

Set in a Washington, D.C. townhouse, *The City of Conversation* focuses on matriarch Hester Ferris, a beltway socialite who uses her well-appointed sitting room as a political crucible in which to form her liberal policies. The set is peppered with evidence of her travels and her connections—photos of her taken with powerful figures dot the space. As the play shifts from 1979 to 1987 to 2009, the furniture and set dressing transform to reflect the different decades. By the play's end, the aged doyenne has turned semi-reclusive, and the space has changed from being open, with seating for plenty of dinner party guests, to being solitary and spare.



The City of Conversation, by Anthony Giardina, produced by Northlight Theatre, 2016.
Directed by Marti Lyons.



No Exit, by Jean-Paul Sartre, produced by The Hypocrites, 2010.
Directed by Sean Graney.

In this adaptation of the existential classic, *No Exit*, the director, Sean Graney, reimagined the play as a sex farce with only one slamming door. The design was inspired by the drawings of M.C. Escher and other high-contrast perspective drawings of architecture. The space started incredibly tight, and when the character of Estelle arrived in a full ball gown, the space got even tighter. The floor was steeply raked, so much so that the actors had to use the statue of David to leverage themselves around three small sit-ables.