

Production Designer - Alex Holmes APDG Set Decorator - Andrew Baseman SDSA Graphic Designer - Matthew Hindle Presentation by Alex Holmes
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PRODUCTION DESIGNER'S STATEMENT

The first thing I want to mention by way of introduction is that "Eric", despite being set in New York City was not actually shot there. We did shoot SOME exterior street scenes in NYC, but 90 percent of it was shot in Budapest, Hungary. I mention this to highlight just how much harder and bigger the job was as a result. It took an enormous amount of passionate dedication to detail to achieve the sense of place we created for the series. This document will hopefully illustrate that and how it was done.

"Eric" really was a once in a career project with such a unique premise and tone. The most unusual element: a protagonist hallucinating, and talking to, a 6-foot monster puppet as he starts to lose his mind in the aftermath of his son's dissapearance. Set in 1985, in New York city, it was a psychological drama on the one hand, a "missing child" mystery and police procedural on the other. Combined, it become a far-reaching portrait of a troubled city in a troubled time.

The design job was an enormous challenge due to the sheer scope of how many contrasting worlds were scripted across the 6 episodes. It took in the whole spectrum of NYC environments, from the living quarters of its most impoverished citzens right up to it's wealthiest and most powerful.

Tonally, despite the heightened premise, we wanted a wholly authentic and realistic depiction of NYC for the series, while at the same time keeping the tone moody and cinematic in keeping with the mystery genre. Creating a sense of verisimilitude was key. The tonal balancing act centred on how to accentuate all the contrasts the script traversed, while still giving it a cohesive look and colour palette. We wanted domestic environments that felt extremely rich in character detail, to tell the story of a cast that came from every walk of life, something that I feel Andrew Baseman, our set decorator, achieved beautifully. A cultivated, Art Deco apartment owned by a cellist contrasts with his boyfriend's grim place of work – the

battered, worn-out NYPD. The vibrant, cheerful world of Vincent's primetime puppet show Good Day Sunshine sits in contrast to the grimy streets and nightclubs of NYC's underbelly. Huge effort was put into really capturing the filth of 1980's New York street life, as well as its famous graffiti culture. A replica subway carriage was built, so that we could faithfully recreate the intense amount of graffiti subway carriages of the period typically had.

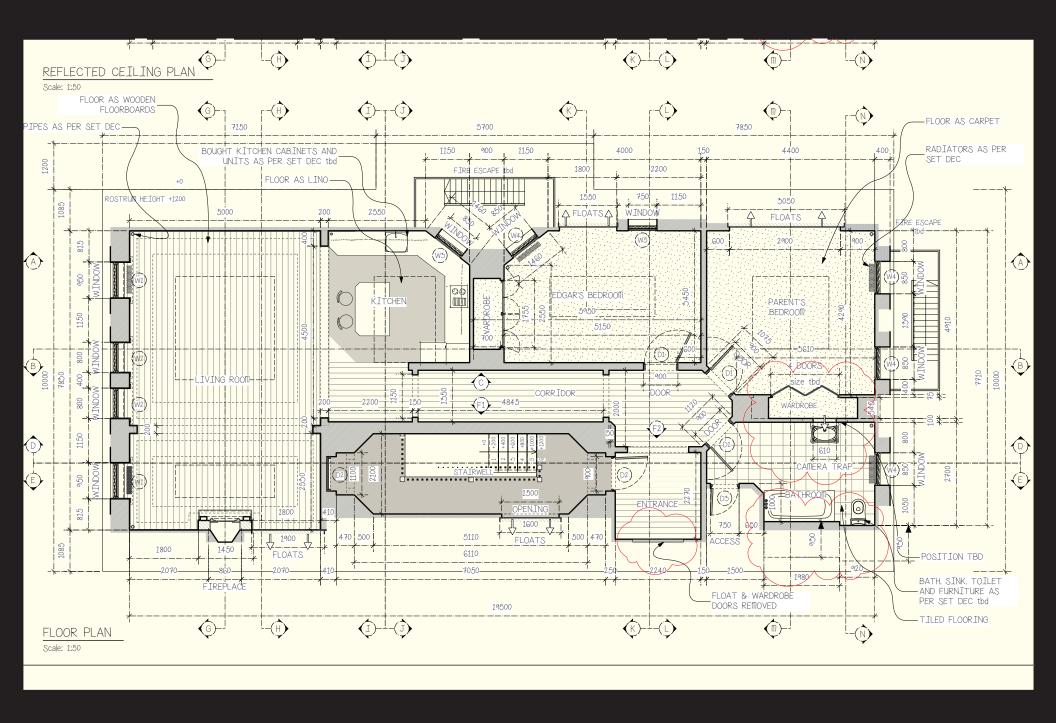
Another major element was the design of the puppets, which was a long and detailed process that illustrator Poppy Kay and our amazing director Lucy Forbes spearheaded. I had to make sure our set for the puppets was iconic, warm, welcoming and tied in with the overall style of the puppets. We were creating a world within a world.

Almost every interior in the series was shot in Budapest Hungary, either in a studio set or location. Huge effort was spent getting the architectural details of domestic interiors right. Exterior street scenes, for authenticity's sake, were mostly shot in New York and New Jersey, except for the street of "The Lux" nightclub which was shot on a Budapest backlot. Built for another film some 15 years ago, it needed an enormous face lift - all new signage, and all new shopfront and street dressing.

Overall, to recreate New York City in a foreign country came with huge challenges, especially for Set Decoration. Props and dressing had to be imported not only from the USA but also from all over Europe—a massive hunt for the appropriate dressing as you can imagine. We hope you enjoy viewing the series and this presentation.

