

Portfolio

Project 04

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2021

LIKE US

Stage Design

The Girl in the Garment Factory

LIKE US is a solo performance project, in which I am the stage designer. It is written and acted by one of my friends who invited me to design the stage for her. Inspired by her summer internship in a clothes factory in 2021, the play is about gender and class inequality, dream and social mobility, with an emphasis on the specific situation in China. As

a sociology student, after reading her script, I really appreciated the attitude and focus of the play and thus agreed immediately. In my stage design, I mainly extracted ideas from the script, added my own understanding and thoughts of these social issues in China, and symbolized them in my design.





In regard to the tone and atmosphere of the stage, because the girl is portrayed to be objectified by social norms and is working in the tedious assembly line, the overall atmosphere should be cold and dehumanized. The coldness is shown

through the white lighting and the color of balloons and clothes being hung up. It is an interesting juxtaposition between the cold, harsh reality and the prosperous expectation of the girl, injecting some dynamics to the stage.



Another idea worth mentioning is that I came up with the idea of collecting the clothes needed from kids and students around us via social media. Because the aim of the play is to bring the real story of an ordinary factory girl who is struggling for living to us carefree adolescents, reminding us of the similarities and differences between the girl and us. Therefore, the process of collecting clothes helps to spread the story and increase the attention paid to our counterpart

in the factory, and meanwhile creates a unique coexistence of us in a symbolic way. In the final production, all the clothes came from peer donation. Also, the three hanging pieces of clothes is designed in a way that emphasizes each shirt and each pair of pants and thus call on the attention to individuals' stories within the context of a large social group.