

Jewish Queen Lear is the story of a family, a business, and the co-mingling of the two. In the second act of the play, we are introduced to the Efros family, whose home has a stately grandeur that is impressive to outsiders and speaks to the wealth that the family has obtained. Mirele is the matriarch of the family. She is a creature of a time that has passed, a time where business was done around the fireplace over drinks. The style of the home and furnishings are more classical, leaning mostly towards Victorian with the occasional contemporary element. Mirele created all this wealth for the family, so the house reflects her sensibilities.



Jewish Queen Lear, by Jacob Gordin, produced by Theatre J, 2019. Directed by Adam Immerwahr.
Photo by C. Stanley Photography.



The Crucible, by Arthur Miller, produced by Olney Theatre Center, 2018.
Directed by Eleanor Holdridge.

Act II of *The Crucible* takes place primarily in the kitchen of the Proctor home. Both John and Elizabeth Proctor are trying to mend their broken hearts after John has an affair with a former servant, Abigail. The scene plays emotionally cold, but both are trying to make amends in their unspoken ways. Elizabeth has prepared soup that is waiting on the stove for John. He tastes a little and adds more salt. This action tells us all we need to know about their relationship, and thus how the scene should look. The house is tidy, with jars of preserved foods on shelves. Elizabeth is trying her best to create the perfect home for John, to keep him from straying or perhaps to show her worth. There is a back wall of rough, coarse wood that not only describes the rustic look of Salem homes of the time, but it also reflects the emotional relationship between the Proctors. The boards missing out of the back wall not-so-subtly symbolize the Proctor's marriage. The set signals that something is awry.