

# MIDDLETOWN

## Design Meeting Notes

Date: 4/4/14

Time: 12:00pm-1:00pm

Location: 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room Tutte

### Present:

E. Cahill, K. Dewitt, A. Elliot, S. Hickler, B. Lehrer, A. Lewis Millard, A. Loppert S. Rosenfield, E. White

### General Notes:

Thank you all for attending!

1. A Dropbox and complete Contact Sheet are on their way, thank you for your patience.

### Scenic Notes:

Please see Lighting note #4

1. Katie and Sarah have decided that the wall with the garage door will be the back wall of the stage. We discussed the garage door and it will most likely be masked with black curtain. Katie and Sarah are planning on going back to look at the space together to look at spacing and placement more carefully.
2. Katie showed us some sketches of the two houses. The size of the windows is still undetermined, but Sarah liked the idea of them being oversized double-hung windows.
3. The windows in front of the houses will be suspended, and the one in front of the Swanson house will be able to be removed from the cables. There was discussion with Brian about possibly having a pin rail and a pulley system so that the cables could be pulled up while the window is removed. Sarah wants to make sure this transition is smooth.
4. We discussed the set up of the stage and Sarah talked about having as few transitions as possible, with the biggest shift being during intermission. Sarah suggested putting some space between the two houses upstage for a platform that could be used as the loading dock behind the hospital. She also suggested having the town square downstage of the platform, and the library would roll on from one of the sides. Whether these pieces would be seen or not is still undetermined, however Katie said that storing these pieces would be easier on the stage left side. In the second act, the hospital beds would be placed downstage of the houses and the area where the tree is planted would be center stage, closest to the audience. Sarah wants the houses to stay on stage for the hospital set up.
5. Sarah Amy and Katie discussed the scene in space and came up with a few ideas. Amy and Katie had discussed using glow paint all over the stage and set that would light up with black lights to represent the stars. Concerns were raised about the effects of the paint on the floor/set, how should we address this? The placement of the Astronaut was also discussed and remains undecided. Sarah mentioned having the Astronaut possibly be on the catwalk behind the audience, or being center stage. The possibility of having Ground Control visible was discussed and Sarah mentioned having it be possibly on the catwalk or even behind the audience. Katie asked if we could mask the doors to the equipment storage on the catwalk, is this possible?

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## Properties Notes:

Please see Scenic Note #4

Please see Lighting Notes #2- #4

Please see Sound Notes #1, #3

## Costume Notes:

Please see Lighting Note #3

1. Sarah talked about all the men wearing khakis and topsides while the women wear average dresses that could be seen at anytime between 1960 and now. She sees the tour guide as a woman, and the Audience Members dressed like us.
2. Anne asked about which type of tourist Sarah was envisioning. Sarah described them as young California-cool travelers who name-drop and have very little money.
3. When we discussed the Astronaut, Anne expressed concern about whether the actor will be able to move in the costume and how much sound they may make if the costume is very heavy. Sarah likes the idea of the helmet for the Astronaut.

## Lighting Notes:

Please see Scenic Notes #1-#5

1. Sarah likes how dimly lit this show is.
2. Amy and Sarah both like the idea of having the interior of the houses only lit by practicals: a lamp or hanging lights. The yellow light that spills out would be the majority of the light during the police scene.
3. For the scene in space, a few options were discussed. Amy discussed the glow paint idea, and the possibility of a simultaneous lights and sound cutting in and out during the scene. Sarah enjoyed the idea of the audience thinking that there was a technical problem. Sarah also talked about the possibility of a light in the helmet of the Astronaut suit.
4. For the hospital scene there Sarah wants a fluorescent lighting effect. We discussed actual fluorescent units being lowered down over the hospital beds on the same system that the window would be on. Brian said that this would be possible. Another option discussed was fluorescent lighting fixtures attached to the beds.

## Sound Notes:

Please see Scenic Note #5

1. Elizabeth mentioned a need to be able to hide speakers throughout the stage in order to get the desired effect.
2. When we discussed background noises, Sarah expressed that she didn't want any musical underscore, but did like the idea of dogs barking in the distance and crickets chirping.
3. Sarah wants the Ground Control sound to be live if possible. Concern was raised about concealing a microphone if Ground Control is on stage, however Sarah said she would be okay with Ground Control using a microphone. Brian suggested getting a dispatch radio with XLR for Ground Control. Sarah talked about having a breathing sound for the Astronaut that may surround the audience.
4. Sarah talked about a similar breathing sound as part of the sounds in the hospital.
5. The radio shows will be prerecorded; Sarah talked about into music for the science show and Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> for the classical show.

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## **Dramaturgical Notes:**

1. Sarah and Emily discussed creating actor packets before rehearsals.

## **Scheduling Notes:**

1. Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>: Scenic and Costumes Preliminary Design Deadline
2. Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>: Scenic and Costumes Final Design Deadline
3. Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>: Lighting and Sound Preliminary Design Deadline
4. Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>: First Rehearsal
5. Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup>: Lighting and Sound Final Design Deadline
6. Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup>: Opening Night