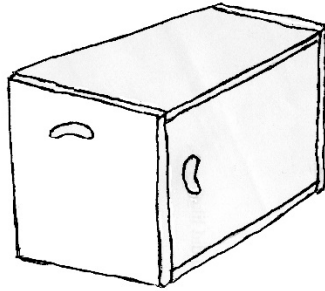


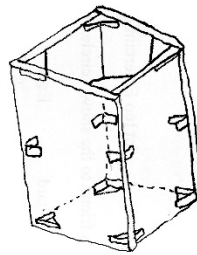
Director's Copy – Production Notes

Stage Blocks:

Multipurpose stage blocks are great way to create levels, and can be moved quickly to provide places to sit and stand. Here's one simple design I've used over the years:



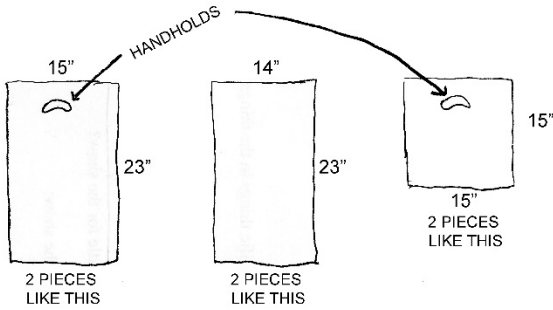
USE 1/2" TOP QUALITY HARDWOOD PLYWOOD - OAK OR CHERRY
(NOT ORDINARY CONSTRUCTION PLYWOOD)



INSIDE THE BLOCK, PUT ONE CORNER BRACKET AT EACH CORNER AND ONE L-SHAPED BRACKET IN THE MIDDLE OF EACH SIDE.

GLUE THE PLYWOOD TOGETHER (AS WELL AS USING THE BRACKETS TO HOLD IT.)
ATTACH THE 15" x 15" LIDS LAST TO SQUARE UP THE-BLOCK.

SAND THE EDGES AND CORNERS AND ROUND THEM TO PREVENT SPLINTERING.
STAIN AND POLYURETHANE TO FINISH.



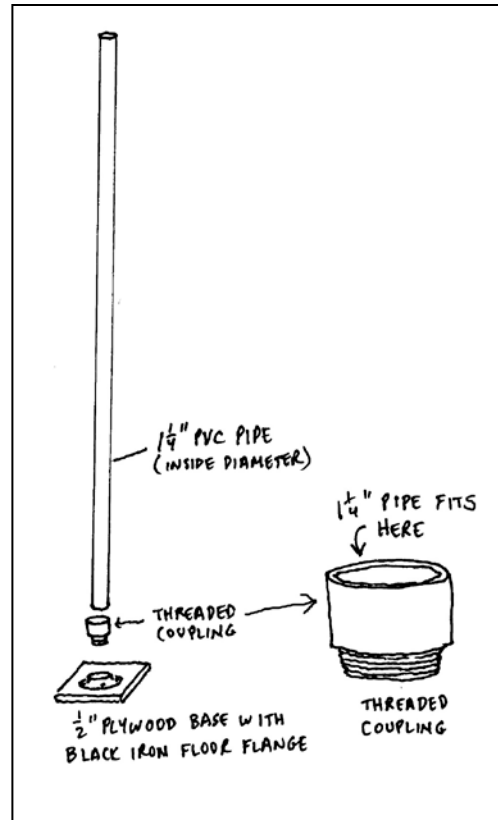
Golden Idol Option 1:

Here is a fairly simple design for the golden idol that uses a banner to represent the statue. The image on the banner was originally drawn on paper and then printed on a series of 8 ½” X 11” opaque iron-on transfers. Transfer paper can be purchased at most craft stores and many office supply stores. Make sure you get the kind that is made for dark colored material. The transfers were then ironed on to the banner, which has a pocket sewn on the top and bottom. Of course, if you have the artistic skills, you could simply paint the image on the banner directly. A piece of ½ “ PVC pipe was used in the top and bottom pockets.



