

# **SITE REPORT [part III: site of performance] SIGNATURE THEATRE**



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10.10.2016

## **INTRODUCTION**

For this site report, our class headed over to Signature Theatre. We were able to choose one of two performances to view. I chose "The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World" by Suzan-Lori Parks, directed by Lileana Blain-Cruz.

## **PRE-VISIT INFORMATION**

I had no prior knowledge on the Signature Theatre prior to this visit. I was never a huge fan of Theatre performances, but I was still interested to see what this Theatre had in store for its visitors, ranging from the performances to the design of the interior, especially considering the location of the performance space, being near the busy streets of Broadway.



# THE DEATH OF THE LAST BLACK MAN IN THE WHOLE ENTIRE WORLD

by **Suzan-Lori Parks**  
directed by **Lileana Blain-Cruz**



## SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)

This image depicts the stage of the performance, taken by me prior to the start of the show.

The performance space (or stage) was a very small and condensed space. I found it very interesting though because although small, it provided for a lot of room, allowing the actors to move around very freely.

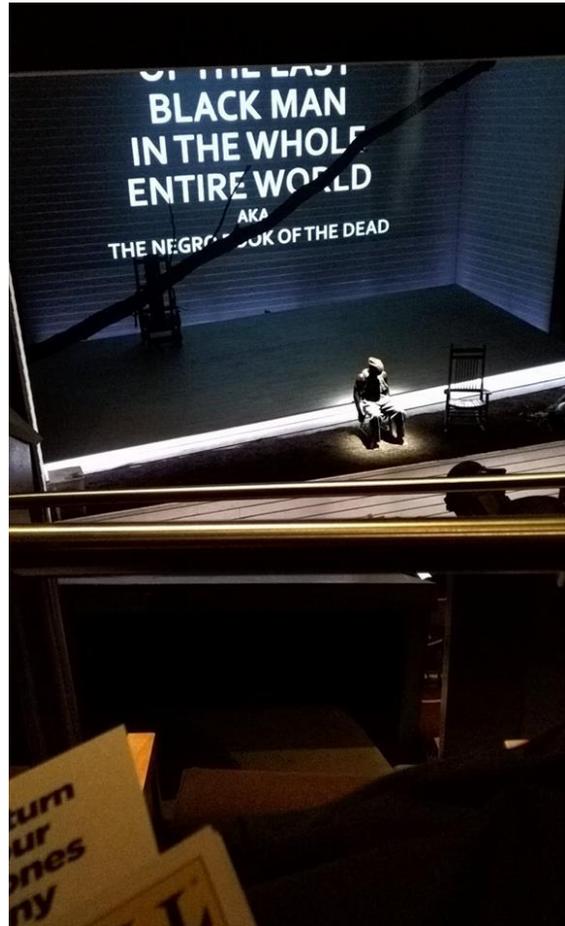


Image depicting the theater room itself.

The space is designed to be able to hold a lot of people, in which come some of its flaws. The balconies above, were designed very poorly in terms of space. Just about every person, including myself had to sit with their legs slanted over to the side as to fit in between the narrow space of their seat, and

the border in front. Aside from that, the space was very uniquely and beautifully designed and gave off a modern feel with its wooden interior.

## 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 stage has a proscenium design; the seats were arranged in front and to the sides of the performance space. There were two isles on the bottom level, as well as balconies on top. The seats were designed nicely and fit very well with the overall design of the theater room. In terms of comfort there could have definitely been improvements. At times during the performance it felt like I could not sit anymore without getting up to stretch my legs, which I obviously could not.
2. Description of the physical element on the stage (set pieces, technologies, lighting,  
The overall lightning of the space was very dim, but fit into the atmosphere nicely. The lights were very well and strategically placed to illuminate the stage and made sure that it “popped” out during the performance
3. Description of audience (socio-economic, community identity)  
The entire audience near me was comprised of students, so it was difficult to tell the socio-economic elements. It seemed as if the space was comprised of middle to lower class individuals. In terms of their clothing, everyone there had casual every day clothes, so in those terms there was not anything that stood out.

## QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

| Subject                         | Data  |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Size of performance space       | Very condensed performance space for the actors. Yet it seemed to have been designed to still allow for a lot of movement within the space. |
| Size of spectator space         | Very crowded, narrow, uncomfortable. Giving off the illusion of being spacious (Speaking in terms of the balconies).                        |
| Number of spectators (range)    | Definitely over the count of 200 individuals.   |
| Length (in time) of performance | 75 Minutes.   |
| Cost of performance (if any)    | \$30+   |
| Other data                      |   |

## QUESTIONS TO RESEARCH FURTHER

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who was in charge of designing the theater room/s?
2. When did Signature Theatre come to exist, and what were the motivations?
3. Why does the Theatre choose to showcase the shows that it does?

### RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1, 2, 3
  - a. <https://www.signaturetheatre.org/>
  - b. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Signature\\_Theatre\\_Company\\_\(New\\_York\\_City\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Signature_Theatre_Company_(New_York_City))