Alex Holmes, APDG - Production Designer

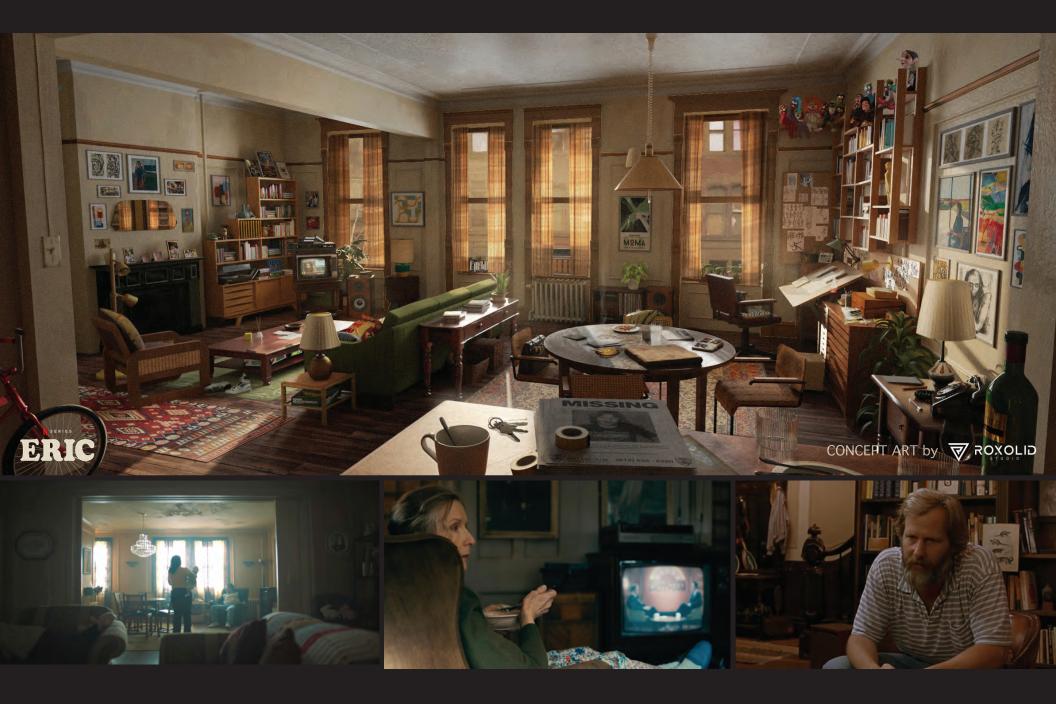
VINCENT', EDGAR AND CASSIES' BROWNSTONE APARTMENT, CHELSEA AREA, NEW YORK CITY 1985











VINCENT & CASSIE

The chaos of family life. Fairly bohemian, plenty of books, lots of art on the walls. Not a lot of it is expensive. Predominantly framed prints, posters etc interspersed with some small original works from friends and minor artists.

Vincent may have inherited one or two more expensive artworks. May have bought a few too.

The feel is organic, assymetrical, homely, worn. It's Cassie's touch. There's some humourous art herer and there. GDS merch on the shelves. Puppet related ornaments, and other interesting artifacts. Eelectic.

Crochet, patterned throw rugs liven the place up a bit. Curtains in subtle florals....nothing too psychadelic or 'screamy 70's, 80's.

The kitchen will sell the period as will the floor lino in kitchen and the furniture. Curtains fairly innocuous.

Signs of Edgar are everywhere, board games, sneakers lying around, pens, pencils etc etc.





















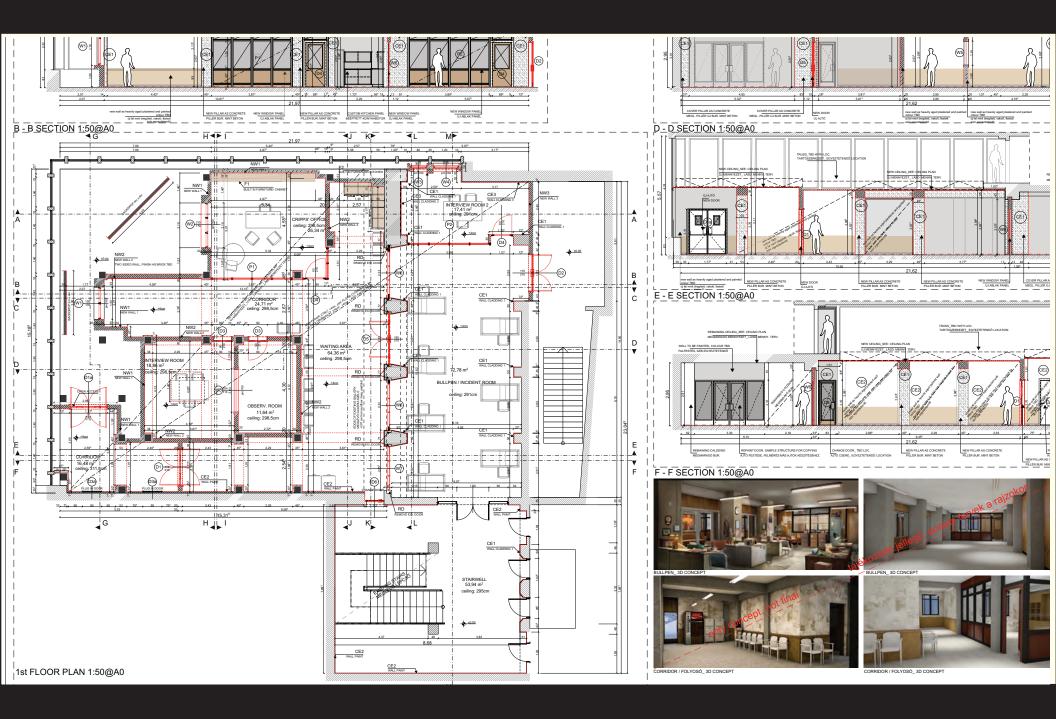
NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT 1985





