

SITE REPORT [part III: site of performance] Signature Theatre



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INTRODUCTION

The Signature Theatre (also known as the Pershing Square Signature Center) is a relatively new off-Broadway performance venue. It first opened in 2012 and was designed by Frank Gehry. On October 26th and October 29th, our students went there to see either "*Master Harold*"... and the Boys or *The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World*. For this assignment, I will look at one of the three theaters within the venue – the Irene Diamond Stage.

PRE-VISIT INFORMATION

Even though it was an off-Broadway venue, I was hoping to experience an atmosphere typical of many Broadway theaters prior to a show's performance.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)



A rendering of the exterior façade of the Pershing Square Signature Center.

The interior of the Irene Diamond Stage at the Signature Center.





QUALITATIVE SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. Description of architectural elements of the auditorium where the performance was held (stage arrangement (proscenium, thrust, in the round, etc.), seating arrangement (amphitheater, orchestra and balcony, etc. aisles, types of seats, risers, etc.).

The Irene Diamond Stage, where *“Master Harold”... and the Boys* is performed, is arranged in a proscenium with an auditorium-styled seating arrangement. It is also known for its

unique plywood-paneled walls.

2. Description of the physical element on the stage (set pieces, technologies, lighting, etc.)
The lighting was vibrant, and the set pieces give us a sense that you were back in a much simpler time

3. Description of audience (socio-economic, community identity).
The audience was mostly middle-to-upper class and some students were in attendance for the performance.

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Size of performance space	59' W X 35'6" D
Size of spectator space	294 seats

Number of spectators (range)	Approximately 75-100 people
Length (in time) of performance	100 minutes
Cost of performance (if any)	\$30
Other data	

QUESTIONS TO RESEARCH FURTHER

QUESTIONS:

1. In what architectural style was the Signature Theatre (AKA the Pershing Square Signature Center) designed in?
2. Aside from the Signature Theatre, what other notable buildings has Frank Gehry designed?
3. What are some of the themes represented in the play "*Master Harold*"... and the Boys?

RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
 - a. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Gehry#Architectural_style
 - b. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MiMA_\(building\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MiMA_(building))
2. Question 2
 - a. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Gehry
3. Question 3
 - a. <http://www.litcharts.com/lit/master-harold-and-the-boys/themes>
 - b. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%22Master_Harold%22...and_the_Boys

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