

*Trouble in Tahiti* is an opera about a typical 1950s family. From the outside, everything looks perfect—an expected portrayal of the American Family and their ideal home. While the home symbolizes a picturesque life, in reality, the family is struggling to stay together. This design focuses on the dinner table, the place where the family comes together. The house façade that surrounds the table is a clean, symmetrical frame—the opposite of the family’s dark reality.



*Trouble in Tahiti*, produced by The Pennsylvania State University, 2016.  
Directed by Ted Christopher.



*The Diary of Anne Frank*, produced by California State University, Fullerton, 2012.  
Directed by Kari Hayter.

*The Diary of Anne Frank* is the hopeful and inspiring story of one young girl’s strength in the face of terror, and her constant faith in humanity. The Frank family took refuge in the home of Miep Gies in 1942 and remained hidden there for twenty-five months. This design expresses the isolation in which the family lived as an island, hidden away from the outside world, crammed with furniture, and surrounded by blackness. The skeletal walls symbolize the family’s lack of privacy and the fear of exposure they all felt. Yet, Anne found light and hope in the isolated darkness.