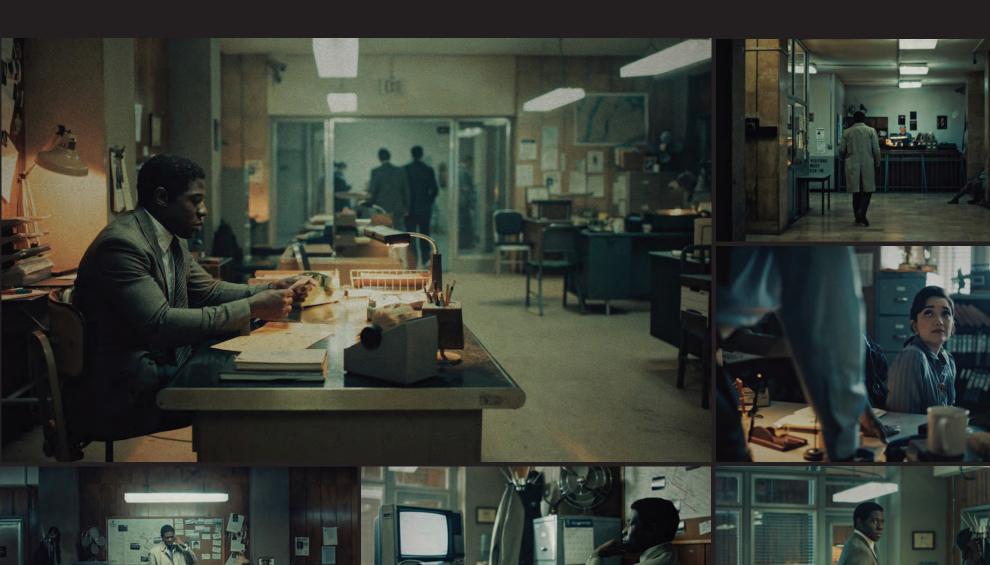




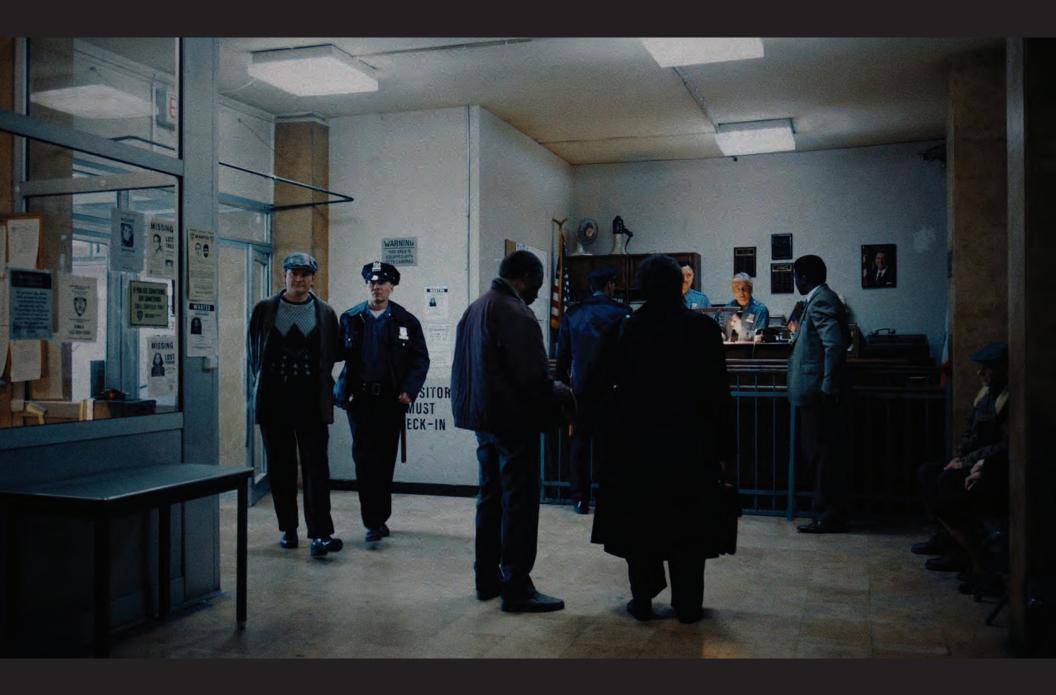




CONCEPT ART BY BRIAN CARLIN



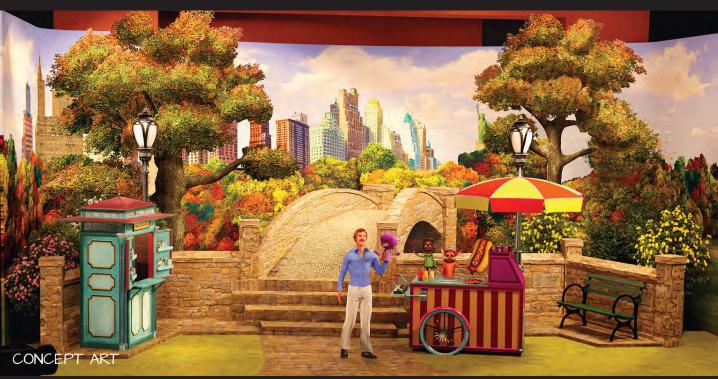




THE GOOD DAY SUNSHINE TV SHOW 1985











