

**LEEDS
PLAY
HOUSE**

A LEEDS PLAYHOUSE PRODUCTION

MACBETH

2022

EDUCATION RESOURCE
DIGITAL DESIGNER'S
SKETCHBOOK

REFERENCE IMAGES AND SCENE BREAKDOWN



The Designer works closely with the Director and members of the Production Team to bring to life the world of the play.

Here are some reference images collected by the Designer after initial discussions with the Director about *Macbeth*.



The Director and Designer also made a Scene Breakdown, so they could see exactly what settings they would need for each scene (as well as the costumes and props).

Macbeth - Leeds playhouse - 2022
Scenic Breakdown

What has happened before the play begins-

- Norway has joined the Scots in a civil war against Scottish Duncan
- The thane or Cawdor has committed treason against Duncan
- Macbeth is away fighting this war
- Lady Macbeth has lost her baby-
- Why is Duncan not fighting ?
- Macbeth and Banquo have defeated two separate armies. Norway and Ireland

OPENING SCENE INTO - MOVEMENT - INTRO TO SOPACE AND CHARACTERS

SCENE	SETTING	CHARACTERS	PROPS	COSTUME	LIGHTING	WEATHER	ACCESS	SUMMARY	THOUGHTS /QUESTIONS
ACT 1 SCENE 1	LANDSCAPE MIST STORM EARTH FILTHY AIR	3 WITCHES	DEAD BABY - FUNERAL DRUMS WEAPONS ON OPENING SCENE- SWORDS		MIST LIGHTING	STORM	VISUAL VERNACULAR ?	THE WITCHES GATHER IN A STORM TO ANNOUNCE THEY WILL MEET AGAIN AND CONFRONT MACBETH	DO WE SEE SHADOWS OF THE FAMILIARS? CAT /TOAD
SCENE 2	WHERE ARE WE ? THE CASTLE ?	KING- DUNCAN MALCOM DONABLAIR LENNOX		CAPTAIN IS BLEEDING FILTHY AND WET				THE THANE OF CAWDOR WILL BE EXECUTED NEWS OF MACBETH AND	

These images are stark, reflecting the desolate heaths and woodlands of the battles, with mud and bare trees.



Photo by Graham Demaline

And this image is a sculpture of the famous Pendle Witch, Alice Nutter, who was tried and hanged in 1612, 6 years after it is believed *Macbeth* was first performed. The Designer and Director both did a lot of research into the Pendle Witches for this production

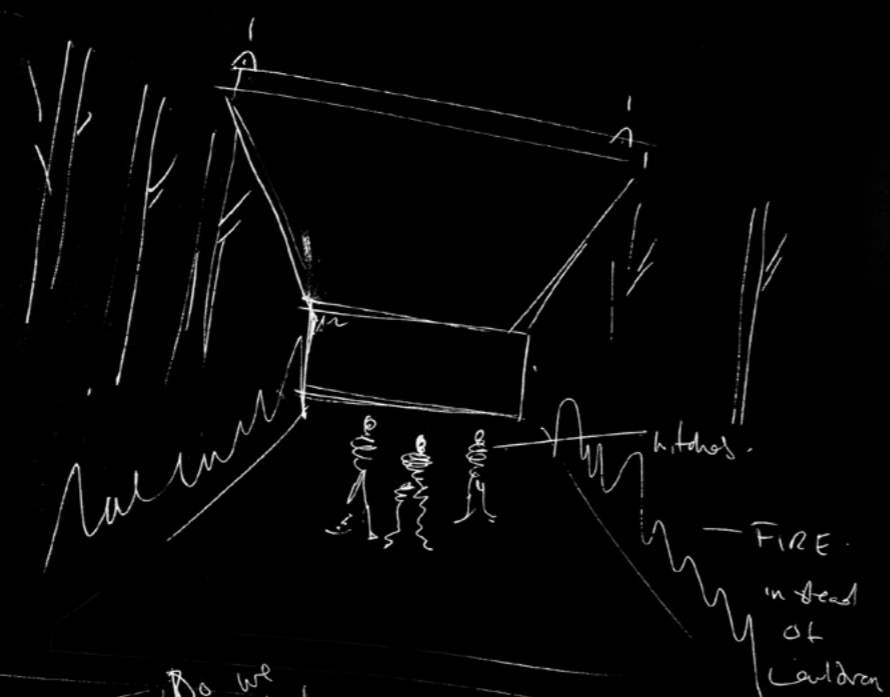
The Designer also looks at music and lighting. You can listen to the song [here](#), which was inspiration for the atmosphere, and watch this [video](#) here which inspired some of the lighting design.

