Occidental College

From the SelectedWorks of Susan Gratch

2001

The Servant to Two Masters, International City Theatre, Long Beach, CA

Susan Gratch, Occidental College

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/susan_gratch/18/
The Servant to Two Masters
By Goldoni
Scenic Design
International City Theatre
Directed by Jessica Kubzansky
Center Theatre, Long Beach CA
September 2001

Coincidentally, I traveled to Venice in the summer of 2001, and was able to incorporate that inspiration into the set for Servant. This script was best served by a unit set that could change location with presentational devices such as shutters closing or curtains being drawn to indicate different exteriors and interiors. Avoiding a realistic depiction of Venetian architecture, the set was painted in pale yellows, orange and lavender. The director wished to have live music and sound effects, and my original idea called for the musician to be seated in a gondola. Although the gondola was out of our reach financially, the set still evoked the sense of canals by using a bridge from audience to stage for the actors, and separating the musician’s gondola rental stand from the playing area by theatrically represented “water.” Banners permanently caught in the wind were inspired by the Renaissance paintings of Vittorio Carpaccio.

Early version

“Susan Gratch’s attractive bi-level set, with its various doors and curtains, allows for the lovers’ many near-meetings. “

Anne Kelly-Saxenmeyer, Back Stage West, Critic’s Pick, September 13, 2001