

Learning Places Fall 2016
Chin/Swift

SITE REPORT [part III: Signature Theater] Master Harold and the boys



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INTRODUCTION

One of our assignments in Learning Place was to attend the Pershing Square Signature Center to watch either the “Last black man on earth” or “Master Harold and the boys”. Professor.Swift recommended Master Harold and the boys, however he stated that it was our choice to decide. I choose to go with his recommendation to see “Master Harold and the Boys”.

PRE-VISIT INFORMATION

Before attending the Pershing Square Signature Center I was excited because this was the first time I've ever went to see a play related to slaver/racism and the history of what living as an African was like in early 1950s. I hope the black would give the audience a feel of what Africans endured during that time period. Even though I wanted a look into what it was like in a live performance I also hoped it wasn't too intense for me. The last thing I wanted was to leave the theater feeling uncomfortable or upset in anyway.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)



This is an image of a moment in the play when Sam spoke to Hally about the good old days they had, with excitement and respect.

These images are a look inside the auditorium named The Irene Diamond Theatre

These images are important because it shows the details of the auditorium. it shows that there are two different tone chairs and well as the abstract detail of the wall.



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 was set up as the cafe where the entire scene took place. The auditorium had a very tight and cozy feeling (I think the chairs were too close together, there wasn't enough room for me to move around without annoying the people around me). The chairs were two different colors with little cushion. The stairs to go up to the seats was very narrow. only one person at a time could walk up or down. There were 2 sections large sections, two side sections.

2. Description of the physical element on the stage (set pieces, technologies, lighting,

The stage set-up made me feel like I was actually in the cafe. Everything about the set up was extremely realistic. It was raining outside the cafe and the audience was able to hear the rain and also see computer generated rain. The only reason I was able to tell it was computer generated is because it would be impossible to be raining in the auditorium. The actors were dressed in theme with the play. The feel of the time they were pretending to be in was clear in the acting, the stage set up and more.

3. Description of audience (socio-economic, community identity) Approximately 90% of the audience were caucasian. The age group ranged from around early 20 to 80 years old.

The audience seems to be either people whom are interested in theater, the theme of the play or students who are completing an assignment.

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Size of performance space	It was a very small stage
Size of spectator space	About 300 seats
Number of spectators (range)	About 300 spectators
Length (in time) of performance	1 hour and 40 minutes
Cost of performance (if any)	\$30.00 plus \$2.00 in fees
Other data	Spectators are not allowed to take pictures in theater. The tickets were \$30 no matter where the spectator is seated.

QUESTIONS TO RESEARCH FURTHER

QUESTIONS:

1. Was the section that was on each side of the auditorium with about 4 seats considered the VIP section?
2. Who wrote Master Harold and the boys?
3. Who design the Signature Theatre?

RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1

- a. The section is not considered VIP. All ticket prices are the same.
www.signaturetheatre.org

2. Question 2

- a. The signature theater website www.signaturetheatre.org
- b. New york times

3. Question 3

- a. The theater was design by Frank Gehry in 2008 (www.signaturetheatre.org/about)
- b. The Master Harold and the boys Brochure