2000

Trojan Woman, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA

Susan Gratch, Occidental College

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/susan_gratch/20/
The Trojan Women
By Euripides
Scenic and Lighting Designer
Occidental College Mainstage
Directed by Tracy Young
October 2000

Inspired by snapshots that the director brought of a restaurant wall (body parts embedded in stone) at the Mandalay Bay Casino in Las Vegas, I found an artist (Sally Mankus: http://www.sallymankus.com/Sculpture/Sculptures.html) whose sculpture became the basis for the set of Trojan Women. Scouring second hand stores from Arcadia to Santa Monica to Orange County, I collected approximately 600 pans and pot lids of every possible shape and size. These were attached to a wooden armature painted black. The resulting structures represented the walls of Troy, as well as the safe world of the women, out of which they have been forced. The circular playing space was bisected by a diagonal path from SR (the Greek camp) to SL (the harbor). The rim of the circle and the path were painted with tile and brick patterns, while the remaining surface of the disc was covered with a mixture of clean sand and shredded recycled tire rubber. Sheer cotton scrim tents framed the space on each side, the only refuge of these prisoners of war. The openings of between the kitchenware on the walls enabled smoke and light to exit the upstage space as Troy burns at the conclusion of the play.