Occidental College

From the SelectedWorks of Susan Gratch

2002

Amy's View, International Center Theatre, Long Beach, CA

Susan Gratch, Occidental College

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/susan_gratch/16/
Amy’s View
By David Hare
Scenic Design
International City Theatre
Directed by Jessica Kubzansky
Center Theatre, Long Beach CA
September 2002

The playwright sets a challenge for the scenic designer. Close to four fifths of the action takes place in one setting, an upper class home in along the Thames belonging to Esme, an actress, inherited from her deceased husband, a painter. As the fortunes of the major character take a drastic turn, the action moves to the seedy dressing room backstage of a new play in which Esme has found refuge. The final scene of the play has no words, as the audience is transported to the opening moments of this play / new beginning. The interior set that predominates must give a sense of comfort, and traditional English country living, including an attached conservatory. The solution was a revolving stage, with the dressing room using approximately one third of the revolve area. A dark blue traveler followed the revolve as it rotated back (empty) for the final tableau. The lighting designer projected stars and points of light onto this curtain to achieve the texture that I sought in my sketch. Off-white chiffon curtains framed the stage.
“Jessica Kubzansky directs with style and sensitivity, and Susan Gratch’s handsome turntable set facilitates rapid scene changes.”

LAWWeekly, Theater Reviews,
Written 9/13/02 (Neal Weaver)