

# SET

## **You should consider:**

- ⇒ Will your play be set in the 20th century, or our present day?  
Or at another time?
- ⇒ Will your play be set in New York, or elsewhere?
- ⇒ What type of stage will you plan on using? Why?
- ⇒ What type of set will you use, if any?
- ⇒ Will you have a fixed/static set, or will there be scenery changes?
- ⇒ Will you indicate change of location in other ways?
- ⇒ Is your set going to be reflective of the location or themes?  
Or both?
- ⇒ Will you apply a certain style to the staging design? Why?
- ⇒ Will you use any multimedia or projection? Why?
- ⇒ How will your set design link to your overall production concept?

For each scene of the play, draw a set design diagram. Draw an initial design of the stage and where the audience will be sitting. Then, for each scene, detail whether there will be any changes to scenery or large props. Depending on the complexity of your design you can either use a full A4 page per scene, or use the space below to draw smaller diagrams.

# Costume/Props

## You should consider:

- ⇒ Will your costumes be of the period?
- ⇒ Will your costumes be realistic or stylised/abstract?
- ⇒ How will you use colour and materials to represent your characters, or their situations?
- ⇒ Will you be using masks or disguise? Will your production concept affect these?
- ⇒ Will a character's costume change alongside their journey/experiences?
- ⇒ How will your costume or prop design fit in alongside your set design?
- ⇒ Will you use costume influenced by any styles or practitioners, e.g. Brecht?
- ⇒ Will your use of props be minimalistic or extensive?
- ⇒ Are there any key props in your production?
- ⇒ How will your use of costume and props enhance your overall production concept?

Working independently, go through the play and decide on what costume and props each character will need – your characters may wear the same throughout. If they are going to wear multiple costumes, perhaps just choose two or three characters to focus on. Create a table, and decide on where the important moments are. Do the characters need to be dressed appropriately for a specific event? Perhaps their costume can reflect their state of mind, or intentions in that scene? Remember to consider colour and materials, as well as your production concept, setting, and time period.

# Performance

In order to create effective performance, relevant research into the historical and social contexts of your production is crucial. If you are relocating to the modern day, consider how character interactions or reactions might change – how have attitudes or technologies changed, for example? How might your production of the play change certain aspects of the plot? Being clear about the relevant context ensures that your play is cohesive and rings true for the audience.

Here are some of the contexts you should research:

- **Historical Context** – What time period is your production set in? Is it a period of religious governing? Is it modern day? How much do we know about the period?
- **Political Context** – Were there any political debates or conflicts around this time? How did they affect people's lives? Was this a period of political stability? Did people care about politics?
- **Social Context** – How did the social classes work? Were people wealthy? What were people's opinions on gender, or employment? Is there a specific culture? Are there any relevant social debates or conflicts? How did people dress? What literature was popular? Have you set your production surrounding a specific event?
- **Stylistic Context** – Are you planning on performing in a certain style? How is this style often used? Where is it best represented? Where did it originate?
- **Design Context** – Is your design going to be based upon the historical context? What kind of buildings did people live in? What artistic movements were popular? Will you need to research any abstract or stylistic design movements?
- **Character Context** – Is your production concept going to change the history of the characters? What about their gender, or class? Do you want to change where the sympathy of the audience lies?

## ACTIVITY 3 – WHAT'S THE CONTEXT?

Working independently, make extensive research notes on the contexts of your production. Make sure you research and find any information you need. Decide what is relevant to your production and what will affect aspects of the play.



## You should consider:

- ⇒ Will you use artificial lighting?
- ⇒ How will your lighting work alongside your set design?
- ⇒ What kind of symbolism could you create through the use of colour?
- ⇒ How can you reinforce the location or time period through lighting?
- ⇒ Will there be any specific moods or atmospheres that will require a change in lighting?
- ⇒ How will you use lighting to transition between scenes, if at all?
- ⇒ Will any particular style or methodology affect your use of lighting?
- ⇒ How will your lighting enhance your overall production concept?

# Lighting

Write a cue sheet for *A View from the Bridge*. Do this scene by scene.

| Cue | Light | Description | Justification |
|-----|-------|-------------|---------------|
|     |       |             |               |