

Student 4: High Achieved  
NZQA Intended for teacher use only

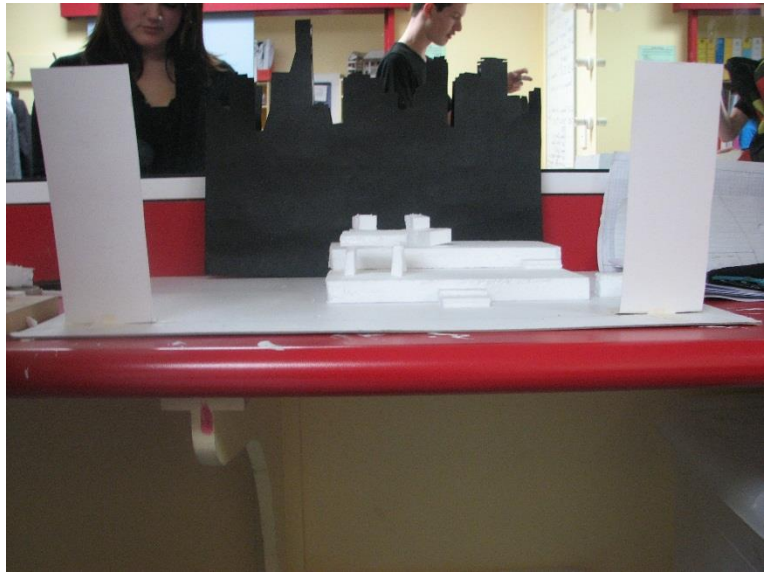
### Rationale

#### DEATH OF A SALESMAN

Based on Edward Gordon Craig's design theories and ideas

#### Layout of set:

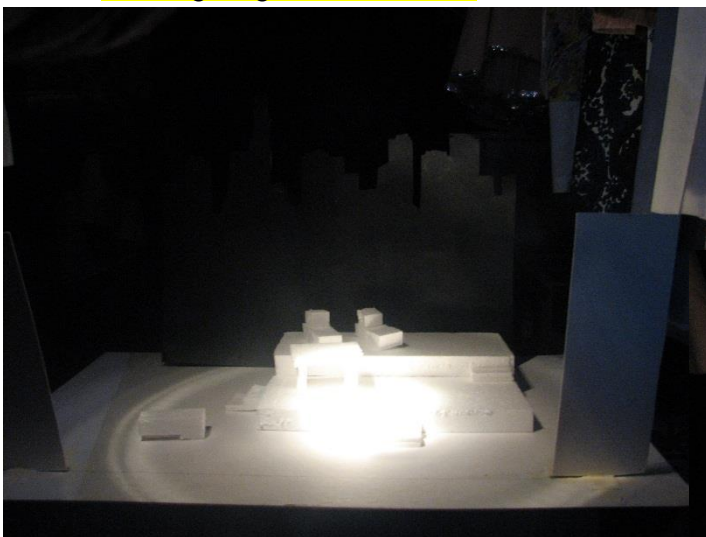
The set I have designed for the DEATH OF A SALESMAN play by Arthur Miller is a simple white set with a black city-scape silhouette in front of the back wall. It is related to the play by not having any solid walls so the flow between Willy Lowman's flashbacks and being in reality. The bareness of the set leaves it to the actors to create the mood instead of a "photographically realistic" set <sup>①</sup> which is a Craigian set idea. Having a window cut out to throw a silhouette on the back wall (not actually shown) to create the house effect without realistic props, which as the scene goes from reality to dream scape is faded out to. This I adapted from a set which Craig designed for "The Vikings at Helgeland" in 1903 which had an actual window frame hanging during the whole play. <sup>②</sup>



#### Why I have chosen my set design:

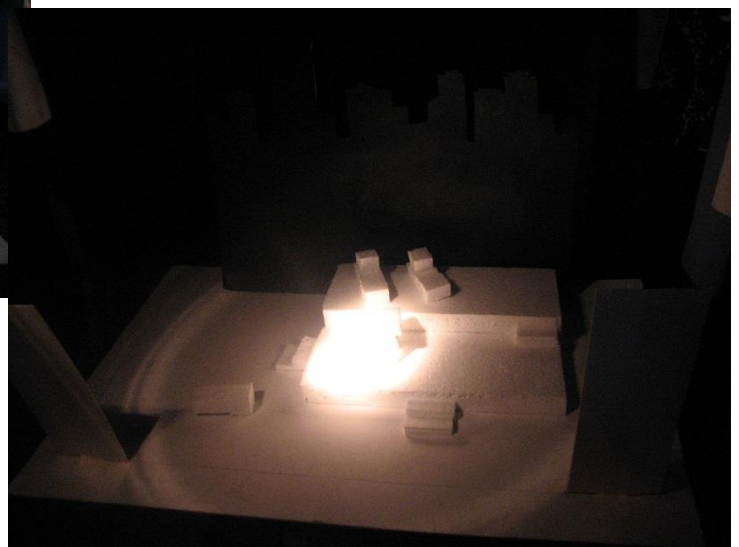
I chose this set design as it incorporated the bareness and structure that is much like Craig's ideas, and that it worked well with the changing from past to present.

#### What lighting would be used:

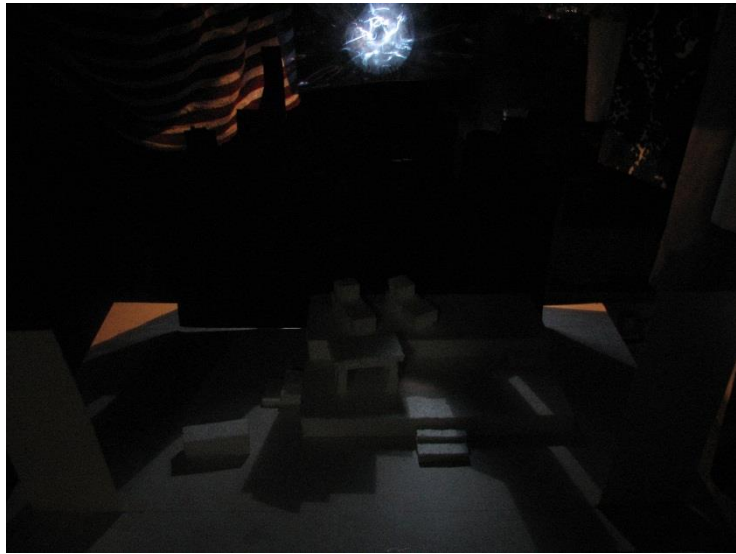


For most house scenes there will be a slight yellow gel that has the effect of a normal house light.

Picture 1 The picture hasn't shown up the gel colour very well



During the scenes with "The woman" (Willy's mistress) the gel used will have a more pink toned gel shown in picture 2. This accentuates the romantic theme.



Picture 3. A blue gel over a light behind the city scape shows how the city is “closing in” on their lives. This will also be faded out when flash backs to the past happen because the city wasn’t as vast then.

Props: The “beds” which are separate to represent the boys bedrooms in the pictures, would be pushed together to represent Willy and Linda’s bed.

The beds would be two plain blocks with small squares on top with fabric thrown over them. The table could be a plain white table with four chairs and a plain bench to represent outside seat.

Additional ideas: The pink gel behind the city scape would be appropriate at the lunch scene when Happy and Biff are talking to the “call girl”.

