

Lost In Yonkers Stage Set



The set depicts a 2nd floor apartment in an old mercantile building in Yonkers, N.Y. c. 1942. The Kurnitz family's candy store is downstairs. The play is a memoir of the playwright's (Neil Simon) early childhood, so the objective in this set was to make the setting as accurate and detailed as possible, to bring the audience back to that time and place.

Here are some photos of sections of the set...



The entry door from the stair hallway



The door to grandma's room



The bathroom, featuring an authentic 1925 sink

- The solid wood 5-panel doors were donated to us; they were refinished and wood-grained with paint/glaze to match the faux-finished woodwork in the apartment
- We found the vintage 1925 sink in Farmville, VA, and the woman who had it for sale was happy to donate it to us when she learned it would be used in a stage production
- The bathroom floor was stenciled to resemble old-fashioned “chicken wire” tiles





Aunt Bella's room had a sweet wallpaper Pattern stenciled on, to reflect her sweet personality



Here is the chair belonging to grandma, who had an opposite personality. The chair is designed to look like her throne



Here is the dining room, looking through to the kitchen. We found the perfect chandelier and named it "Droopy Tulips"

The plot of the play involves two young boys being left to stay with their very unpleasant grandmother due to family difficulties. The boys sleep on a convertible sofa in the living room; the sofa bed is opened and closed a number of times during the play. This presented us with the challenge of finding a working sofa bed that would look like something from the 1920's or 1930's. After much searching online, we found a used sofa bed in Richmond that was modern and in good working condition, and we changed its appearance by painting the fabric and adding some wood trim. Here are the "before" and "after" photos of the sofa...



Before



After

One of the most challenging things we had to do was create the view out of the second-floor window of the apartment, which overlooked a Victorian-era street of downtown shops and apartments. We are fortunate to have a master scenic artist, Marianne Ashurst, who achieved this for us. We started with actual period photos of Yonkers. To determine the correct perspective on the scene (looking out of a 2nd floor window and across a city street), we projected the photo onto the blank wall behind the window. Then Marianne went to work, creating the amazing details of the mural. Some photos of it follow. Note the photo of the bakery window, in particular. The Hebrew characters in the window are for the word “bakery.” Marianne looked it up, so she could be accurate even in this tiny detail that no one would ever see.

