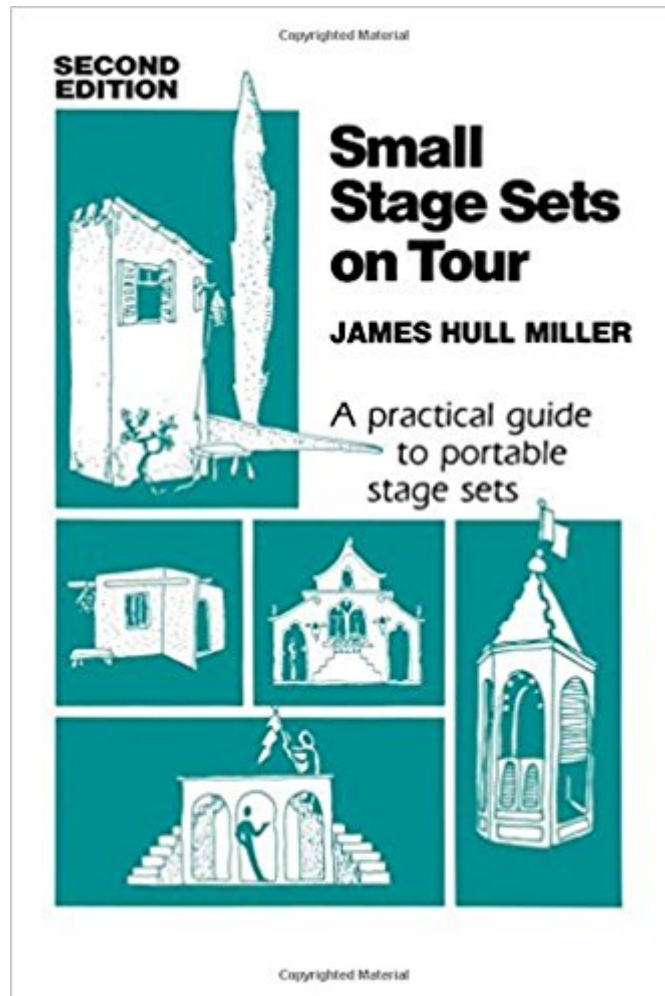




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# Small Stage Sets On Tour: A Practical Guide To Portable Stage Sets



## Synopsis

Written by the leading authority on portable stage sets, James Hull Miller, this book contains his fifty years of experience in design, construction, and application of portable stage sets. Dozens of actual sets and instructions for how to build them are included. This stagecraft text also examines various types of theaters and other playing spaces encountered in traveling productions. There are chapters on folding and clamped sets, stagecraft in schools and recital halls, and small theater designs. This is an indispensable resource for stage crews and theatre students, now in its second, revised edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

pap. \$7.95. theater This text continues Miller's efforts to make simple and workable scenery available to those with no background in theater technology or design. Although duplicating some of the material from his earlier books, most notably *Self-Supporting Scenery* (self-published, 1976. 3d ed.), this slim volume examines the possibilities for touring shows with very limited budgets. Intended primarily for teachers, students, community theaters, and those regularly suffering from lack of financial backing or construction capabilities, this book provides basic information on converting less than ideal spaces into theatrical performance areas quickly and inexpensively. Andi Lyons, SUNY at Albany Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

James Hull Miller, a graduate of Princeton, combined an academic background in literature and

philosophy with many years of actual theatre experience, twelve of which were spent in teaching. From 1958 until his death in 2007, he was a freelance designer and consultant. His field of special interest was the development of a new stagecraft for the theatre which took the form of freestanding scenery. He designed numerous open-stage theaters based on this system of stagecraft for colleges, communities, student unions, schools and churches. For many years he maintained a scenic studio, the Arts Lab, in Shreveport, Louisiana, where he gave workshops as well as constructed sets for use in a variety of spaces. Mr. Miller was a Charter Member of the U.S. Institute for Theatre Technology and in 1978 was named a Fellow of the Institute. He was also a Founding Member of the American Society of Theatre Consultants.

he wrote several books on self-supporting scenery, set building and set lighting all on a shoe string budget. The books are older but the concepts are still valid ... you may find the lighting stuff of questionable value unless you, like me, find real theater lights and LED technology outside your budget. BTW all the books are very similar and even use the same drawings in many cases.

This is written for set people assuming you know how to build everything and rig everything. This has a couple of good tips for 2 sided sets, but that is about it. It does not tell you how to build a practical set that you can fold up and put on a truck or in a van. The information on bracing and hardware is minimal. The emphasis is very much on 2 dimensional flying flats, not shed or house units, or even booths or trade show exhibits. Meh.

This guide included some very helpful material - I stage direct for a small college w/ a small budget and this book was extremely useful. I especially enjoyed the the set design for The Barber of Seville. From prompting ideas for small yet effective and efficient set designs to actual detailed structural integrity guidance, this book is a treasure for any performing arts organization. --Glady Marie Posch, Hou., TX

Very nifty little book!

I gave this book to our set builder in our community theatre group. He says it is full of good ideas and will be a big help on our next plays.

Great book for beginners.

I purchased this book to add to my collection and found that it contained less information than one might find in a basic stagecraft book found at any college bookstore. It is my opinion that some of the staging ideas though sound if done properly could be hazardous otherwise. I suggest that if you are not experienced in stagecraft to purchase this book along with a companion stagecraft book and pull from both sources to design and build your show. There are some good suggestions for easy to move lightweight pageant grade sets and this source should not be overlooked. I simply suggest that you not use this as your only reference. To the experienced builder - skip this text all together the designs in the book are old and you most likely will kick your self and say I know how to put plywood platforms on sawhorses why did I buy this!.

I bought this book hoping to learn some new ways to build small touring sets. Unfortunately only the first couple of chapters were really applicable to my situation. Even then, the directions for building were sketchy for non-technical types of people. I guess that the diagrams will make sense to someone who is used to building sets, but I am not and the language used is too technical for me. I did get some nice ideas about using screens and blinds, though.

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