

PRODUCTION DESIGNER: SUPERVISING ART DIRECTOR:

G ART DIRECTOR: MARTIN KELLY SET DECORATOR: STUART BRYCE

MIKE GUNN











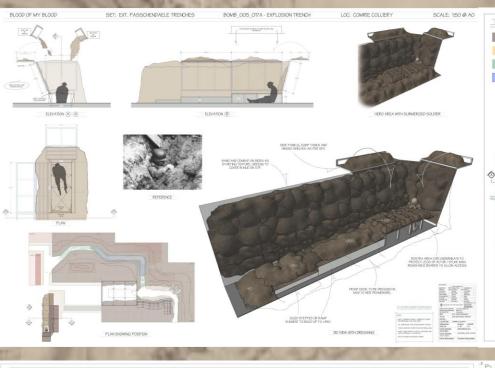


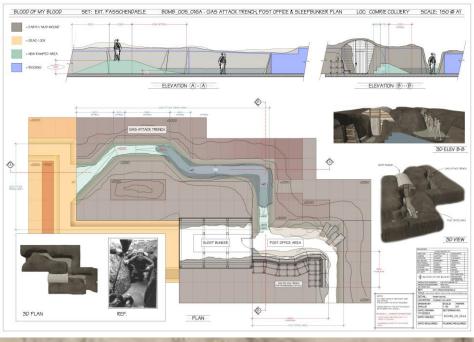


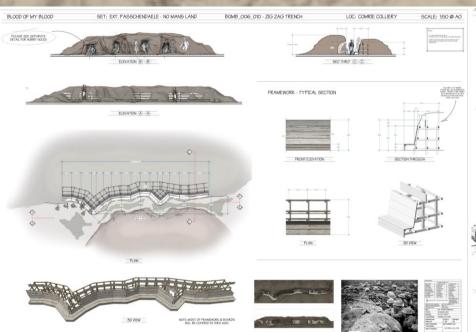


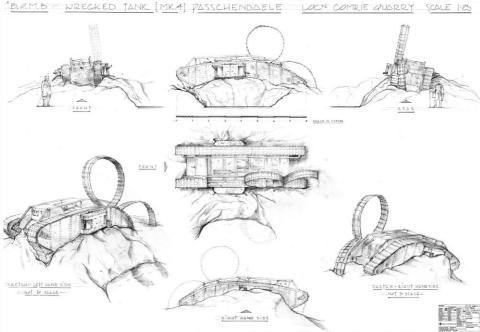






































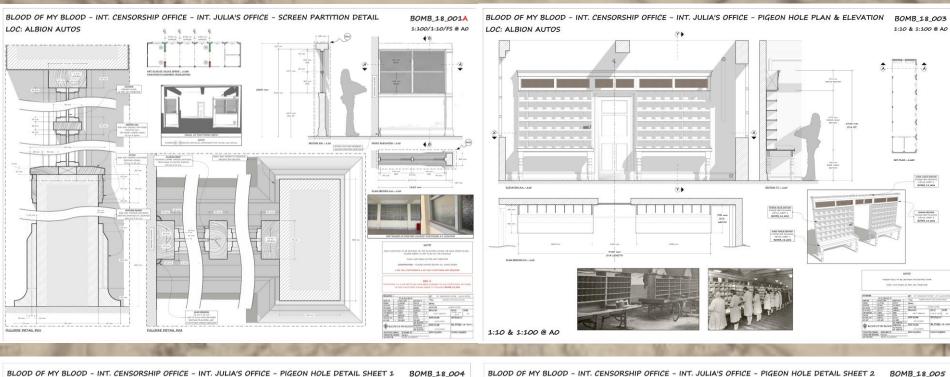


