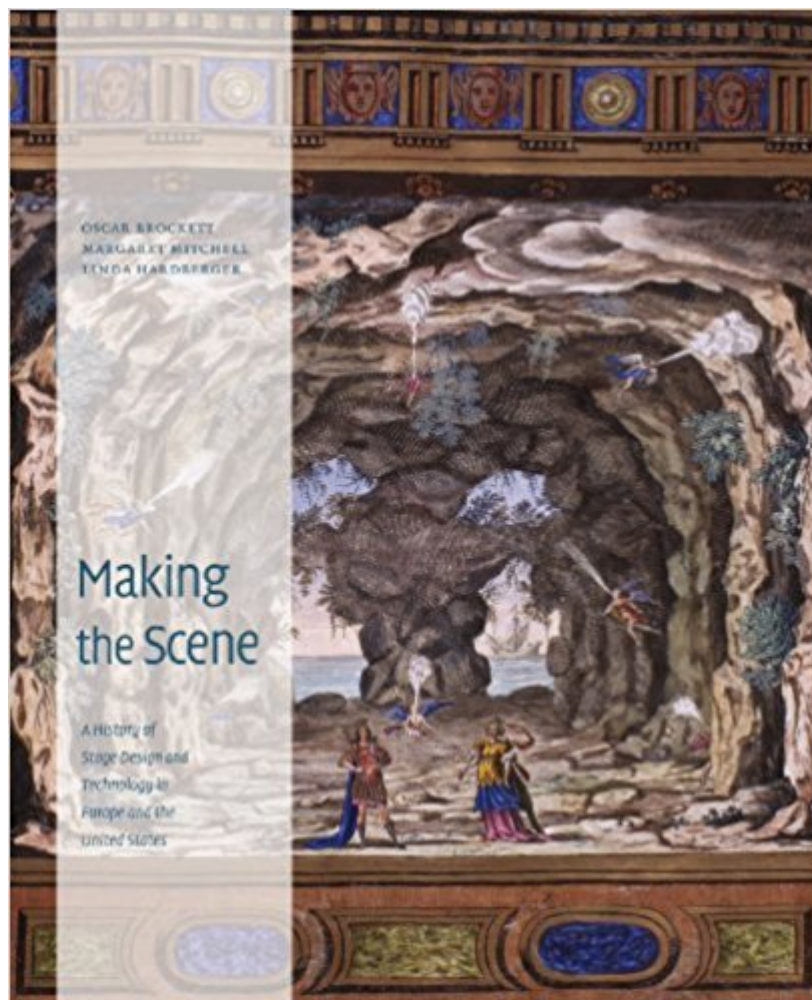




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Making The Scene: A History Of Stage Design And Technology In Europe And The United States



Synopsis

Theatrical scene design is one of the most beautiful, varied, and lively art forms. Yet there are relatively few books on the subject, and almost none for a general audience that combine expansive scholarship with lavish design. *Making the Scene* offers an unprecedented survey of the evolving context, theory, and practice of scene design from ancient Greek times to the present, coauthored by the world's best-known authority on the subject and enhanced by three hundred full-color illustrations. Individual chapters of the book focus on Greece, Rome, Medieval Europe (including liturgical drama, street pageants, festival outdoor drama, Spanish religious drama, and royal entries), the Italian Renaissance, eighteenth-century Europe, Classicism to Romanticism, Realism and Naturalism, Modernism, and contemporary scene design. *Making the Scene's* authors review everything from the effects of social status on theatre design to the sea changes between Classicism, Romanticism, and Naturalism and the influence of perspective-based thought. Particularly intriguing is their rediscovery of lost tricks and techniques, from the classical *deus ex machina* and special effects in coliseums to medieval roving stage wagons and the floating ships of the Renaissance to the computerized practices of today's theatres. Such ingenious techniques, interwoven with the sweeping beauty of scene design through the ages, combine with the keen scholarship of Oscar Brockett and Margaret Mitchell to create a book as involving as the art it showcases.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

OSCAR BROCKETT is the author of History of the Theatre, which has been the standard work in its field for three decades, as well as World Drama, Perspectives on Contemporary Theatre, A Century of Innovation, and The Essential Theatre. He lives in Austin, Texas. MARGARET MITCHELL is Professor of Theatre Arts at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas, and a practicing scenic and costume designer. LINDA HARDBERGER is the founding curator of the Tobin Collection of Theatre Arts at the Marion Koogler McNay Art Museum in San Antonio, Texas.

As a theatrical designer in New York City who spent days in the NY Public Library for the Performing Arts researching the subject of aesthetic movements in theatrical design and getting almost nowhere, I discovered this spectacular book by researching relevant titles on . This must be the definitive book on its subject. It seems to cover essentially every aesthetic movement relating to theatrical design on the two continents, lavishly illustrated with drawings and photographs from the Greeks to the present. Brockett and the other authors will discuss competing theories of staging and design when the answers aren't definitively known. Equally interesting, the authors cover in great detail the history of theatrical technology with detailed drawings that make complex technical ideas easy to grasp. Be you teacher or student, this is the book you must have in your library, breathtaking in its scope and clarity, a tour de force. Bravo.

This is a book that has long been needed. It brings to life the important work of designers that one never hears about in ordinary theatre histories. For designers this is a very important book.

I had to get this book for my History of the Theater college class, and at first dreaded at the thought that I had to read on average 20-50pgs out of this huge book every week, but was ready to take on the challenge because I truly wanted to learn! I would suggest taking notes (obviously) because there is A LOT of detail and concepts. I had to identify an image, painting, engraving, etc., the era in which it was produced or associated with, the designer, concept, purpose, etc. This book helped a lot in understanding all this and even when my professor assigned us an image that was not in the book, the given details within the book assisted when preparing for the Final exam, which was the basic task of describing what's on the list I just mentioned. The entire collection of images are amazing and loved that they are fully-colored. I think any type of designer would find this book very interesting. It doesn't just describe the designs/designers but also the society surrounding the era of each image: the workers (guilds for example), the common people, Hierarchy, religious influences, etc. Technology as well! I have read 90% of this book, but hope to finish and re-read sections of this

book. The book is divided into eras and major historical movements which makes it easier to associate an image to one or the other: SCENIC DESIGN IN ANCIENT GREEK and ROMAN THEATRES, Medieval Scenic Design, THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE, Design in France and the Holy Roman Empire from 1640 to the Early Eighteenth Century, THE INFLUENCE OF Scenaristi on EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY DESIGN, NEOCLASSICISM and ROMANTICISM-A Rivalry of Opposites, Realism and Naturalism, Modernism, [American New Stagecraft, Russian Constructivism, Epic Theatre, and the Bauhaus], Post-World War II and the Late Twentieth Century. The capitalized ones are my favorite sections. You can tell the authors of this book went through a lot of research and effort to put this book together. My favorite designers are Torelli, Sabbattini, Sanquirico, Schinkel (Magic Flute), Daguerre, Charles Kean, and Saxe-Meiningen. And Richard Wagner's (and Bruckwald's) Festspielhaus at Bayreuth for concept and Architectural design. :)

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