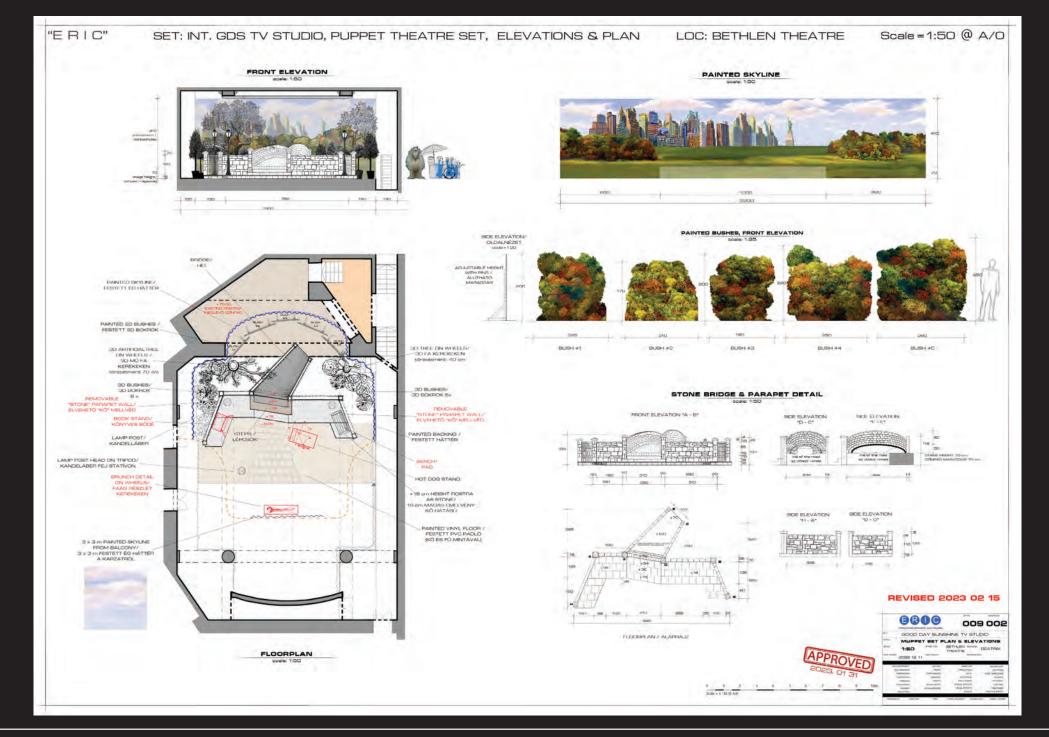






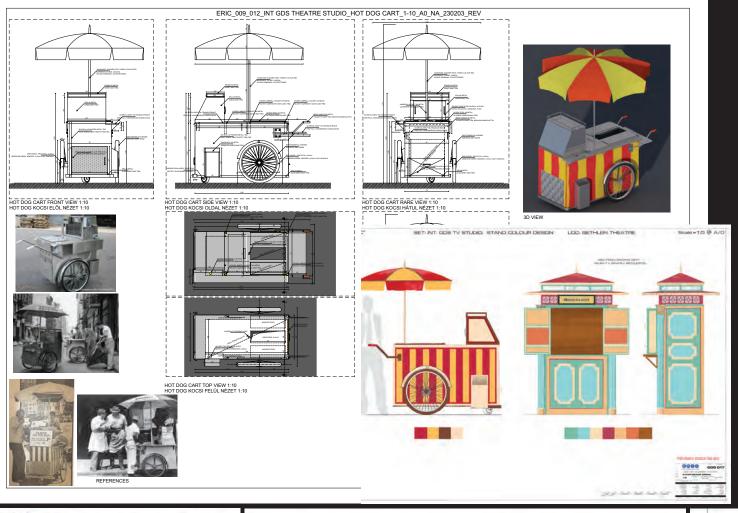




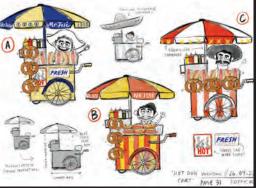










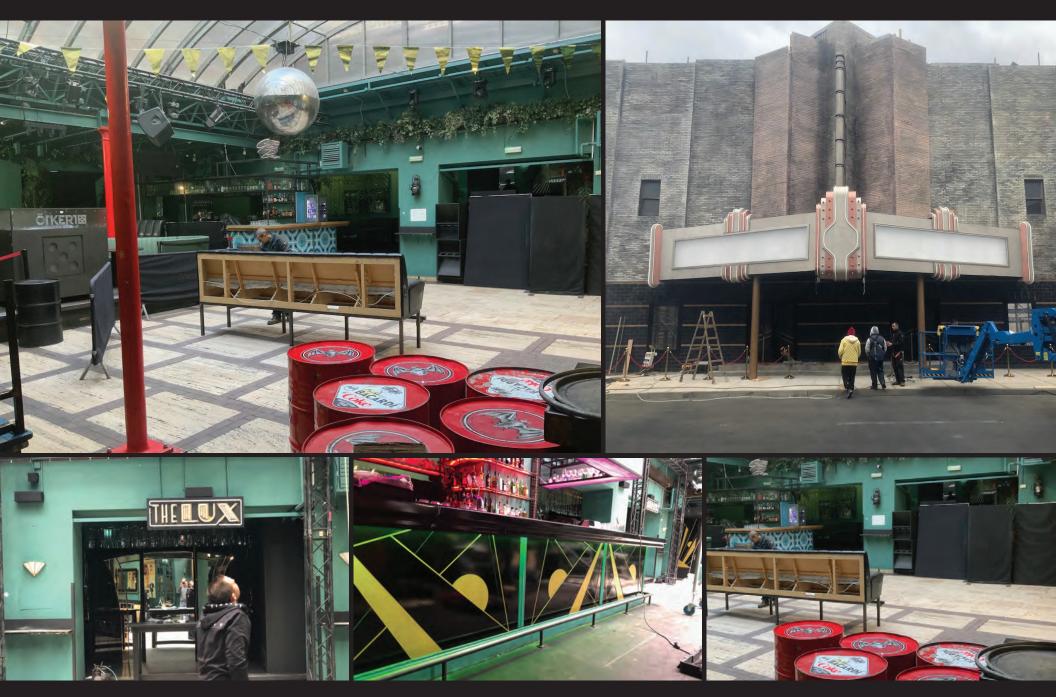