The banner was suspended from a 1 ¼” PVC pole which was fitted into a plywood base with a metal floor flange and a PVC coupling, (available in the plumbing department of any Home Depot or Lowe’s.)

The plywood base was then mounted on a rolling “pillar base.” While the pillar in the picture is fairly elaborate, you could make a simpler base by mounting your plywood base on a car repair “creeper” or even putting it on a rolling kitchen cart decorated with cardboard sides.



(To make the pole stay upright, simply weight down the plywood base with a cement building block. A decorative half block—also available at a building supply—will do nicely, and the pole can fit in the hole in the block.)

During “Hooray to the King”, the banner can be rolled out at the appropriate time.

Golden Idol Option 2:

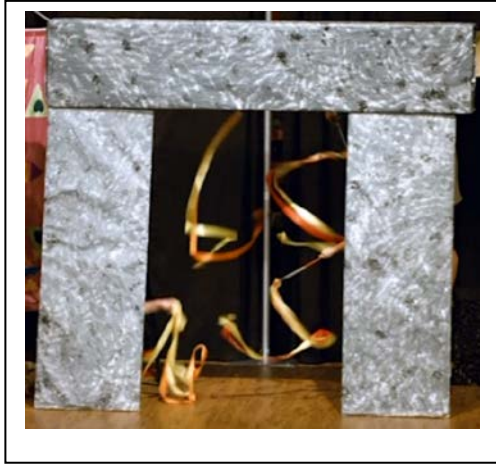
Pictured to the right is a much more elaborate golden idol made from Styrofoam. We found 2" inch thick sheets of insulating Styrofoam and glued together four 8 ft. by 4 ft. sheets, using a number of tubes of Styrofoam adhesive applied with a caulking gun. Once the sheets had dried into an 8" thick block, I used a very sharp knife to carve out the basic shape, using the dimensions of the Academy Awards 'Oscar' as a model. I then added papier-mache facial features, and painted the entire statue with a special latex based gold paint. (Unfortunately, spray paint melts most Styrofoam.) The back of the statue was glued to a 12 ft. 2"X4"—sort of like a giant golden Popsicle. Finally, the 2" X 4" was screwed to the rolling pillar base.

In this production, the statue was so large it was difficult to keep it hidden from the audience until the climactic moment of unveiling, so we draped it with a cover made from black plastic tablecloths duct taped together.



The Fiery Furnace:

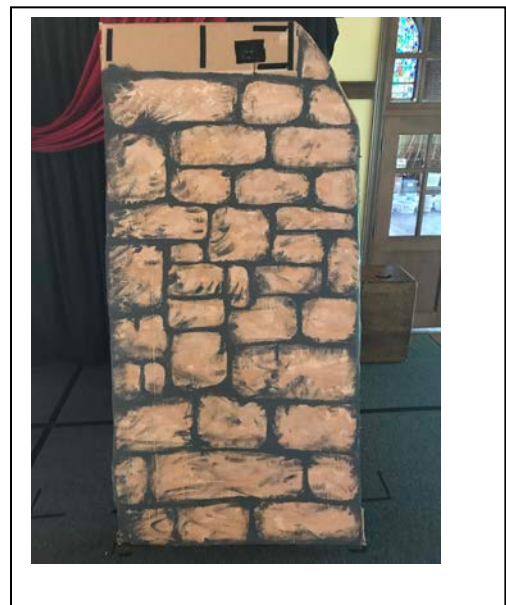
Here are two very similar designs for the fiery furnace:



