

Flyin' West takes place in the 1890s in Nicodemus, Kansas, a small African American town formed in the wake of slavery. The women in *Flyin' West* are all former slaves or the children of slaves. This is the first time they can own land and create a home of their own. While the elderly character of Miss Leah has her rocking chair, and Fannie has her china cabinet, Sophie her desk, and Minnie her bedroom, home is not only the place where they live, but home is also a symbol of freedom and safety in a world plagued by racial tensions and discrimination.



Flyin' West by Pearl Cleage, produced by the University of Pittsburgh, 2019. Directed by KJ Gilmer.
Photo by Sami Sanders Studios.



On Trial by Máiréad Ní Ghráda, produced by the University of Pittsburgh, 2019.
Directed by Nic Barilar. Photo by Sami Sanders Studios.

On Trial investigates one woman, Maura, whose entire life is put on trial. In this design, Maura's home is represented as a courtroom. Objects, such as the judge's stand, serve as furnishings while Maura's family and neighbors act as judge, jury, and executioner. Platforms surround the space, and images of the town and the church loom over Maura and her family. The public constantly intrudes upon the private. With Maura's life under surveillance, home becomes a place of repression and judgment.