

Learning Places Fall 2016
Chin/Swift

SITE REPORT [part III: site of performance]

Signature Theatre: Master Harold and the Boys



<http://www.signaturetheatre.org/>

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INTRODUCTION

The Pershing Square Signature Theatre

480 West 42nd Street

New York, NY 10036

I chose to see Master Harold and the Boys.

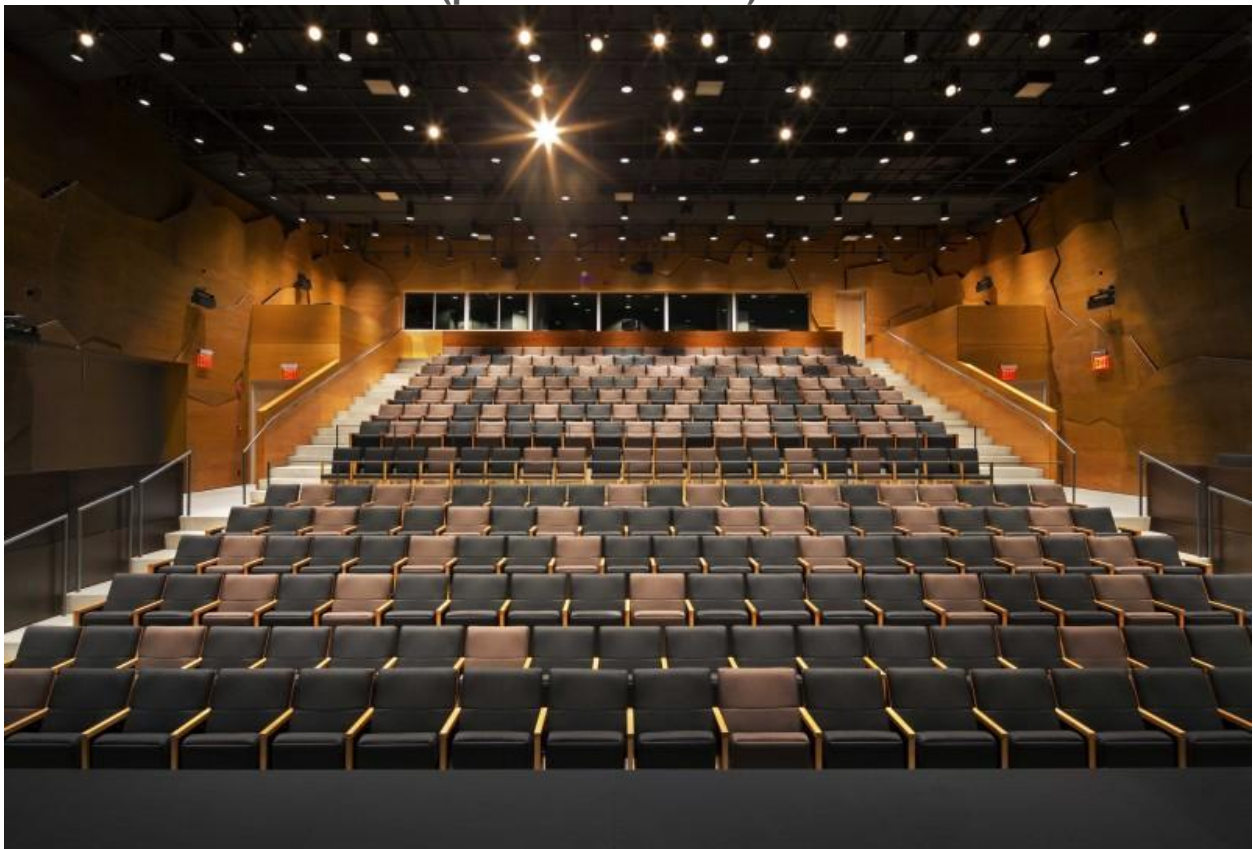
PRE-VISIT INFORMATION

I assumed for signature theatre to operate like any other Broadway theatre. I assumed they would have people standing outside waiting to go in. I assumed the workers to be stern, professional, and stressed. I've been to a few plays on Broadway and the workers seemed like the rigid environment had made their

jobs difficult. The theatre itself, I had assumed to have seated about 2000 people.