SKETCHES

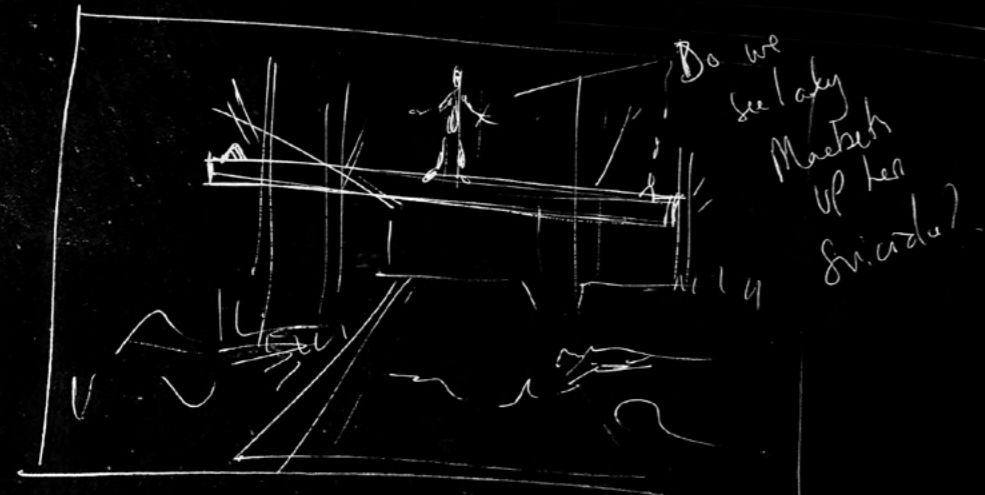


A sketch of a stage with a person stood on a drawbridge surrounded by soil.

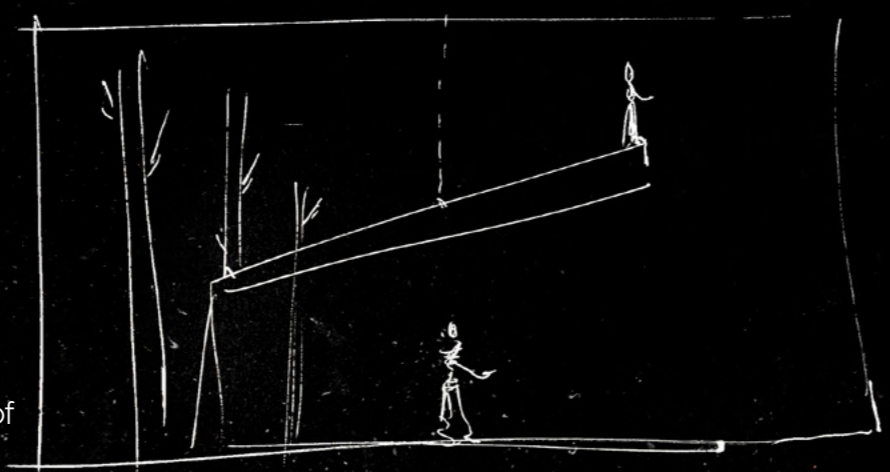
The Designer incorporates some fire into the design.