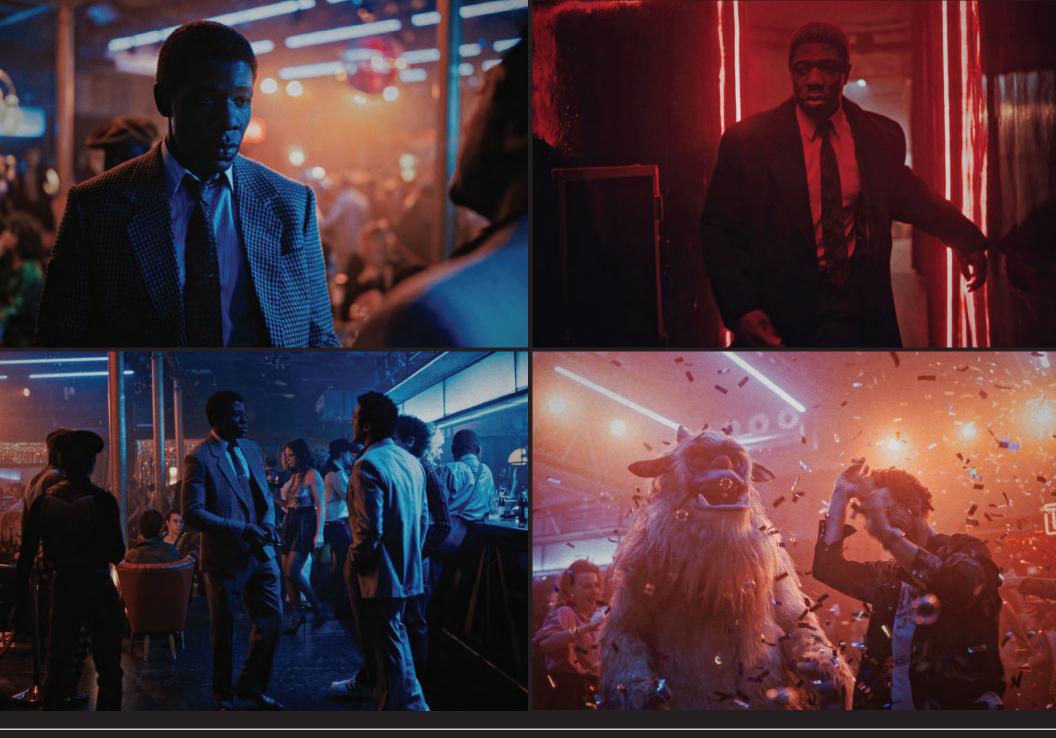


ILLUSTRATIONS BY POPPY KAY

THE LUX NIGHTCLUB
1985







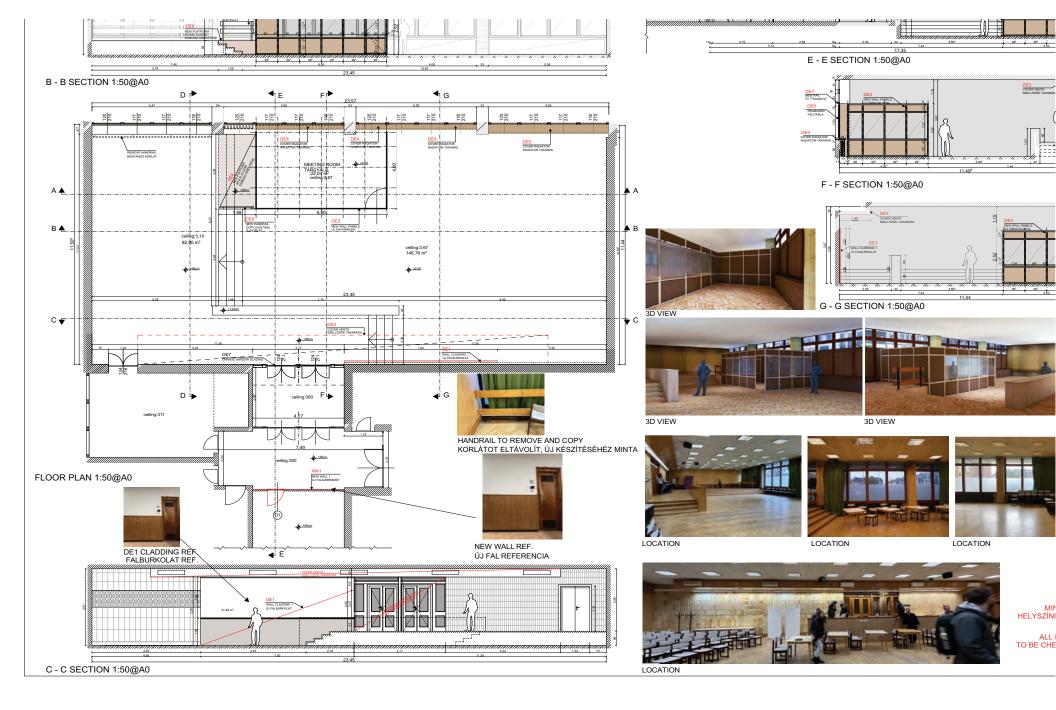


Nightclub toilets built as a studio set.