Based on the title of the play, I had assumed for the play itself to be about either race or slavery. I came to this assumption because the play option was called “Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World”.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)



This is Diamond Theatre, which is the theatre we sat in to watch “Master Harold and the Boys”

Upon entering into this room, I felt welcomed. I loved the wooden walls and the soft lighting. I'm not sure if the walls were designed in this manner to produce better acoustics, however, the geometric shapes made it artistically interesting. This theatre room was cozy. As I learned in class, designers would try to pack as many seats as possible in order for the shows to hold larger audiences and make more money. There wasn't much leg room between the seats.



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Play in Action.

Although I was sitting in the back, because the space was intimate, I was able to capture the actors' expressions from where I was sitting.

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 state arrangement was proscenium which means that the actual seating was in front of the stage and not on any of its sides. The actual seats were theatre seats which had plenty of cushion. What I found strange was the seats to be a mismatch of black and brown. The seating arrangement was similar to my high school auditorium. There were 2 levels with an aisle separating the levels. There were steps on both sides of the theatre but there weren't any middle steps to get to the seats located in the middle. You would have to get to the middle seat through either one of the steps located from the sides. By the doors, there were 4 seats that had plenty of leg room and were slanted towards the stage. I didn't see an orchestra in the room and there wasn't an orchestra playing either. The music played was audio. The sound/control room was located in the back. It was behind a tinted classroom and they used apple computers. I sat at the center of the back row, which I believed to be the best seats in the house. I was able to see the actors' faces, as well as the entire stage.



https://www.google.com/search?q=master+harold+and+the+boys+signature+theatre&biw=1536&bih=759&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi64tjh0qDQAHVFKyYKHTwIB2EQ_AUICSqE#tbm=isch&q=signature+theatre+diamond&imgc=DPDv5ah1Sy0BTM%3A

2. Description of the physical element on the stage (set pieces, technologies, lighting, The stage was pretty interesting. The more interesting aspect in my opinion was the rain. I was wondering how they created the rain. From my angle, the street looked realistic.

The lighting appeared to be simple. They had domestic ceiling fans as part of the lighting as well as stage lights that dimmed and changed colors. I'm not sure if the stage had mics or the actors projected their voices. It didn't sound like microphones were used at all. If they were, those mics along with the system were state of the art because it didn't sound like the actors' voices were amplified.

The set was simple. It didn't have any moving pieces, and during the play, the physical setting remained the same.

3. Description of audience (socio-economic, community identity)

Based on the physical appearance of the audience, I assumed for them to be middle class. I also assumed for them to be of middle class and not upper class because the tickets were also only \$36. The audience was a diverse crowd in terms of gender, age, and ethnicity.

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Size of performance space	59' X 35'-6" D Proscenium Dimensions 45'W x 20'H to 37' W x 17'H
'Size of spectator space	294 seats
Number of spectators (range)	275
Length (in time) of performance	100mins
Cost of performance (if any)	\$30-40 for this performance

Other data	Lighting ETC EOC console with 180 fixtures Sound Alien and Heath console, Mac Pro Q Lab computer and CD playback
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QUESTIONS TO RESEARCH FURTHER

QUESTIONS:

1. When was the seating put in? Were some of the seats old mixed with new? Was this the reason for the multicolored seating?
2. How many theatres are inside?
3. Who designed the Signature Theatre?

RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
2. Question 2
<https://www.signaturetheatre.org/Visit/The-Building.aspx>
3. Question 3
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Signature_Theatre_Company_\(New_York_City\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Signature_Theatre_Company_(New_York_City))
<https://www.signaturetheatre.org/Visit/The-Building.aspx>