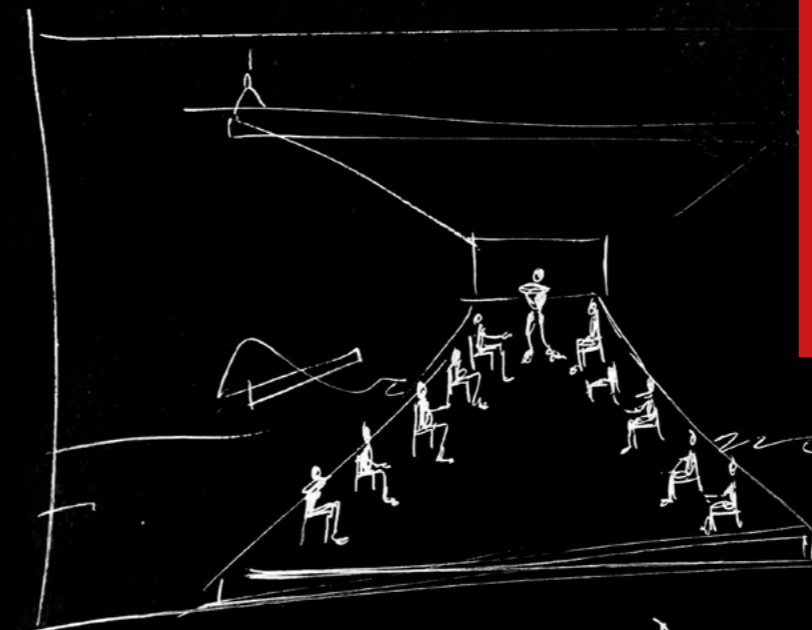
FIRE in front of cauldron



Do we see lady Macbeth up her sword?



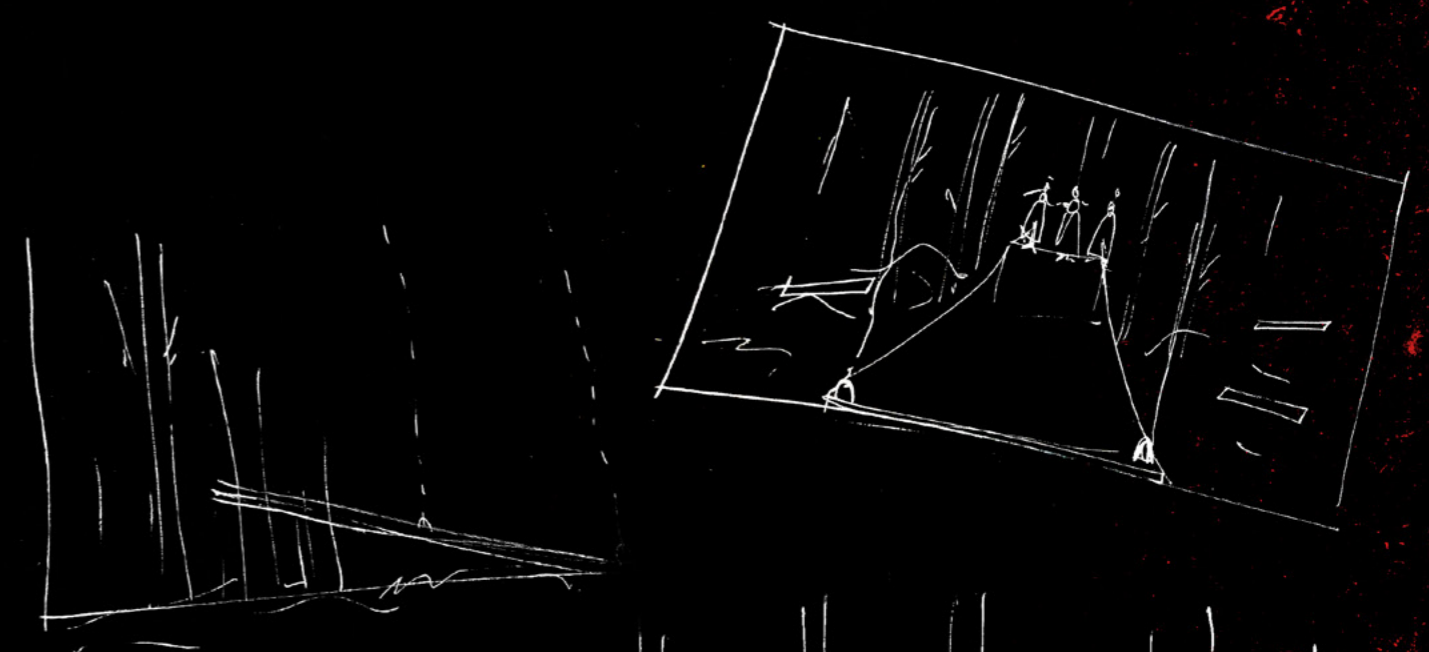
A sketch of the side view of the raised drawbridge.



