

Blocking Assignments

ACT TWO SCENE TWO AND SUB SCENE 2 A

GENERAL:

ACTION:

The scene opens with Alex on stage to the far left. He moves across the stage to the center area C. He calls out "Trick retreat." Louise approaches the door from stage right and appears to listen at the door facing the audience as she speaks. When she comes toward Alex she lays her hand on the makeshift door as she passes as if to open it. Recognizing the voice she speaks up "Alex is that you in there?"

Alex tilts the outhouse forward which allows the door of the outhouse to open. The outhouse is crafted in such a way so that the doorway opens away from the audience. Louise is pleasantly surprised when she sees Alex through the open door of the outhouse. She enters the outhouse and the two make sounds of laughter and affection together.

The audience should react immediately to this comic scene. Obama takes his cue from the audience reaction as it tapers off and appears on the Readers Stage left. He remains silent as he takes in the crowd and enjoys the moment of his glory. While this is going on other actors and directors from the audience to cheer and celebrate Obama and his victory. Following that, Obama delivers his speech line "Change has come to America." Both the audience and the back stage crew begin to cheer again. Obama exits the Readers Stage from the back. The lighting on the Readers Stage goes black and the lighting returns to center stage at its previous low light level.

The couple inside the outhouse take their cue when they see that center stage is once more being lit. Louise backs her way out of the outhouse keeping our eyes on Alex. Her hair is ruffled and she is wiping her lips. She blows Alex another kiss and then hurries inside going past the door and then exiting the stage from ramp D. Alex quickly throws off his costume to get a better look at the upstairs window where she should be. He then clasps his hands together as a gesture of love then extends his arms in a victory celebration while on screen there is a reprise of the Obama scene shown on the visual screen. Alex then exit the stage by running down exit ramp A for the audience.

PROPS LIST:

There is the outline of a door frame suspended between two free standing poles to indicate the entrance to Louise's home. This effect is accomplished by draping a brown cloth decorated to look like a doorway over the window.

We will also need sufficient glow in the dark cam sticks or tape to mark out entrances and exit ramps in the dark.

Small flashlights
outhouse

House Coat/Bath Robe for Louise along with a pair of cute slippers.

Halloween treat bags for collecting change for Injured soldiers *** This will be noted in the playbill as a cautionary statement to the audience. *** The remainder of the audience will be encouraged to participate and drop off spare change at the door when they leave the performance.

The seasonal tree is now quite barren for Fall..

STAGE DIRECTOR NOTES:

The makeshift door is positioned prior to the opening of the scene to the right of centre stage. Stage crews will enter from the centre rear of the stage E. They are assembled in the penalty box area and they carry with them small LED lights to assist them in moving about during blackouts. The seasonal tree is positioned at all times on stage at the rear of the stage directly in front of exit E. There needs to be sufficient room for the movement of players and crew around the tree as they move on and off the main stage. The seasonal changes of the tree are part of the set preparation and conclusion. This set piece becomes a focal point for the play and also serves to mark the opening of exit E so that it can be easily found in the dark. Once again light reflecting tape on the stage floor must be used.

COSTUMING:

The three children are still wearing suitable Halloween costumes. The moms are still dressed suitably for going out with their children toward the late afternoon and early evening. Alex wears his outhouse and Louise is dressed in her bathrobe/house coat and slippers.

IMAGE SCREEN OPERATOR:

While the stage is under black out and being emptied from the previous scene the Halloween image is displayed on the screen. The 3 children go about the audience along the main aisle A dressed in their costumes with tiny flash lights asking for spare change donations and saying "Trick or Treat" while the moms are close by. When the stage is set and the stage lighting comes on they quickly move away from the stage area down the A aisle. After the blackout and before the lights come up the Halloween image of a pumpkin and maybe a moon is shown on the screen. It remains on the screen throughout the scene. When the set is ready the lighting comes up and the centre stage C is dimly lit by a single spot. When the Obama sub scene takes place there is a spotlight on him. After he gives his line the people backstage (i.e. the stage crew erupt in shouts of excitement). When Louise exits the stage the image of the US Presidential race appears on the screen showing Obama with his arms raised. The image remains on screen until the end of the scene when Alex raises his arms in victory. The sequence for lighting and image changes at the end of scene remains the same with the image going to black followed by the stage lighting going to black.

MAKEUP:

There are no special requirements for Louise except that she is covered by a house coat/bath robe and wearing slippers. Alex is wearing the outhouse. Each of the players in the scene will be responsible for doing their own makeup under the direction of the Makeup Artist. No special attention is required for this scene. Makeup for the children who are dressed in Halloween costumes will depend on what sort of costuming is decided upon in consultation with the actual parents of the children and the Support/Extras Director.

LIGHTING:

The centre stage C is dimly lit at the opening of the scene by a single spot. The Readers Stage is also lit when Obama appears and black when he exits. At the tail end of the scene the image goes black followed by the stage lights going black.