

Learning Places Fall 2018

SITE REPORT #3A

name of site report

NAMING PROTOCOL. When saving and posting your site reports on OpenLab, please follow the following format: SiteReport#Letter.LastnameFirstname. Here's an example: **SiteReport2B.SwiftChristopher.**



Select a meaningful image to that captures your perception of the performance site and provide a caption explaining what the image is.

STUDENT NAME: Jameel Thomas

SITE OBSERVATIONS

Insert 3 photographs and provide a title for each image. The title should be a a word or short phrase that sums up the subject matter of the photo or a visual theme present in the photo.



It's Show time



Strolling through the lobby



Just another cloudy day

Why did you choose these images? Do they summarize a feeling you have for the performance space? Do they focus on prominent objects or features? Explain.

I chose these images because in the first image it shows you the area that the performance is going to be taken place. In the second image I chose it because it shows the amount of natural light that is inside of the lobby area, a dramatic change of lighting from the lobby to the performance area that wasn't exposed to any natural light but a lot of artificial lighting. Also I chose the third picture because the building is in a park and with the façade being glass you feel as if you're really outside of the building surrounded by nature. To end it I always liked buildings that are glass.

PERMANENT THEATER

Answer the questions below *only* if you attended a performance in a purpose-built theater or an adapted space that is now a permanent theater.

1. Briefly describe the genre or type of performance (one sentence).

The genre of performance I viewed was a Christmas sing along musical

2. Describe the dimensions, shapes, and arrangement of audience and performance spaces in the building: entrances, ingresses, egresses, lobbies, lounges, audience seating, box seats, and stage.

The theatre was in the middle of flushing meadows Carona Park and it has one main entrance to the building and several emergency exits to the side of the building. The lobby area is pretty much an open space with several tables and chairs in it, with a concession stand near the entrance of the building. The ticket booth was at the back of the lobby. The ingress and egress of the actual performance space (theatre) was somewhat bad, because it has to entrance to

the performance space but the stairs you had to walk up would be a problem in case of an actual emergency. They were no box seats at this theatre.

3. Does the architectural design provide opportunities for voyeurism, food or alcohol consumption, reading, talking, or other interaction among audience members? Explain how the architecture might *encourage* or *limit* activities other than viewing the performance.

The Architectural design didn't have any impact on voyeurism, because it's just a regular theatre. The concession stand didn't look like it was part of the architecture plan in the first place. Because it was basically tables with cloth on top of it with snack on the table. If it was apart of the architecture plan it would have been more of a permanent structure in its place like the ticket booth.

4. How did the architectural design and fixtures affect your reception of the play (sight lines, acoustics, lighting, etc.)?

The acoustics in the theatre was really good, they were no problem hearing the performance and they were no echoes during the performance. Even at the back of the theatre you could hear the performance as if you were in the front row. The lighting in the theatre was also really good they were directly over the stage and also they were some lights on the left and right of the stage that shined into the seating area when ever the performance wasn't taking place. The lighting were perfectly place because even though they were shining into the seating area when I walked in they were no problem with the light being in my eyes restricting my vision. Back to the lights above the stage it was so good that the lead performer had to ask for the lights to not cover the spaces where they was no one. This was because he wanted the atmosphere to be like if you were in your living room. The sight line was the only negative part of the theatre because you are looking directly into the back of people heads if you are short. But with me being tall I didn't really have a problem with it, but sorry to the lady that sat directly behind me.

5. Describe the dynamic between the audience space and the performer's space. Was the stage a proscenium, thrust, or theater-in-the-round arrangement? Did the performance and audiences spaces ever merge (audience in stage area, actors in audience area, for instance)?

The stage was a proscenium stage. The audience space and performer space merged when they asked for the children to come up on the stage and participate in dancing to the songs being sung. They also had the children hold

up a banner that had writing on it that said happy New Years in Korean. They also had the children participate with a Puerto Rican Christmas song that involved counting to ocho (8). Also the performers were close to the audience they were at the front of the stage. Before going I thought that the performance would be in the middle of the stage.

6. Use a metaphor to describe the audience/stage relationship (ocean, layer-cake, peephole, for instance...*and don't use these examples!*). Explain why you chose that image or idea.

