

Salome Design Project

Richard Strauss

Class led by Peter Cooke

Overview

Design an outdoor production of the opera 'Salome'. The production should be set in Point Park, Pittsburgh, with open air seating for 2000. A stage should be designed in the river to accommodate a large scale opera production. The design should include where and how singers arrive at the stage, scenic storage, dressing rooms and an indication where lighting can come from etc.

- The design should revolve around one or two large iconic visual images or ideas
- An area for the orchestra needs to be included
- The set must have a large scale moving element
- Water/fluid must play a role in the design
- The production should have a contemporary visual sensibility

For Presentation

- Model of Point Park showing the stage, seating areas, light towers, river areas and a photographic view of the terrain beyond - night time view. [Scale to be determined by the class]
- Present the moment of the first Court entrance
- Present the idea of the 'Dance of the Seven Veils'
- Present the moment showing the moving element
- Present the moment showing the use of water/fluid

Costume ideas and/or references for the characters of

- Herod
- Herodias
- John the Baptist
- Salome

Peter Cooke
10 January 2011

Schedule

Week 1

Wednesday Jan 12

- Introduction Peter and Anne
- Read libretto and talk through the opera
- Plan site tour

Week 2

January 19

- Bring research material to class
- One set of reference images from the biblical period
- One set of images from a contemporary/modernist point of view

Week 3

January 26

- Develop in class the notion of the main iconic element /stage platform etc
- Develop in class the moving element
- Discuss water/fluid element

Week 4

Feb 2

- Present a white card model of the iconic element and stage idea

Week 5

Feb 9

- Present more finished model with paint and texture ideas.
- Present costume ideas

Week 6

Feb 16

- Present more developed ideas for set, props, chorus etc

Week 7

Feb 23

- Present design to select participants

Grading will be based on the following

Class participation	25%
Research and support material	25%
Idea development	25%
Presentation	25%

PC

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