PUPPETEERS' WORKSHOP 1985













HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS IN SUBWAY TUNNELS 1985























NEW YORK CITY SUBWAY TRAIN CARRIAGE 1985













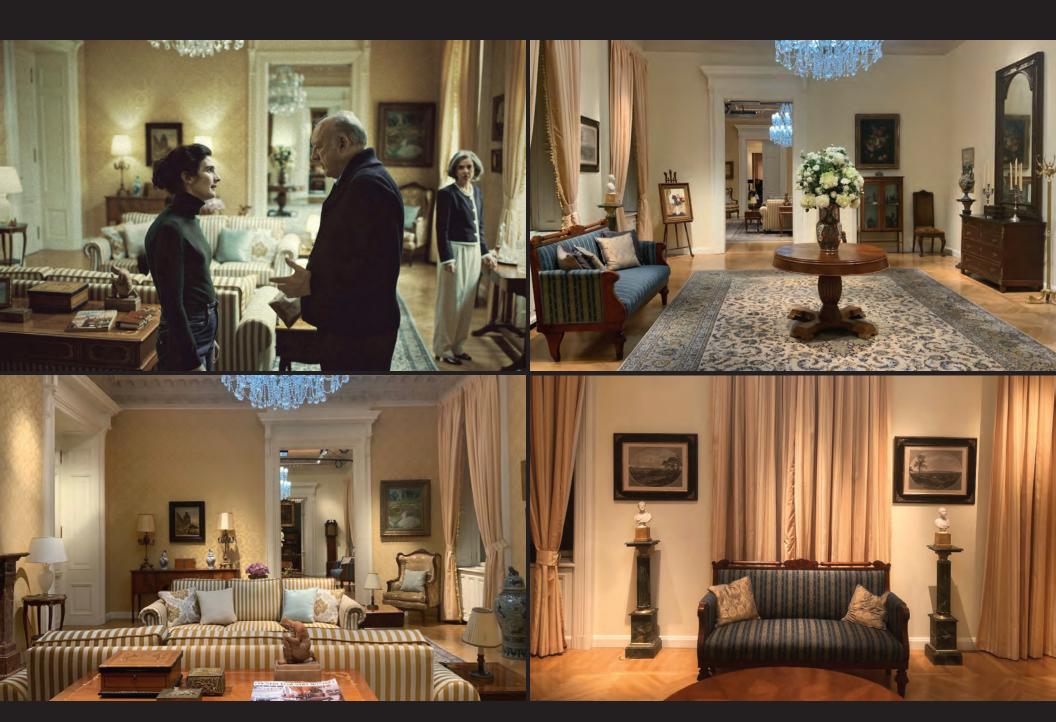




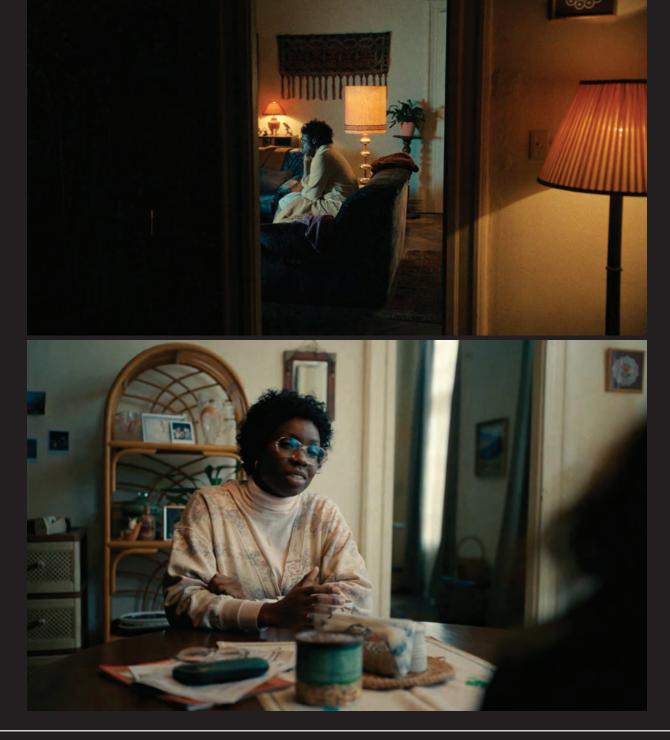
VINCENT'S PARENTS' NYC PENTHOUSE 1985







OLIVE'S LOW RENT TENEMENT APARTMENT NYC 1985







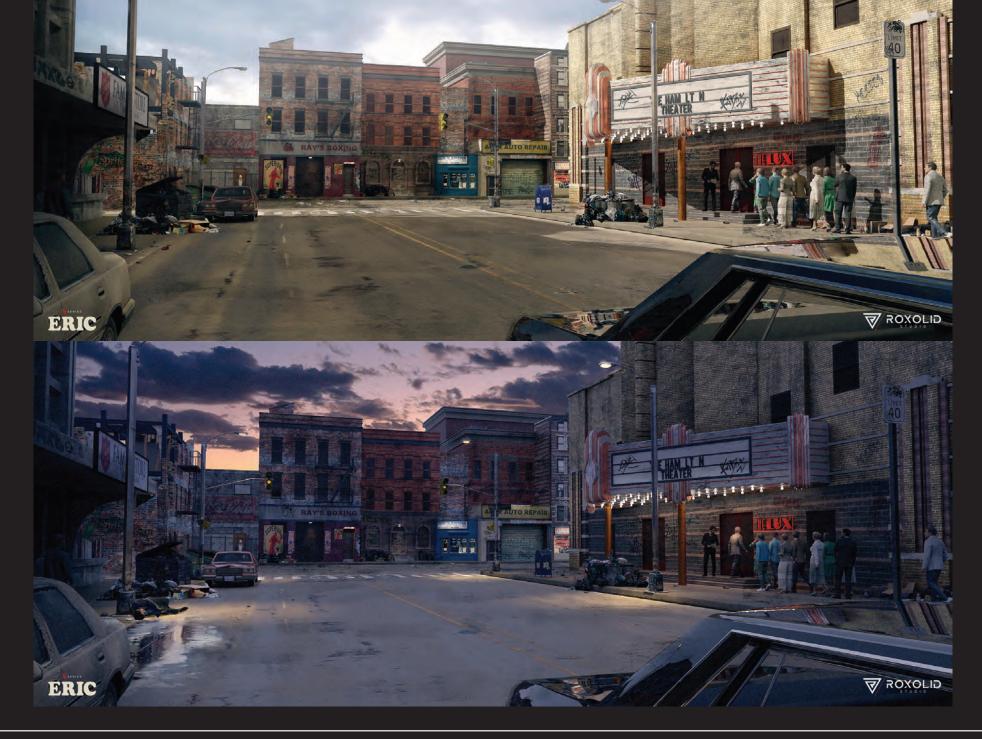




NEW YORK STREETS (CHELSEA AREA) 1985











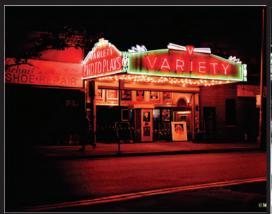






















Lead Graphics - Matthew HIndle















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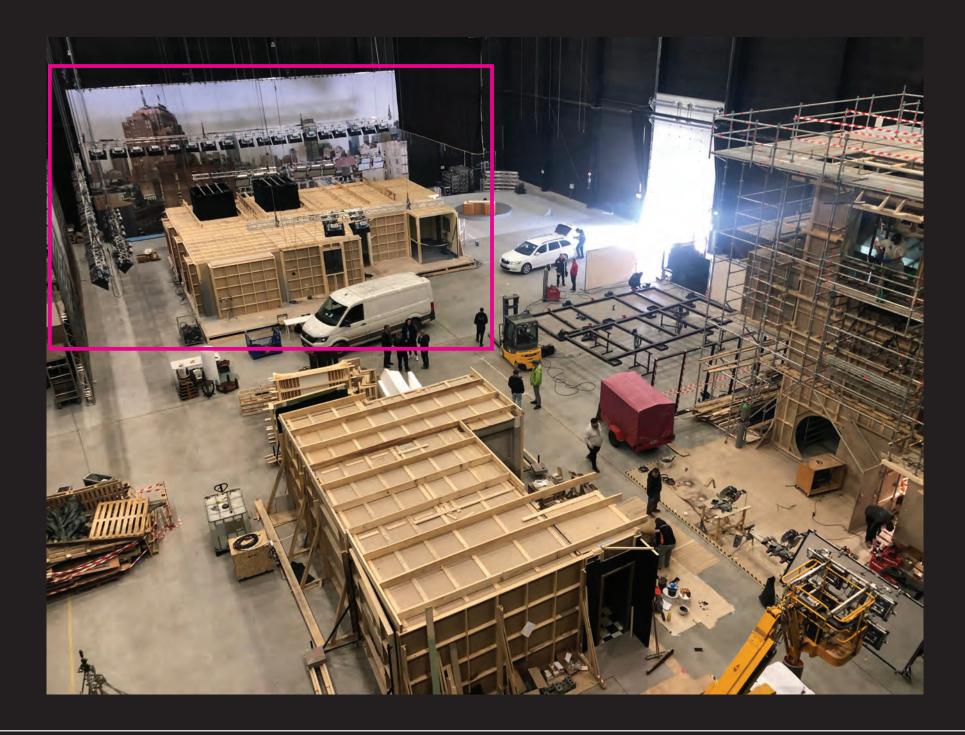


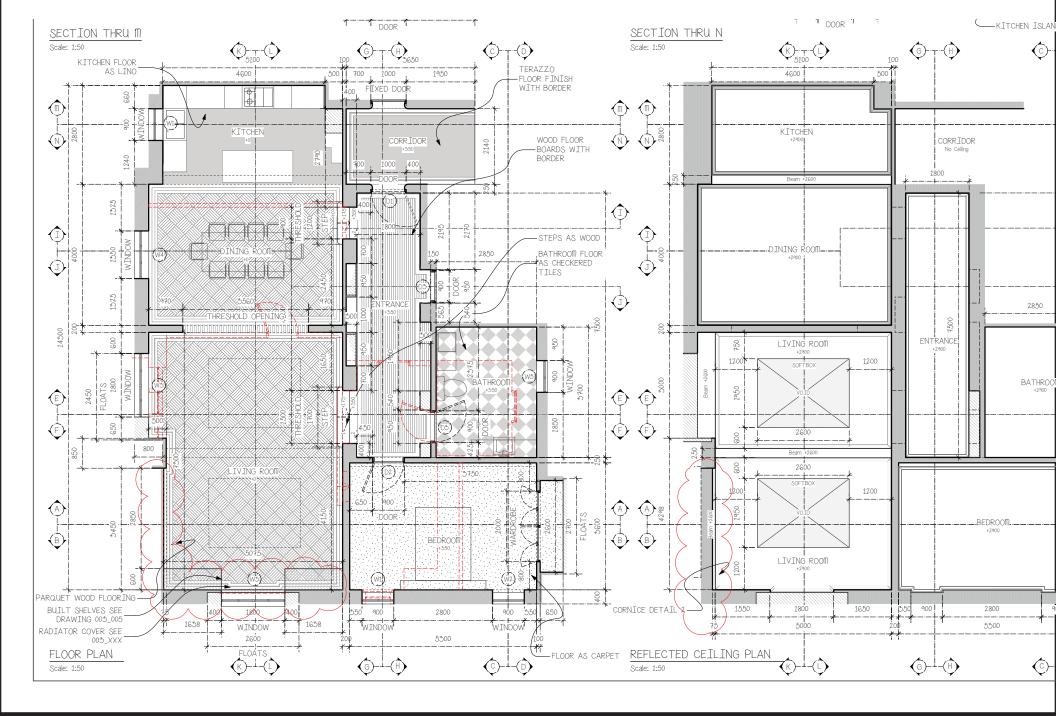






LEDROIT & WILLIAMS' APARTMENT NYC 1985





William's

DRESSING REFERENCE - william's taste style.

William in his 50's. Fairly conservative musician. Not one for fashion and fads. Sticks to more timeless, classic furniture.

Still buys modern furniture, but when he does its of a 1980's traditional timeless style. There is nothing hipster about him?

The odd piece of high end, danish mid century perhaps...for a dining table or occasional chair, but otherwise it's predominantly antiques, inherited and bought and traditional modern.

The sense that Ledroit and he are very different - love, despite their differences in class, interests and occupation.

The place is elegant, but rugs, sofas, fabric etc make it feel homely. A good place to entertain. A refuge from the city.

The place also feels worldy...
Art, music. William is cultured.
Travelling with the orchestra he's
collected ornaments and art from
around the world.



































