

Concept Statement

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)

The play is clearly split between two plays, the main play and the plays within the play. The first is about the three actors breaking down Shakespeare's works. The plays within a play are all of the interpretations of Shakespeare's plays. I have decided to make two separate worlds for the audience, the world of the performers and the world of Shakespeare.

The world of the performers is lit with a comedic air to it. Very lights pinks and blues to make the audience comfortable with the actors and ready to join in the fun. Since a lot of these moments the houselights are turned on, I want the feel that these are the work lights of the theater. Once the performers enter the world of Shakespeare, I want to give the feel that the audience has stepped into the Globe Theater. For this world, I will use more saturated colors, mostly rich ambers and blues. With this play, however, the playwrights have written the lighting designer/operator's character, Bob, to be a Johnny-on-the-spot with the lights. He is ready to bring any and every look to the show that the players want.

The two worlds collide constantly during the play. I would want to show this impact through different gobo washes. One example is the audience member as Ophelia. I want to use a gobo wash of shattered glass emanating around her and spreading to the corners of the stage.

The main division between the two worlds is the backdrop. It becomes a key component for the play. Behind there, all of the magic happens to make the world of Shakespeare come alive onstage. I want to use the drop to convey what is to come when the audience enters, using saturated colors that come with the world of Shakespeare. I also want to separate all of the components of the backdrop, through individual fixtures, as a way to bring the parts into focus during the play.