

DESIGN DISCUSSION POINTS

What was your first impression of the set? How soon did you notice that the table legs were women's legs and genitalia and how did this affect your expectations of the show? In Victorian times, table legs were covered with tablecloths as they were thought to be too suggestive to be shown. What point do you think we might have been making by showing them in this way, and how does this connect with the stories in the play?

What elements of the set do you think reflected the era that the play was set in? Our aim was to suggest a laboratory in Von Baer's house, but also to refer to large institutions that advocate a certain type of learning and knowledge. Did you notice any parts of the set or any props that showed these ideas?

The process of dissection in reality is messy, but we chose to represent the animals that Von Baer dissected with two-dimensional cut-outs. Why do you think that was, and how do you think the show might have been different if we had used more life-like representations?

Some of the most powerful characters in the play were represented by the smallest puppets. How do you think the differences in size between puppet and mask characters affected the way they were seen by the audience? What other combinations might have been effective, and what practical considerations do you think affected our decisions?

Some of the puppets were objects as well as characters, e.g.: three of the scientists were busts. What did the objects the characters were made of say about the character themselves? Did the way you viewed the puppets that became objects change in any way when they were no longer being operated?



Von Baer & Aristotle

Photos by Paul Silverthorn

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