# SCENERY ON A BUDGET

How to save time and money

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- Technical Theatre instructor at Pulaski Academy
- Technical Director at Arkansas Arts Center Children's Theatre
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- BA in Theatrical Design from Arkansas State University



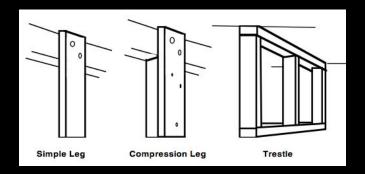
## WAYS TO SAVE TIME AND MONEY

- Maintain a stock of platforms and flats
- Maintain a stock of paints and paint tools
- ☐ Invest in hardware that will last
- Maintain a stock of props and furniture



## **PLATFORMS**

- Keep some stock platforms if you can
  - 4x8 are standard
  - Triangles are handy
  - □ Trap doors are great effects
  - Keep a stock of legs and clamps







## **FLATS**

- 4x8 Studio or Standard Flats
- ☐ Hard flats store better
- Return flats
- Window and door flats made from smaller flats
- Do not use glitter or glue on face



## PAINT AND HARDWARE MAINTENANCE





## MAKE PAINT LAST, SAVE EVERY DROP

- Prepare can to hold paint longer
- Don't paint straight from bucket
- Pour leftover paints into slop buckets, use as primer
- Clean all paint tools thoroughly
- Buy used paints at Re-sell stores Habitat for Humanity



## INVEST IN HARDWARE, KEEP IT ORGANIZED

- Buy hardware that can be reused
- Hinges are versatile use as screwplates, angle irons, hanging hardware, etc
- Buy in bulk when you can
- Find what works for you and stay consistent

#### **PROPS**







#### Amazon Prime

Fast and affordable - Great for last minute needs. Set up wish lists!

#### Party Supply Stores

Create atmosphere and dress the house for low cost.

#### Props can be odd

Treat all props in a production in a stylized fashion to create a unique experience



## ORGANIZE YOUR VISION

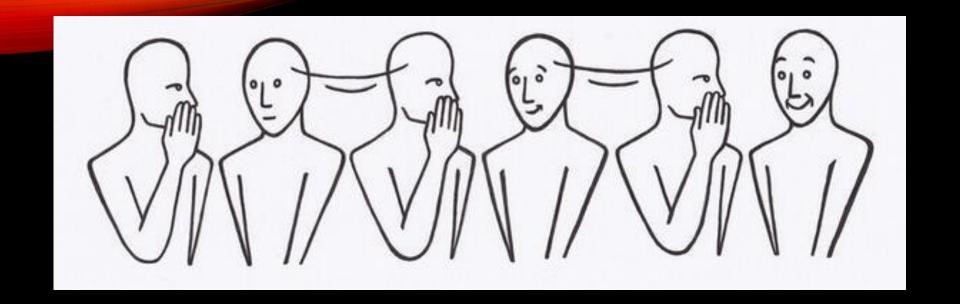


Build a board with all your ideas Create different boards for each aspect Share with students and volunteers

#### GOOGLE DRIVE



Save all images and docs in one place Easily access from anywhere Share with everyone



#### COMMUNICATE IDEAS WITH EVERYONE INVOLVED

Don't play the telephone game. Make sure everyone who works on the project understands their role and sees the big picture.

## VISUALIZE IDEAS







#### **SKETCHES**

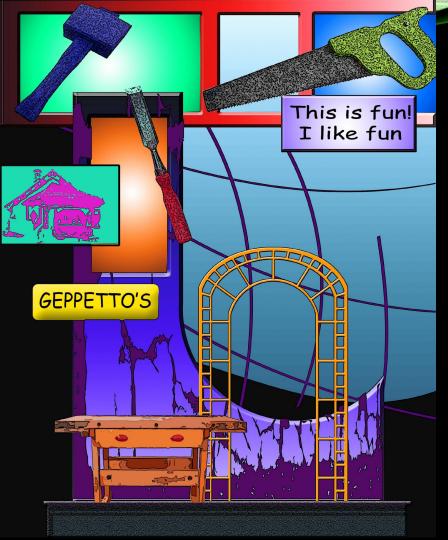
Draw out your plan to the best of your abilities or get help from a student who wants to develop their skills.

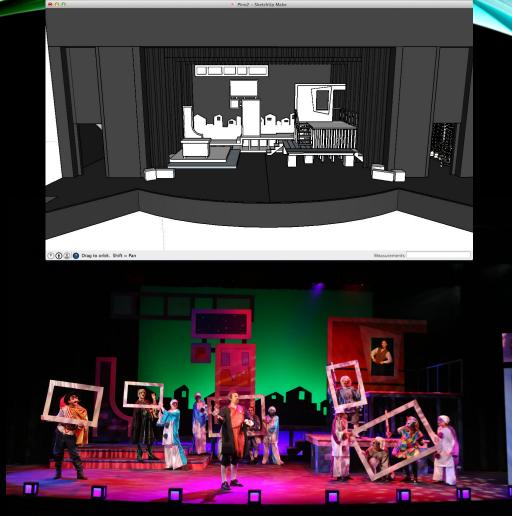
#### **COLLAGES**

Patterned paper, water colors, stickers and stencils all make for great collage materials. Creating an image in 2.5 D may help express your ideas.

#### **MODELS**

Models can be physical objects or computer rendered. Experiment to find out how to best express yourself.





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SketchUp File Edit View Draw Camera Tools Window Help

#### STEAL LIKE AN ARTIST

- "Art is theft." Pablo Picasso
- "The only art I'll ever study is the stuff that I can steal from." David Bowie
- "Half our pleasure in seeing a play lies in our knowledge that we are in the presence of artists." Robert Edmond Jones
- It is important to maintain a healthy diet of art and design. Learn what you can by allowing yourself to be influenced by what fascinates you.

- Use consistent building methods
- ☐ Use consistent building materials
- Design with material dimension in mind
- ☐ Invest in stock/reuse materials
- Measure twice, cut once

## BUILDING A SET



## CONSISTENT BUILDING METHODS







#### **Platforms**

Frame with #2 white pine (spruce), untreated 2x4's. I buy 12' sticks

Deck with 3/4" BC or sanded plywood.

3" #8 screws for frame

1.5" #8 screws for deck

#### Flats

Frame with  $1x2 \frac{1}{2}$ " #2 white pine, ripped down from 1x12x12's

Skin ¼" lauan

Frame glued and nailed 1.5"

Skin glued and bradded 3/4"

#### Stairs

8/10 rise over run

30" minimum width

Plywood construction

Leg when installing

# DESIGN IDEAS

### Use light to set the scene









# TEXTURE/COLLAGE



# FABRIC CADABRA



# SOUND CREATES ILLUSION



# MONEY DOESN'T MAKE **YOUR**WORLD GO ROUND





\$10,000

\$200

## WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL DESIGN?







#### Creativity

Solve problems with simple solutions and let the audience's imagination accept the reality you create.

#### Intention

Make a statement with simple forms. The pictures you create with actors can be more impactful than a realistic set.

#### Harmony

All pieces have to fit in the world you are presenting. Work with what you have but also make what you have work for you. Transitions are key for a successful production.

## FLUID TRANSITIONS GROUND YOUR REALITY

# THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX



