

Production Analysis

I. SECTION I – Basic Given Circumstances

A. What is the full title of the play?: *Becky Nurse of Salem*

B. Who is the playwright (name)?: Sarah Ruhl

a) Answer Goethe's 3 Questions about the playwright:

(1) What was the artist trying to do?: Make Commentary on the some of the stuff that led to the witch hunts against women during the Salem Witch Trials and draw comparison to the modern day

(2) Did the artist succeed in doing it?: I feel mixed on this. I feel like there is a certain level of historical context and outside knowledge you need coming into this play to fully understand all the depth of it. But if you do than very much yes the author did succeed in doing it.

(3) Was it worth the doing?: Yes, especially with us seeing a rise of the types of scares that lead to the witch trails historically as of recently this play is increasingly becoming more and more worth the doing

C. In what year or time period was the play written?: 2019

D. What is the time period of the world of the play (specific year and month if possible)?: Present day over one of the time periods while Trump was in office.

Authors Notes List time of Act One as 2016 and imagined 1692 & time of Act Two as imagined 2017 and an imagined 1692

E. What is the setting (country, state, city, town, and all locations such as houses, gardens, offices, etc)?:

- Bob's Bar Counter

- Museum

- Becky's Living Room

- Marriott Hotel Counter

- Psychic's Table

- Town Jail

-Courtroom

-Outdoors near a parking lot and open sky

II. SECTION II – Plot & Structure

A. Describe the plot. What is this story about, in paragraph form? Becky is hoping to resolve the various crisis in her life. Resorts to witchcraft to try to solve her problems. When things do not turn out how she is expecting she must rely on the help of her friends, family, and history to restore balance to her now shattered life.

B. Point of Attack: Middle, Early or Late? – in terms of what?: The point of attack for this play

is middle. Becky already has problems by the time the play starts. The play is her attempt to resolve the various problems of her life and the resolution of her attempts.

C. Inciting Incident: What is the main event that sets the dramatic action in motion? Becky losing her job at the museum

D. What begins the rising action, if different from the inciting incident?: Becky receiving the card from Stan to go to visit the witch

E. Crises (list all if more than one): These are not quite as intense as the climax but are moments of intensity rising that build to the climax.:

-Becky takes pills for the first time

-The fracturing of Becky and Gails relationship via the relationship Gail has with Stan

-Bob ending up in the hospital

F. Climax: What is the highest moment of dramatic tension – the tip of the rising action?: The moment Becky gets arrested

G. Resolution: What is the resolution?: Becky gets out of jail and manages to restore the relationship she has with everyone else. And a new family of sorts is established between Bob, Gail, Stan, and Becky. Also, sort of Shelby.

III. SECTION III – Character

A. Who is the protagonist and why do you think so?: Becky as the entire play centers around a journey through her life and struggles.

1. What is this character's main goal or objective in the overall plot?:

- 1) Love
- 2) Happiness for Her Daughter in the way she deems is best
- 3) A Job
- 4) Bring Justice to her ancestors

To achieve all four of the above at once.

2. What is the main obstacle in this character's way of achieving this

goal?: Her tactics in trying to achieve her objective come back to haunt her later in the play

3. What are some tactics this character attempts or uses in order to

overcome the obstacle, and do the tactics work?: Witch Craft, stuff that is not legal by the current laws

4. What are the character's expectations (how difficult does the

character expect to be to overcome their obstacle...in your

opinion)?: While the character has doubts initially that witchcraft will help her resolve her problems in any way she decides to take a chance on it.

B. Who is the main antagonist and why do you think so?: The Judge/The Jailer which represents how good beings get hurt through the unmovable laws of society and how those on the outside may not necessarily have a full picture of what is really happening and instead fill in the blanks with information that is not necessarily true leading to false accusations that which beings get hurt from.

1. What is this character's main goal or objective in the overall plot?: To enforce the rules of the capitalistic system

2. What is the main obstacle in this character's way of achieving this

goal?: Beings like Becky existing

3. What are some tactics this character attempts or uses in order to

overcome the obstacle, and do the tactics work?: The character is already on top in society. All the character must do is carry out their duty. There are no tactics in particular the character must do to really achieve their objective.

4. What are the character's expectations (how difficult does the character expect it to be to overcome their obstacle...in your opinion)? Complete and Utter confidence.

C. Describe some characters that may be supportive to the protagonist's goal, and how.: The family and friends that truly care for Becky and ultimately help her in the end.

D. Describe some characters that may be supportive to the antagonist's goal, and how.: The institution of society as a whole.

IV. SECTION IV – Thought/Theme/Idea

A. What is the play's genre?: Comedy

B. Why do you think the playwright chose this title for the play? It represents Becky's Heritage that plays a strong role in driving her actions and objective throughout the course of the play

C. List at least 3 main questions provoked by thought from the story (thematic thoughts inspired by action).:

-How does how much we truly know affect how we view and treat those around us?

-What are the ethics surrounding Witchcraft?

-How have things evolved in complicity surrounding witch hunts from the time the original Salem Witch Hunts took place to the present day.

D. Describe the main idea/theme in the following ways:

1. Super objective: To deliver commentary on witch hunts.

2. Action Summary: The story of a women's chaotic attempts to restore balance to her life through witchcraft. And the consequences that she faces as a result.

3. Thesis Statement: (Make a bold statement as if a main point for a paper). Rope is a play that reflects how witch-hunts are not just a thing of the past but are a thing still to this present day, and how history ultimately repeats itself if we do not learn from it.

4. Theme: (A generality title, like Good vs. Evil....or Love and Money): Witch Hunts and the historical contexts of them compared to how they exist in our present day society.

5. Kuhn's Maxwell sentence (Fill in the blanks):

(*Becky Nurse of Salem*) is women trying to fix her life with witchcraft

but after the consequences come back to haunt her. She must ultimately rely on her family

because connections and learning from the past is ultimately how we prevent history from repeating itself.

V SECTION V-OTHER INFORMATION

- The Mood of the Play. Is Chaotic and Dream Like with an air of historicism layer and interwoven
- The Play is episodic realism.

Scenic Inventory

Becky Nurse of Salem Scenic Inventory

Director: N/A

Stage Manager: N/a

Scenic Designer: 2x2L System

Property Designer: 2x2L System

Theoretical Design for Set Design 1



Notes: *Italicized* means not required by script but reflecting within *Italics*.

Photo Credit: Milovidova, Ann “Table of Witchcraft” *Pixabay*

<https://pixabay.com/photos/incan>

Scene	Scenic	Properties	Notes
Authors Notes	Locations: -Bob’s bar counter -Museum with wax figures and historical dioramas -Becky’s living room -Marriott Hotel Counter -Psychic Table -Town Jail -Courtroom -Outdoors near parking lot and open sky		
1) At the Museum. A Tour (Museum) Pg. 1	Museum: Rebecca Nurse Wax Stature John Proctor Wax Figure Wax figure Tituba -Tituba’s daughter Dorcas		-Rebecca Nurse Wax Statue Treated as Prop throughout the play
2) Bob’s Tavern. Lock her Up (Bob’s Bar) Pg. 4			-We hear sound from TV at Bob’s Bar
3) At the Museum (Museum) Pg. 8			-Established that everyday Becky as a ploughman’s lunch of Pickle Cheese and Beer

			at Bob's Bar. This is likely what Becky was having as she was conversing with Bob in the previous scene
4) The pilgrims and the Homebodies (Bob's Bar) Pg. 11		-Beer	
5) The Night Shift. Marriott Hotel (Marriott Hotel) Pg. 13		-Business Card for Witch's Business	
6) Becky Visits a Witch. The Psychic Witch's Emporium on Main Street (Psychic Table) Pg. 15		-Package to Burn for New Job -\$14 dollars in crumpled bills -Crystals for Love -Herbs for Granddaughter	
7) Becky asks Bob for Money. Bob's Tavern (Bob's Bar) Pg. 19	Bobs Bar: Tv, Cash Register	-\$250-dollar Bills -Crystals for Love (ref to scene 6)	-Bob frequently watches PBS at his bar
8) To Build a Fire (Location Undetermined) Pg.21		-Herbs for Granddaughter (ref scene 6) -Materials to build fire	-Here Voice of Siri in this scene
9) Gail Comes Home (Becky's Home) Pg. 23	Becky's Home: Window, Dorm	-Cardian for Gail -Bills -Lighter to burn bills -Cigarette -Bottle of Opioids	-Hear Doorbell Ring -Game Rummikub and possibly other tabletop games as set dressing
10) I Want to Be your Apprentice (Psychic Table) Pg. 32		-\$400 dollars for payment for the Witch -Oil for love -More Crystals	
11) Bob and Becky. At the Bar (Bob's Bar) Pg. 35	Bob Bar: Plant	-Oil (ref scene 10) -More crystals (ref scene 10) -Watering Can	

12 Sex and Death. Becky's House. Night (Becky's House) Pg. 39	Becky House: Couch.	- <i>Shoe to throw at Stan</i> -Camera to take picture of Stan - <i>Bottle of Opioids</i> (ref scene 9)	
13) He Wears Black Eyeliner (Psychic Table) Pg. 41		-Picture of Stan -Charm to drive away Stam -Incense to burn and put in Boss's desk -Holy Water	
14) Becky Runs into Herself in the Desk (Marriott & Museum) Pg. 45		- <i>Flashlight</i> -Charm to drive away Stam (ref scene 13) -Incense ashes -Holy Water (ref page 13)	-Rebecca Nurse Statue Treated as Prop Here
15) Toast is Better When Someone Else Makes It for You (Becky's House) Pg. 46	-Becky's House: Way to Make Toast	- <i>Poster board and Markers</i> -Toast -Butter -Knife - <i>Wipe</i>	-Rebecca Nurse costume change happens on stage -Statue of Rebecca Nurse is now located in Becky's House
16) Bob's Heart. At the Hospital (Hospital) Pg. 53	Hospital Location Now Established		
17) Lock her Up. The Town Square (Location that which the tour of Salem and flashback of hanging of witches take place; established here) Pg. 55			-Statue of Rebecca Nurse Moved to this Location
Act 2			
1) Establishing shot of Act 2 (Same as		-Phone -Purse	

Act 1 Scene 17 & Jail) Pg. 59		-Bottle of Opioids (ref Act 1 Scene 9)	
2) Bob visits Becky in Jail (Jail) Pg. 62		-Bible	-Jailer throughout the Jail scenes is heard over the loudspeaker rather than the line being delivered from onstage
3) Gail Visits Becky (Jail) Pg. 65			
4) You Have a New Roommate (Jail) Pg. 69			-Transition into Witch Trials of the Past
5) Becky Falls Through a Hole in History (Pinhole in History (first established here) & Jail) Pg. 73	e		<i>-Becky is Restrained in some way</i>
6) Bob Visits Becky Again (Jail) Pg. 77		-New Opioid Prescription	
7) Sign our Book. And Shelby (Jail) Pg. 80			<i>-Jailer is listening to something that which Becky asks Jailer to turn off</i>
8) Stan Offers a Ritual Pg. 84		-Piece of Hair from Becky	
9) The Dark Night of Soul (Nightmare Sequence) Pg. 87			
10) Bob Visits Becky (Jail) Pg.90		-Paper and Pencil that which Becky uses to write out her defense	
11) A Ritual in the Dark (Ritual Sequence) Pg. 92		-Piece of Hair from Becky (ref page 8)	
12) Court (Courthouse) Pg.94		-Paper that has Becky's defense on it	
Epilogue (Outdoor Bench) Pg 98		-Ice-cream in cones <i>-Bouquet of flowers</i>	