

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.

The image is the entrance of the main entrance of the theater overlooking the spaceship from the man in black movies.

STUDENT NAME: David Valderrabano

SITE OBSERVATIONS

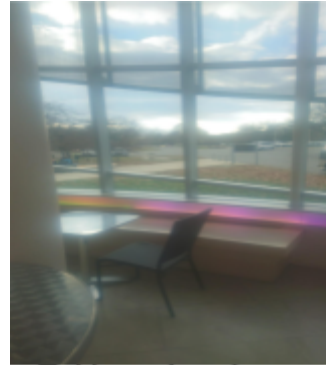
Insert 3 photographs and provide a title for each image. The title should be a word or short phrase that sums up the subject matter of the photo or a visual theme present in the photo.



Lobby skylight



Main stage



Taking a break

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.

1. Lobby skylight: I chose this picture because I believe that it encapsulates the essence of the Theatre and the performances in there. This picture of the main lobby gives off a vibe of modern and relaxed atmosphere just like the performances in this theater are not what you would describe as traditional. This is because on the show the audience was actively invited to participate and even get on the stage during the show.
2. Main stage: I chose this picture because it showcases the main Theater room and its features. The stage is a traditional proscenium but interestingly the big curtains were wide open in order for the attendees to see the stage before the show starts.
3. Taking a break: I find this picture interesting because the glass windows create an opportunity for people to observe the performances of people doing activities in the park, while they wait for a planned performance inside the theater.

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 performance was a musical that was focused on showcasing different holiday songs from different cultures from around the world.

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 dimensions of the theater were very interesting usually in NYC most buildings and theaters have a box shape probably because of building regulations, but since this theater is on a park the designers took another approach it is built as two circles. A big circle where the main stage building is and a small circle where the lobby is. Other than the main stage is a pretty standard proscenium with dim lighting during the performances so the audience can focus on the show.

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.

There is certainly an opportunity for voyeurism on the entrance lobby. Since the walls are made out of glass people can sit on the several chairs there and eat a snack or drink a coffee while they wait for their show to start.

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

Since this theater is not that big it feels like you are closer to the performance and you get a better look at the play even if you were to sit at the last row. Also, the acoustics are great for a theater since they are very dry you can perfectly distinguish what the performers are saying.

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 audience spaces ever merge (audience in stage area, actors in audience area, for instance)?

Although the building has a modern approach considering its design, when it comes to the main stage they had a more traditional play in mind when they

built it. This is because you can clearly see the proscenium design that focuses all your attention on the performance. Although the performers did a great job in making the audience participate in the performance the space is not really designed for that.

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.

"Home" This show had a very homely feel as if it was just a big family singing songs in the living room. This is because the performers were very welcoming and encourage the audience to sing along and even allowed people to get on the stage.

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.

There was a moment when the performers asked the audience to make a funny motion with their hands to simulate snow falling down. At that moment it just felt like a big group of friends just having fun.

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?

As I said in a previous question the proscenium design of the main stage really does inhibit this particular performance since the audience is more reluctant to participate in the performance with this particular design. I believe that a thrust stage would be better suited for this type of performance since the line were the stage is and the audience is blurrier and more inviting for people to take part in the performance.

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? How does the proscenium design affect the way people perceive a performance?
2. Question? How does glass wall change the perception that people might have of a certain place?
3. Question? What is the history of Queens theatre, why was it build in such an inaccessible place?

SITE REPORT #3B

STUDENT NAME: David Valderrabano

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.

Research Question:

How does the proscenium design affect a show dedicated to showcase different holiday songs from different cultures?

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

“Proscenium.” Edited by Richard Pallardy et al., Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 6 Nov. 2008, www.britannica.com/art/proscenium.

Source 2

Eagan, Jennifer L. “Multiculturalism.” Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 31 Aug. 2015, www.britannica.com/topic/multiculturalism.

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

1. Source 1: I chose this article to get a better understanding of how a proscenium stage affects a performance. In this way I can make connections on how it might affect a show like the one stated on my research question.
2. Source 2: I noticed that the main goal of the show i went to see was to create a space that was multicultural and inclusive for people to come and experience different cultures while still having something in common which was holiday songs. So, to understand better multiculturalism I chose this article. In specific this article has a part where it talks about the challenges of multiculturalism, so i thought that it might help me also understand the challenges for a show like this.

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 article I simply used google search engine to look for articles about proscenium which lead me to a link to encyclopedia britannica. since it was well written and to the point I decided to use the search engine on encyclopedia britannica to find my other topic multiculturalism and it got me to my second article.

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

I would need more information on types of musical performances there are for a better understanding on how it affects the performance. To find this information I could probably find an article about music performance on the ebsco database provided by cuny's library.