the lighting designer to make the visual impact for the audience meaningful and intended - lighting can make the set look beautiful, glorious, or terrible.



The Beast's Castle in Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" is an image for all to remember. It must look far away, appear to be on a hill top or mountain side. A concept difficult to capture on one stage. It must also be easily removable to not be present in other scenes.

In our production, I wanted the castle to appear 3 dimensional. I did not want to just paint a flat or screen. So, I painted a series of foam core panels. Three in all. A rear back panel which was the largest and widest, a center section, middle size, and a front panel which was still narrower.

I connected them together with

large styrofoam spacers to make each stand apart about 3 inches. Some wooden handles on the back made it easy to pick up and carry away when it was out of the scene.

Each layer when painted was cut around the outside to conform to the edge of the drawing giving it height, width, and depth.]

In all, the castle stood nearly 8 feet tall about 4 feet in width and looked quite realistic. It's interesting to note that many of our set pieces are desirable to people who see our shows. Some items I keep for future use, however I just don't have space to keep very many. The Beast's Castle is now standing in the Sprague Community Theater manager's office. He liked it and I was flattered he wanted to keep it.

Dan

Wicked – Dynamic Vocal Scenes

Plus, the lighting designer has great ideas too - they watch the reading of the script, watch rehearsals, and follow the actors' movements as intently as the director. So it is always a good idea to be friends with the lighting designer, for without them, no one would see the set.

If you have any questions about Set Design or other topics, just send us an Email:
[naprod@yahoo.com](mailto:naproduct@yahoo.com)

Disney Jr. – Beauty & the Beast – Beast's Castle