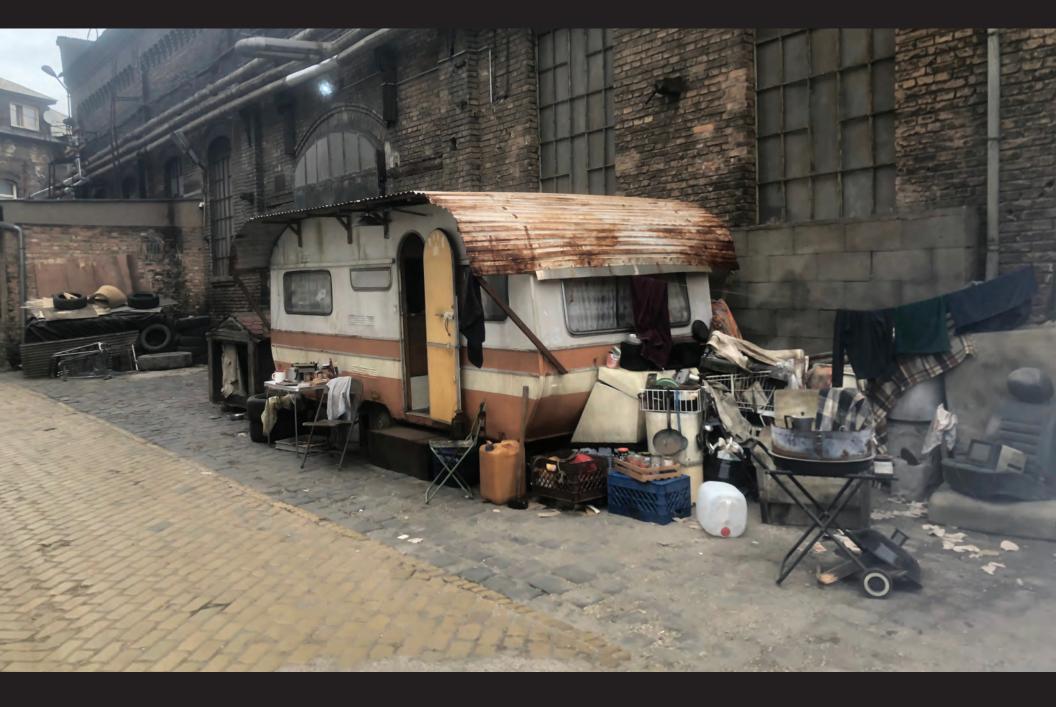


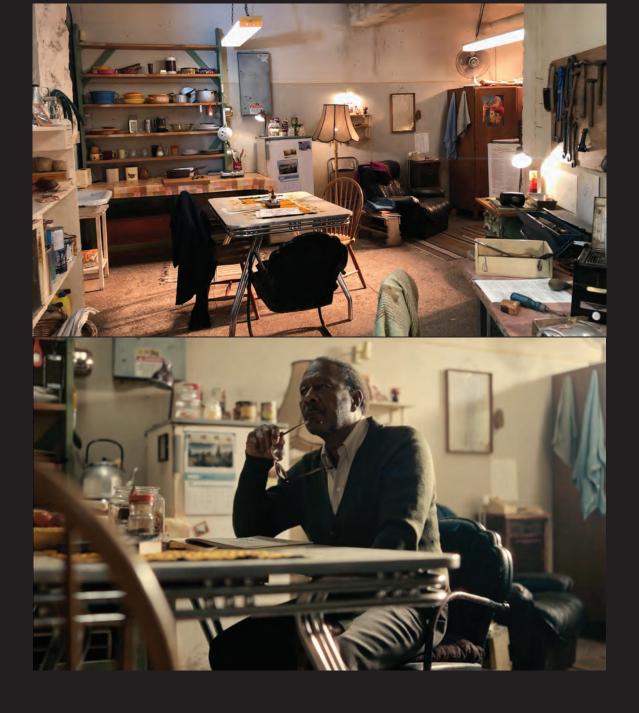


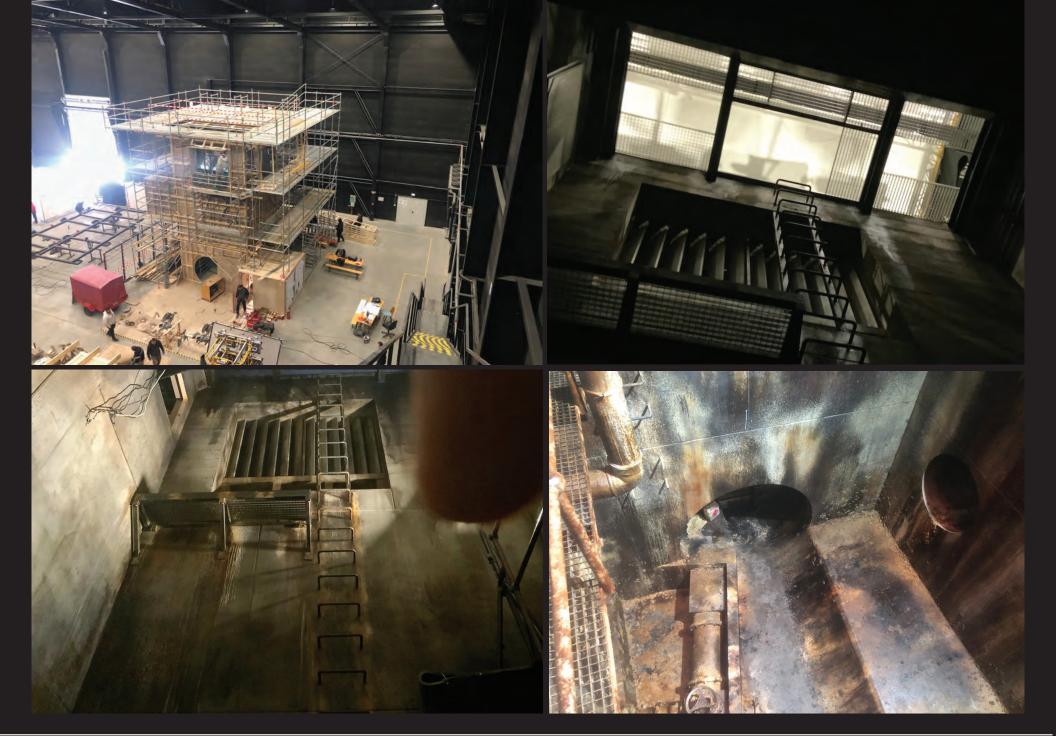




Other sets















GRAPHICS & ARTWORK - A SELECTION











Illustrations by Rhiannon Fraser





Lead Graphics - Matthew Hindle





SUBWAY_STAIRWELL ADVERTS

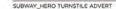




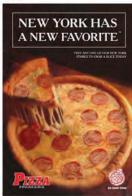




















Lead Graphics - Matthew Hindle

