

## Design notes for 'A Nurse at the Front' (working title) by Kate Bunce .

Vivid descriptions of the countryside and the soldiers injuries. Colours of the sky, pinks and blues are used to also describe the bruises. Blue cornflowers, Pink sky and purple, blue, gas poison. Sea and sky - blue and copper, gas poison – skin the colour of a penny,

Visual – contrasts of beauty and ugliness, mix the two? Bring together?

Look at the big dramatic design and the tiny detail close up details.

Projection used very carefully and specifically. – projecting into a teacup or onto a small towel or piece of paper or postcard, or into a glass jug next to the patients bed. (Coming to life in our hands)

A vase of flowers on a bedside table – the flowers spread over the inside of the tent. Birds flying. Protection of the lace pattern over the beds.

Puppetry, Created mini scenes on the beds (dollhouse like) a countryside landscape, a mini town being bombed, or map of the front line etc.

Small puppets made from medical equipment, string, surgical mask, cloths.

Shadow moving and enclosing the whole tent, slowly shutting out the light or shadows of soldiers running, falling, shooting.

Large Hospital tents - 2 long rows of hospital beds, screens, chairs. Trolleys,

An Installation, The audience moves around 4 or 5 different areas in the set. The audience are patients and wheeled around on the beds (depending on how many audience)

Or - The set changes around you and the action comes to you and changes around you.

The audience do not move from their seats/beds, everything moves around them. Look up and there's action on the ceiling of the tent, look through the doors of a medical side cabinet to see something else, under the bed. Inside a cup etc.

Half the tent rolled up to reveal a performance space in the far distance – an explosion is seen far away - Then we see many soldiers being transported to our tent? An ambulance is driven to the entrance of the tent,

The tent fabric rolled back or lifted revealing the skeleton of the tent with the sky above (needs nice weather!)

The 'Precious Bane' throwing and catching props trick.

The action happens all around and in the central aisle between the beds.  
Some beds left clear for performance spaces.

How do we enter the space, Are we injured soldiers on stretchers? Are we a modern audience invited to Dicks presentation in a community hall and then the hospital beds are all pushed in after us to create a different time and scene or do we as the audience enter through an ambulance.

Are we nurses? Are we given a cloth and apron and asked to clean?

Each audience member given a something, a first aid box with something unexpected inside (maybe petals or a shining light or a smell, a piece of lace, a toy soldier to hold, an envelope to open at the end with something poignant inside.

Each audience member given a prop and a job that they have to be ready to perform when a nurse calls, a medicine bottle/spoon to give medicine , a wet flannel to wipe a forehead , glass of water, a bandage to roll etc.

Mops, brooms and buckets all become other things –  
Brooms, become trees creating a tree line parade down the hospital tent.

The sheets become everything; knotted sheets become mini puppet people. Create screens, towels. tents, a body, a bag. rope.

Beds become tables, cars, trampolines, operating tables, picnic blankets. A bath, a dining table, a trench, a tank, the bed raised very slowly to turn into some thing else (hydraulics!)

Lift the top of the bed (lifting the mattress like a lid of a box) and inside is a bed of dark soil or ash. Lift another and it's a bed of flowers or a bath of water to get into or the sea. A bed changing colour from pristine white to slowly soaking red with blood, gun shots on the bed.

Breathing bed, breathing pillow.

Soldiers pass away and sink into the bed and disappear

Pillows being ripped open, petals blow/burst out.

Repetitive actions perform by many actors. Rolling bandages, plumping pillows. Sweeping, folding, wiping, pouring, scrubbing, pushing, lifting

Strings like washing lines strung back and forth across the tent with sheets of paper peg too.

Petals dropping from above, snow, rain, lit stars, ash, soil.

Contrasts -tea, biscuits/lice stench

We add to the set throughout the performance, little crosses made to represent the soldiers, all pinned on the washing lines or tiny pieces of paper become the petals.

Something being created throughout the performance without the audience realising, then at the end it is released or revealed.

Senses,

Smells of food, injuries, cleaning agents, flowers, sea air etc

Visual - horrific sights in the hospital/ trips to the countryside.

Feel - textures, blankets, sheets, skin, grass, water, flowers.

Sounds, patients inside the hospital, wheeling trolleys - out in the countryside, music, song, radio, wind.

Action – repetitive physical work, laying in the countryside.

Temperature, fever, cool sea. Cold metal trolleys.

Atmosphere - stuffy/stench/ fowl air, fresh bright air.

Weight, the weight of moving patients. The lightness of the lace/flowers