Then the designer creates some very quick sketches of how the stage would look. Notice that these are simple, quick line drawings that capture different ideas.

Sketches exploring how to create the banquet scene

Dinner - No Table?



The weather plays a significant role in *Macbeth* so the Designer factors that in too.



WHITE CARD MODEL

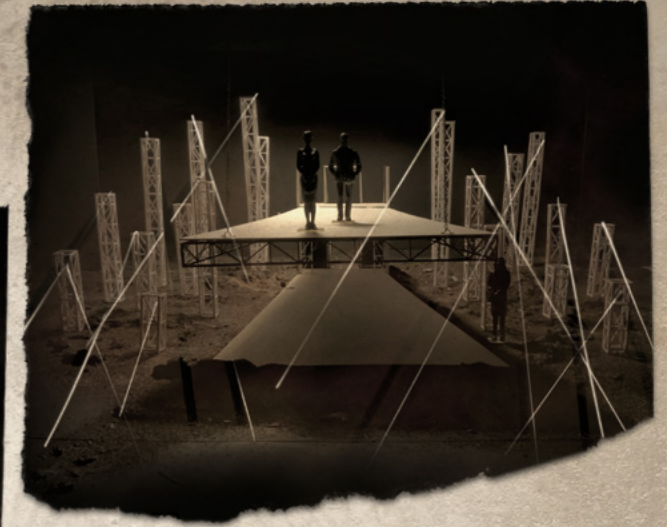


Next, the Designer builds a white card model. This is a model of their idea for the set, made from simple white card to a 1:25 scale. The Production Team use the model to help them build the set.

Here you can see models of people are used for scale. And you can see the different formations of the stage, especially the drawbridge for this production.



You can also see how some of the lights might be used to create effects or landscapes.



Now the Production Team can ask about materials, sizes and mechanisms. The design might have to change if it is too ambitious, needs to fit within the budget, or is just not feasible.



FINAL MODEL

After the white card model, the designer builds on their ideas. They work with the Workshop Team who build the set, the Wardrobe Team who make the costumes, as well as the Lighting and Sound Designers.



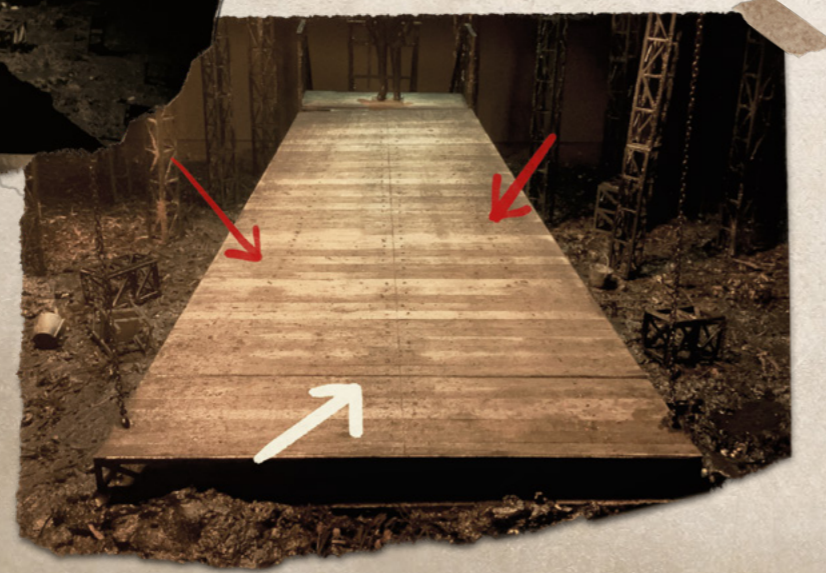
Look at these brilliant costume sketches done by the Designer.



