Occidental College

From the SelectedWorks of Susan Gratch

1997

The Lesser Magoo, Bottom's Dream Theatre Company, Culver City, CA

Susan Gratch, Occidental College

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/susan_gratch/27/
The Lesser Magoo
By Mac Wellman
Scenic Designer
Bottom’s Dream Theatre Company
Ivy Substation, Culver City, CA
Directed by Katherine Owen
January 1997

“The world most of the time seems a very strange and complicated place to me, and I want to make plays that in some sense are as complicated and strange as the world we live in.”

The cycle [of which Magoo is the fourth] is inspired by the biblical legend of Susannah, which is, in Wellman’s words, “a story about youthful innocence besmirched or somehow attacked but ultimately vindicated.”

Is Nothing Sacred? (Nope) Playwright Mac Wellman offers no apologies for his often convoluted - and controversial - work. By Scott Collins

This set was comprised of a large platform raked from upstage to downstage and from stage right to stage left. The platform was covered in grey industrial carpet. The opening scene takes place in an office, the confined space for which was created by pulling a white muslin curtain across the bottom of the rake. Then, in Shakespearean fashion, the characters must escape to a wilderness to make self-discovery. The curtain was drawn aside revealing the pale grey expanse of the rake, framed the actual brick walls of the theater space. A reflecting pool was built into the rake mid stage right, framed upstage by a large rock and off right by a metal staircase to nowhere. Behind and above the stage a light box moon was suspended along with staggered panels of corrugated galvanized sheet metal. Depending on back or front lighting, the moon could appear as full or quarter. The dense, poetic language of the play required a simple and powerful playing space that could rapidly change with lighting.