Blood Wedding, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA

Susan Gratch, Occidental College
The director chose set this poetically enigmatic script in California’s central valley circa 1953. This was visible in the costumes and props, but the scenic frame needed to speak to the greater visions of the play. Honor and its defense by violent retribution and continuity in the face of inexorable fate are played out by iconic figures: The Mother, The Bride, The Bridegroom, The Moon, and Death. Receding circular portals framed a circular raked platform and a back wall pierced by a circular opening. The portals and rear circle had one-foot reveals of white laminate and were covered on face with black duvetyn. Dance lighting in red, white and blue crossed the playing space, augmented by angular paths of light creating a cross pattern on the floor. Acting areas were tightly delineated by furniture and light.
Prologue with Moon and Death

Mother and Bridgroom

Wife and Mother-in-Law
The Bride and Leonardo

The Mother and the wedding guests after the lovers depart

Wedding Party
The Woodcutters in the Forest

Moon and Death as a Beggarwoman