These are images of the final design and include more colour, detail and texture. You can see the mud piled up around the stage, which was inspired by some of the reference images at the beginning.



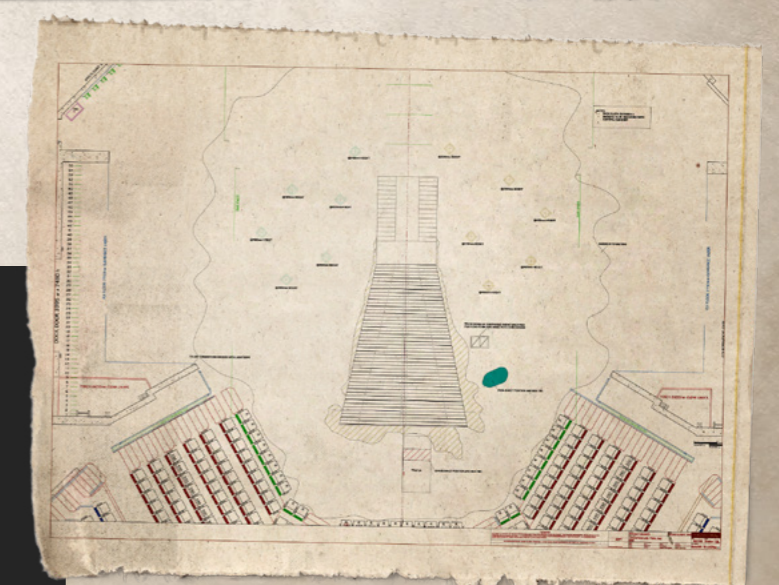
This is the final model box. You can see the drawbridge and the trees that are dotted about. Again, you can see the stage in different formations for different scenes. This is why the scene breakdown was so helpful early on.



The drawbridge will have raised bolts so that the actors can feel them through their shoes and know where the edges of the drawbridge are.



Here is a floor plan as drawn by the Technical Designer, who is a specialist in drawing the stage design on a computer programme to ensure it is architecturally right for the space.



Here are just some of the many lights that will be used on the stage.



Here is the drawbridge being made in the workshop.

This scaffolding will form the castles and armies, and help to fill the large Quarry stage.



These are images of the costumes being made. Notice the pleat detail to show how rich this character is.



These are some of the other props that will be used in the production - Can you spot them on stage?



FROM PAGE TO STAGE

TASKS FOR STUDENTS

Task 1 – Write your own Scene Breakdown, including which characters appear and the main events. You could even give each scene a name to help you remember them.

Task 2 – Plan your own design for a production of *Macbeth* by finding reference images and even some music.

Task 3 – This Leeds Playhouse production is not set in the modern day, so the costumes are quite old-fashioned. Design the costumes for the witches in a production set in the modern day.

Task 4 – Write a story inspired by the reference images and the model of the set. Maybe it's about witches and betrayal, maybe it's about something else entirely.

Task 5 – Research other productions of *Macbeth* and find their production images. How do they compare? Which do you prefer and why?

WANDER



THANK
YOU

Resource created by the Playhouse Education Team,
with thanks to Leeds Playhouse Assistant Designer Warda Abbasi.
Designs and sketches by Set & Costume Designer Hayley Grindle.