

KING LEAR – CONCEPT STATEMENT

The sky — the future of the kingdom — bears down upon the players and audience alike. Held up only by three stone pillars, we tremble to imagine what will happen when there are no pillars left.

This is a production focused on the performers and the text, the scenery and lighting design carries through a singular unified large idea, but it relatively static. The environment surrounds the audience and envelops them in an atmosphere of foreboding dread.

Clouds made of net and cotton stretch over both the audience and playing space held together by black chain at the seams. The stage is a simple raised deck of wooden boards. A dark earthy wood. The audience sits in the round on risers made of the same wood, spectators of the same world. Two step units lead up to the stage. Three square raised platforms sit in asymmetrical balance on the stage, in the center of each platform is a thin stone pillar. Perhaps a few sconces around each pillar. Above the center of the stage hangs a broken crown.

The stage is straightforward and unadorned. The light steadily becomes cooler and more shadowy over the course of the play. Since the sky acts as a cyclorama, and surrounds the audience, this will be a shared lighting environment which is only appropriate for a work of Shakespeare. The light is judgmental and heavy and as the play wears on the weight of the sky only grows. As Lear's daughters die each of the three pillars fall, until finally the sky splits open, leaving Lear with only rubble for a legacy.