

Drama 91516 – Set Design Rationale:

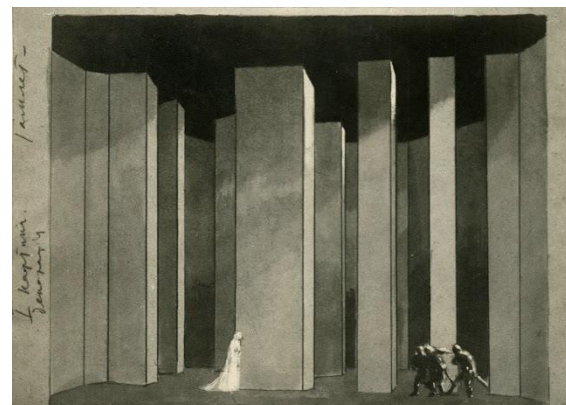
Edward Gordon Craig applied to *A death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller.

Props-The only props I've used are plain white blocks (1 large and 4 small). I did this to show Craig's minimalism and non-realistic set designs while still providing objects for the actors to use to show important scenes in *Death of a Salesman* such as the kitchen table and chairs which can be changed to use as a bed for the bedroom. I made the large block long so that when the actors are around the table they can use it to show the distance between the characters in different parts of the play. ①

Floor-I raised the house platform to separate the house from the backyard and street without the use of walls. This fits with Craig's minimalism and non-realistic set designs once again. Doors/Windows-I used a doorframe and hanging fly floor windows to create more interesting lighting effects and create the silhouette of a house while still keeping it simple and without blocking the backdrop so that it looks more overtaken by the city. The windows would move up and down to show different scene changes.

Cyclorama-I placed the cyclorama close to the set to make the house seem overwhelmed and almost like its being eaten by the city. I made the cyclorama very tall compared to the rest of the set to make the house and Willy's life seem insignificant which one of Craig's ideas. I did this after seeing Craig's sets much to do about nothing (1903), *Hamlet* (1909), *Macbeth* and other creations. ②

Colours-I made the cyclorama black although if this set was created full size I would paint it grey. This would be to show lighting effects clearer as one of Craig's ideas is to use a lot of lighting to completely change sets and also to better show that it's a dirty grey city overtaking the house. The house I made completely white as well as the props to represent that Linda is trying to strealise Willys life and is trying to protect him from the truth/ remove everything dangerous/dirty from his life. ③ I made the colours simple to make the costumes stand out as they would have touches of bright colour to make them stand out from the set. I would make Linda wear very simple colours to blend in to show shes mostly a piece of furniture in Willys life. Biff would wear garish colours and a checked farmers top to show he wants to work in the country. Happy would wear dull colours similar to Willy to show hes trying to follow in his fathers footsteps. Willy would wear dull colours that are slightly too small to show hes being constricted in his life.

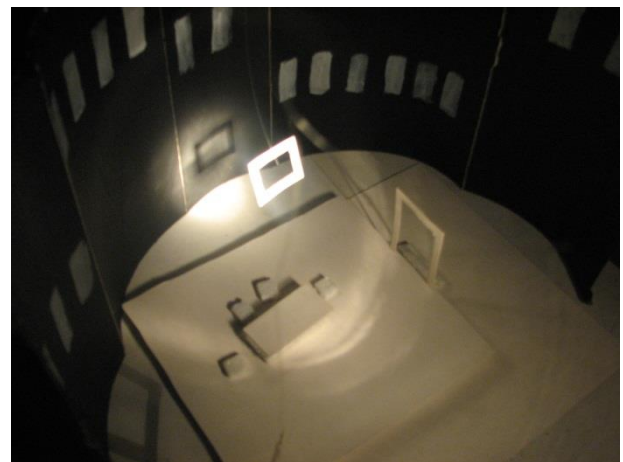




I would use this lighting for when Willy's in the past and times are happier and more natural. It would be a gentle green to soften the backdrop which would be grey in full scale.



I would use this more harsh white lighting in the present to make it seem more artificial and make the city backdrop more overpowering and dominating in Willy's life. ②



I would use this softer lighting for when Willy's happy/ looking forward to something even if it's not true. It would change to the harsh white when reality hits him and he continues to have mental issues.



I would use this blue lighting for very emotional sad scenes to enhance the feelings to the audience and create moods.