The meta photo am choosing is "like a leaf floating on water" the reason am choosing this metaphor is because the performance went with the flow and the audience also went with the flow of the performance, just like a leaf would go with the flow of water it's floating on.

ANALYSIS/DISCOVERIES [FOR EVERYONE]

Use this section to reflect on your observations. Remember to refer to your observations when drawing general conclusions.

Performativity: ways in which theater becomes life, words become actions, audiences become actors, objects become agents, buildings convey meaning, and participants become engaged in broader social concerns.

1. Describe the moments in the production where *theater* became more like *life* or when something occurred in the performance space that exceeded the internal action of the play itself.
Even before the performance started the leader of the performers told the audience that he wanted to to feel as if we where in our living rooms. He wanted the audience to interact with the performance. This was evident when the kids where on the stage because it reminded me of myself when I was a kid and I would watch shows on the tv in my living room and tried to be apart of the show that was on the tv. I guess the performers succeeded in their mission to make it feel as if you were in your living room.
2. How might the designed and/or natural features of the performance space enable moments of performativity? Or, on the other hand, do the architectural and/or natural elements inhibit performativity?
The architects design the stage to be one that the performers and audience could interact and merge with one another, because the height of the stage isn't as high. It's probably a few inches off the ground and this makes the interaction between

the two easy. Because if you are call to come on the stage you can easily walk up on the stage and if the performer wants to come into the audience it's just a footstep of the stage and he's amongst the audience.

QUESTIONS for FURTHER RESEARCH. Write down questions that require further research to answer. These should follow directly from your analysis section and be complex and specific enough to serve as the basis of a research project; do not include questions you can answer with a quick google search. Focus your research questions on spatial and architectural aspects of the performance space.

1. Question? **Was the performance created to represent the many different cultures songs during the Holiday season?**
2. Question? **Did the architects design the theatre to be used as a theatre or did it had another designated use?**
3. Question? **Was this performance intended to be interactive or did they improvised the majority of the interaction with the audience?**

SITE REPORT #3B

STUDENT NAME: Jameel Thomas

FURTHER RESEARCH

Develop a new research question (or revise one of your questions from part 3A of this report).

This question should concern EITHER:

The relationship between the performance you viewed and the staging (if in a traditional theater space) or the place where it was performed (if in a provisional theater space).

OR

The relationship between a social / political issue and the performance you viewed.

1. **Research Question: Was the performance created to represent the many different cultures songs during the Holiday season?**

Find 2 sources. *You can choose to use: internet sources, books, archival documents or ephemera, scholarly articles, newspaper articles, or performance reviews. Your choice should be intentional.

1 source should have to do with the **production or performance** (this could either be about the play itself or about something to do with the performance). For example, if I viewed a production of *Hamlet* that was interactive, I might research “Hamlet” or conduct research more broadly on “interactivity and Shakespeare.”

1 source should be about the **place or social / political issue** that is articulated in your research question.

Write an MLA citation for each source:

Source 1

Krings, Mike. "Lead Belly, Baby!" Utne Reader: The Best of the Alternative Press, no. 197, Winter 2017, p. 75. EBSCOhost, citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=127079766&site=ehost-live&scope=site.

Source 2

Bourne, Tracy, et al. "Physiological and Acoustic Characteristics of the Male Music Theatre Voice." Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, vol. 140, no. 1, July 2016, pp. 610–621. EBSCOhost, doi:10.1121/1.4954751.

Why did you select these sources? How do they address all or part of your research question?

The first source I chose was because it shows that the performers usually incorporate different cultures into their performance whether it's Holiday musicals or folk musicals. I chose the second source because it shows the importance of good acoustics within a theatre and it's performance. They way the performers voice travels throughout the theatre.

Describe the process you used to find this source including any keywords and the search engine or tool you used to search.

For the first source I simply went on the NYCCT library website and search Dan Zanes in the EBSCO software and found the source I chose. The second source I searched for acoustics in theatre and I found the second source that I chose.

What other sources or further information would you need to answer your question? Where would you look for that information?

I think that because of the artist doing this performance for the first time this year they aren't many information on whether the intention of the artist was to represent and spread many cultures Christmas songs. So I would think the only other information I would need is to either interview the performers or if the performers speak to the news outlets about the intentions of the performance.

