

I decided to put up two outlines that have been rolling around in my head since Thursday. This first one was one I had been thinking on before the assignment, and the second is my personal fleshed out version of some brainstorming ideas that my group (Dan, Marissa, and Cho Cho) had during class on Thursday.

### **Untold Stories, Unsung Heroes Outline 1**

#### The Spirit of Arizona History

I found an online article called “10 Top Arizona Headlines of the Past 100 Years” that was quite useful. <http://aznow.biz/lists/10-top-headlines-put-arizona-news>

The concept behind this piece is moving back through time, exploring how news has been relayed over the past 100+ years. This outline utilizes 6 scenes that move fluidly from one form of media to another, and I think can be easily expanded to include more eras of media and more stories. Each story mentioned should be portrayed in full, almost as a reenactment, with media commentators on the sides. The spirit stops each story sharply, but then orchestrates the flow into the next.

Scene 1 - A blogger sits typing about news (personal news, not looking at the grand scope of what is going on around her). We see the world around her is a busy place, full of hustle and bustle. An entity appears - the spirit of Arizona's history. This spirit appears in simple, modern dress (perhaps jeans and a t-shirt), looking over the blogger's shoulder, unbeknownst to her. Without a word, the Spirit freezes all action on stage. The spirit puts on a Mojave cloak.

Scene 2 - Orchestrated by the Spirit, the Mojave story of creation is told using shadow puppets. The Spirit never speaks. Others representing the Mojave tribe tell the story. During the presentation, the Spirit leaves the stage. As the creation story comes to a close, the Spirit reappears with again, this time wearing a cowboy hat and chaps and sharply freezes the action.

Scene 3 - Again, orchestrated by the Spirit, the setting transforms into an open range. Cowboys sit around a campfire, singing cowboy songs. The Spirit joins them around the campfire. They begin to talk about the railroads and how it's going to change the west. We hear stories of their adventures in the Wild West. Again, the Spirit freezes the scene sharply.

Scene 4 - The Spirit orchestrates the transition into the 1930s by exchanging his chaps and hat for a blazer. The set transforms into a radio studio. A radio announcer tells news of a new planet, discovered by Arizona's Clyde Tombaugh and see an interview with him. The radio announcer transitions into a story about Navajo soldiers creating a secret code for the army as the US enters WWII (thus moving into the 1940s). Navajo soldiers move into fighting stance (incorporating movement choreography similar to that of *The Black Watch*.) The Spirit stops the choreography, and is seen on a rolling-TV camera.

Scene 5 - The Spirit rolls about the stage, moving from location to location in Arizona. The Spirit shows the diversity of Arizona - such as the Grand Canyon, Sedona, Painted Desert, Petrified Forest, Navajo People, Mexican Americans, etc. Additional stories are incorporated as a television newscast. The Spirit stops the camera, and takes off the blazer.

Scene 6 - The Spirit moves back to the girl at the computer, only now the hustle and bustle is gone. She is a news woman, reporting her articles online. As she types and narrates, we hear gunshots of the Tuscon shooting. The blogger reports on the shooting and gun laws and other things, all of which come to life. The Spirit again stops the action, and indicates (non-verbally) to the audience that the next steps are up to them.

## **Untold Stories, Unsung Heroes Outline 2**

### Mr. Arizona Times in the Goodwin Novelty Store

The setting is the abandoned Goodwin Novelty Store, a Tempe icon in the 20's, 30's, and 40's. People would come from all over the valley to shop at this unique store. In the store are a variety of antique and modern artifacts. (Note that the scenes are a breakdown of each artifact's story which can be expanded or deleted, as long as there is an object to attach to new stories, but the action of the play never stops). The proscenium arch is framed by two towering totem poles (as was the actual Goodwin Novelty Store).

Major Character: Mr. Arizona Times - a media puppet. One arm ends in an actual human hand (that of the manipulator). The head consists of two eyes - one of which is a camera, the other a projector. The nose appears to consist of a microphone. The camera eye is linked to screens that show what Mr. Arizona Times sees throughout the course of the production. When he looks at an object, he is able to see the history of that object and project it out of his projector eye.

Scene 1 - Enter Mr. Arizona Times. He walks about the abandoned store, browsing the various artifacts and novelties. He focuses in on the store sign, then projects Mr. Garfield Goodwin at the opening of the store. Goodwin welcomes the townspeople to the store and tells what kinds of goods he will sell, also including a bit of history about the town. The projection fades.

Scene 2 - Mr. Arizona Times focuses on a second object. He goes over and picks up a stagecoach wagon wheel. He then projects the story of Pearl Hart. She rides on stage, chasing the stagecoach. She and her partner rob the coach, but then are caught by the law. Hart goes on trial, twice, and is eventually convicted. The projection fades.

Scene 3 - Mr. Arizona Times picks up an old guitar. Cowboys are projected, sitting around a campfire, singing songs and telling of their adventures in the wild west. The cowboys hit the road, and come across a railroad spike and hammer. They talk a bit about the railroad coming to Arizona.

Scene 4 - Mr. Arizona Times focuses on a railroad spike and hammer in the last scene (which pulls the story forward in time). Chinese immigrant workers are projected, working in the hot Arizona sun. Stories are told of the railroad. The projection fades.

Scene 5 - Mr. Arizona Times picks up a diary. He then projects a young girl, Eva, and her life working on the ranch. She shares with her family that she wants to be a writer, which they don't think is a good idea, but she works hard and one day takes over her fathers ranch and writes. The projection fades.

Scene 6 - Mr. Arizona Times focuses on the audience. He begins to project their thoughts through the other characters in history. The characters from the other projects begin to appear on stage, weaving together portions of the Arizona Poem (as in *Ripples in the Desert*). At the end of the poems, the stage goes dark.