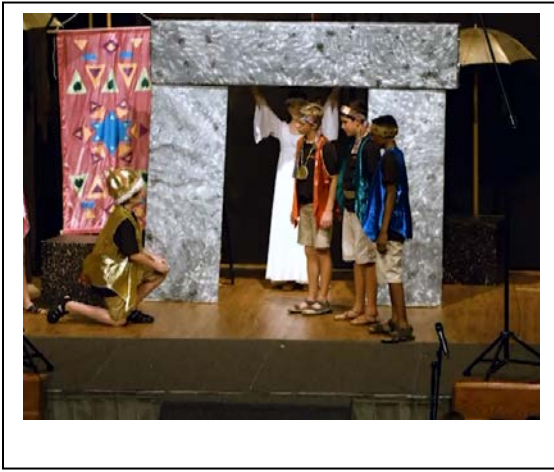
Both are basically arches made in three sections. The two side sections were mounted on wooden ladders which were carried on to the stage during the opening of the Furnace Song. The top section was added last. (The chorus can be placed downstage center during the first twenty measures of the song to hide the furnace being assembled behind them.)

For the furnace on the left, the ladders were fronted with sheets of Lauan board which were screwed to the ladders and later covered with white butcher paper and painted. The top section was made from Styrofoam, also covered in painted paper. The Styrofoam top was attached to the ladders using Velcro.

For the furnace on the right, the ladders were fronted with large sheets of cardboard from refrigerator cartons. (The large cardboard boxes were donated by a local appliance store.) The cardboard was tacked to the ladders rather than screwed, and the brick design was painted directly on the cardboard. The top of the arch was a separate piece of painted cardboard and was mounted to the sides using wire hooks created from coat hangers, (and a little Velcro.)



Both furnaces had a black backdrop behind them which helped make the ribbon flames appear more dramatic, and which provided a place where the angel hid until she entered the furnace at the appropriate moment during the song.



Here's the rear view of the cardboard furnace.

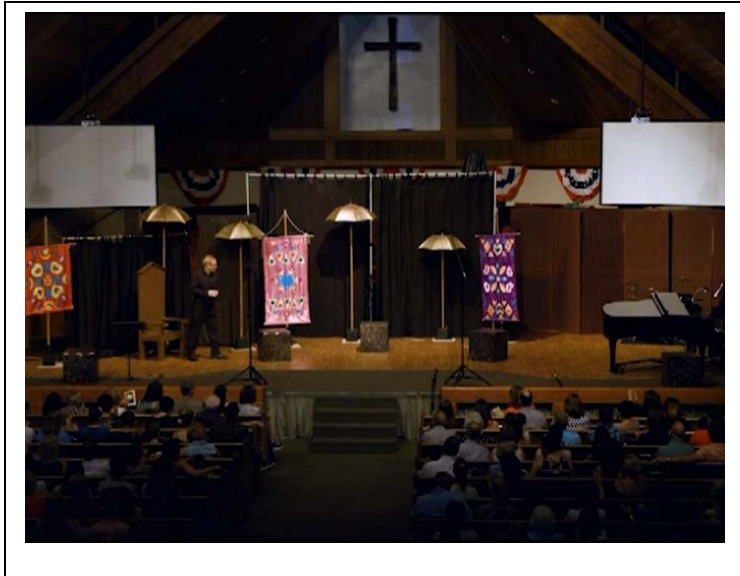


The “fire” in the furnace was created by cast members hiding behind the ladders and waving red, orange, and yellow ribbon wands in the furnace opening. Ribbon wands can be inexpensively obtained on Amazon.



Other Set Ideas:

In the first production of the show, we dressed the set with banners and whimsical “domes” created by umbrellas spray-painted gold set in PVC pole stands. (The same kind of stands described above for the idol banner.)



In the first production, here's the stage picture during the "Stand Firm" number.



Below is the stage picture during “The Furnace Song,” after the furnace has been assembled. This is the moment the three heroes are thrown into the furnace, and—if you look carefully—you can see the last of the three standing on a block to the right of the furnace and a guard with an arm outstretched as though pushing the prisoner forward. There were two blocks placed side by side behind the ladder, and when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were “thrown” into the furnace opening and the ribbon flames. Later, as they were kneeling to pray in the fire, the angel entered the back of the furnace through the black backdrop.



I used selections from the show for a Vacation Bible School, and we decorated the meeting space as a fiery furnace with crepe paper and red, yellow, and orange balloons. (The kind of balloons used to make balloon animals.)

