

# MIDDLETOWN

## Concept Meeting Notes

*Date:* 3/21/14

*Time:* 10:00am - 11:00am

*Location:* Semel Theatre Lobby

### **Present:**

B. Ambush, D. Acquavella, D. Burmester, E. Cahill, B. Choinski, D. Colfer, K. Cornelius, B. Cowles, R. DeMarco, R. Devereux-Murray, K. Dewitt, A. Elliot, S. Hickler, P. Hoover, T. Jozwick, D. Krasa, B. Lehrer, A. Lewis Millard, A. Loppert, S. Pinkney, S. Rosenfield, S. Swords, M. Teevan, M. Wygant.

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### **General Notes:**

Thank you all for attending!

1. Dan had everyone go around the table to introduce themselves and their role on the production then Sarah discussed the Playwright and her concept for the show.
  2. Just like Sarah, Will Eno, the playwright, grew up in the suburbs of Boston and attended school at Concord-Carlisle. Middletown was written about 5 years ago and premiered Off-Broadway at the Vineyard Playhouse. It had its regional premiere here in Boston with Actors Shakespeare Project's production at the YMCA in Cambridge under the direction of Doug Lockwood. There are articles from the Boston Globe about Will Eno.
  3. Sarah spoke about how Middletown reminds her of her own childhood growing up in a small town. She loves that the play presents mundane tasks that bump up against mythic archetypal characters. These characters are in the middle of the country and the middle of their life between birth and death. She loves how honest and forthcoming they are and how often they speak directly to the audience. The play has a warmth, acerbic, witty and poetic quality about it. It is set in a present day suburb but has the quaint feeling of an earlier time.
  4. Sarah showed some digital research which will be available on our productions dropbox once that is created. The images represented small town America both in photographs of actual towns such as Lee, MA and in paintings by artists such as Edward Hopper, Andrew Wyatt and Norman Rockwell.
  5. Lastly, Sarah gave out a handout with preliminary Props, Furniture, Costume accessories and Sound effects along with a Character and Scene Breakdown. A digital copy of this is attached below.
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### **Scenic Notes:**

Please see General Notes 1 - 5.

1. Middletown will be performed in the Jackie Liebergott Black Box but at this point Sarah is not sure how she would like to use the space both in terms of the seating arrangement and playing space. Her first thought was maybe similar to the Nightingale configuration along the long wall but that is up for discussion.
2. Sarah says that the play is very specific in certain scenic elements and calls for 2 windows upstage, 1 house interior, a town square with park bench downstage and a library. She does not think that we have the budget nor the will to create life like replicas of these spaces and feels that a certain minimalism will suit the play just fine. There will be certain furniture pieces that will be necessary to create the atmosphere including a library desk, park bench and windows. At intermission the script calls for the 2 "houses" to change into 2 hospital rooms. Sarah is open to discussion on how this is done as we could remove the windows completely to create the hospital or we could keep parts of the house and isolate the hospital. Lastly, Sarah would like to play with the idea of different levels within the space.

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## **Properties Notes:**

Please see General Notes 1 - 5.

1. There is currently no Props Master assigned to the show but Ron and Tim will be discussing that assignment within the next week or so. Ron was given the Preliminary Props handout in the meantime.
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## **Costumes Notes:**

Please see General Notes 1 - 5.

1. The astronaut will need to be in a full space suit.
  2. Sarah would like to start the conversation about how the American Indian will be dressed as to not offend.
  3. The Ground Control character may be onstage and would need to be costumed.
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## **Lighting Notes:**

Please see General Notes 1 - 5.

Please see Scenic Notes 1 - 3.

1. Sarah is interested in the ability to isolate different spaces with light so that as we move from each location the transitions can be smooth and not require a complete change of scenery to create a given location.
  2. Sarah is really interested in creating a sky but we will need to get creative without the use of a scrim.
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## **Sound Notes:**

Please see General Notes 1 - 5.

1. There will be live sound created by actors off stage, pre-recorded sound and sound effects throughout the show.
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## **Fight Notes:**

Please see General Notes 1 - 5.

No Notes at this time, Thank you!

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## **Scheduling Notes:**

1. Friday, March 28th: Design Meeting in the Black Box from 10:00am - 11:00am
2. Friday, April 4th: Production Meeting in the Black Box from 12:00pm to 1:00pm
3. Thursday, April 10th: Scenic and Costumes Preliminary Design Deadline
4. Friday, May 23rd: Scenic and Costumes Final Design Deadline
5. Friday, August 15th: Lighting and Sound Preliminary Design Deadline
6. Monday, August 25th: First Rehearsal
7. Friday, August 29th: Lighting and Sound Final Design Deadline
8. Thursday, October 9th: Opening Night