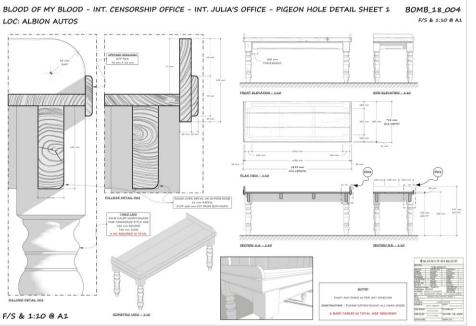


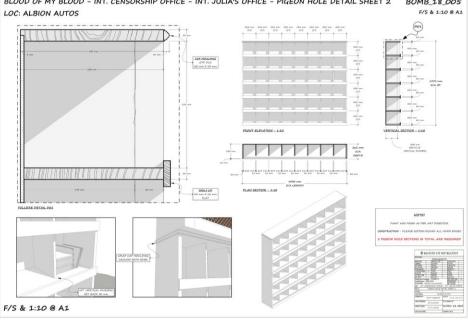


















LOCATION PHOTO BEFORE SET DRESSING

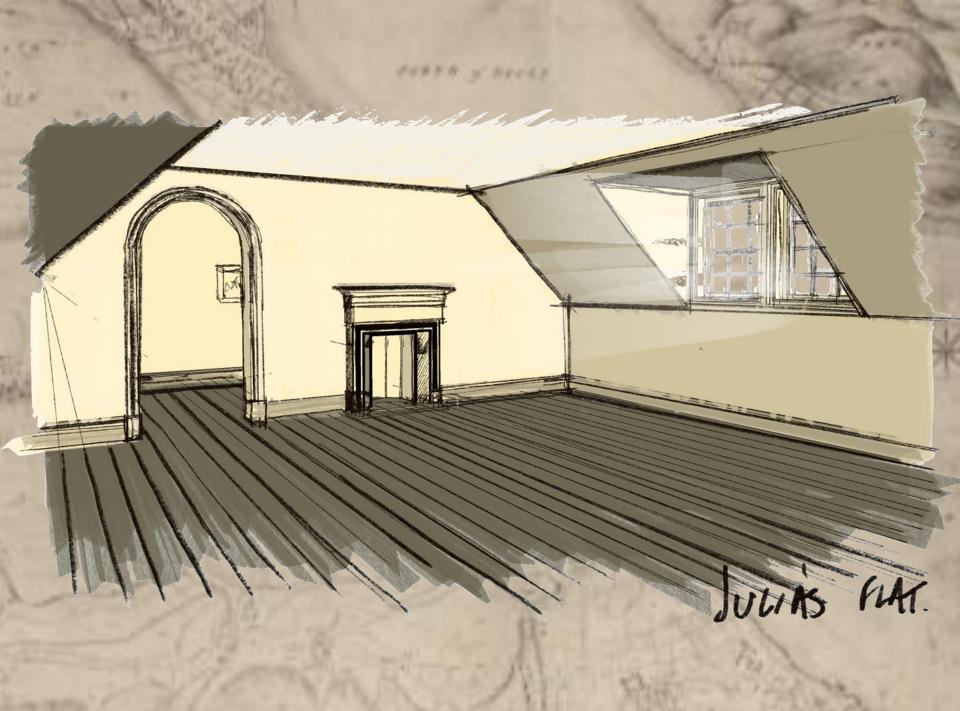






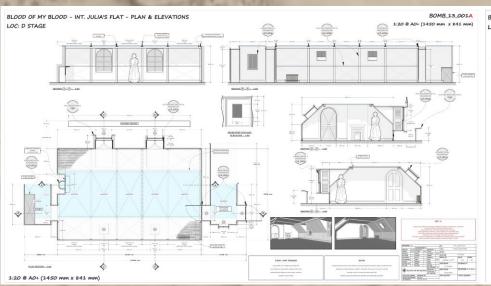


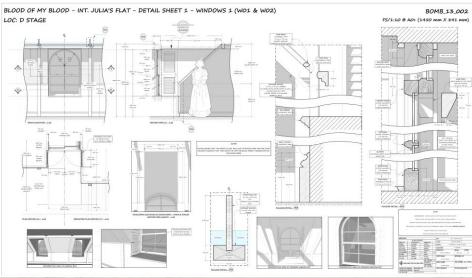


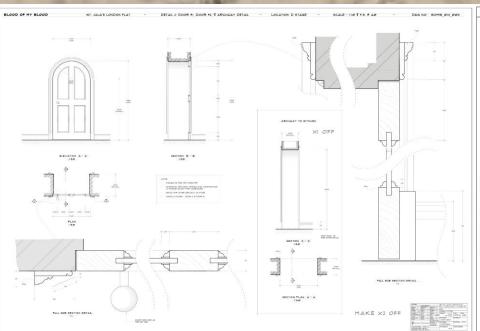


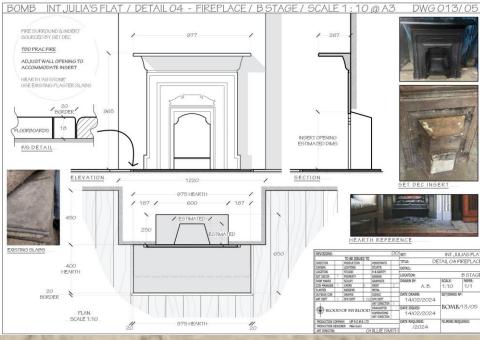














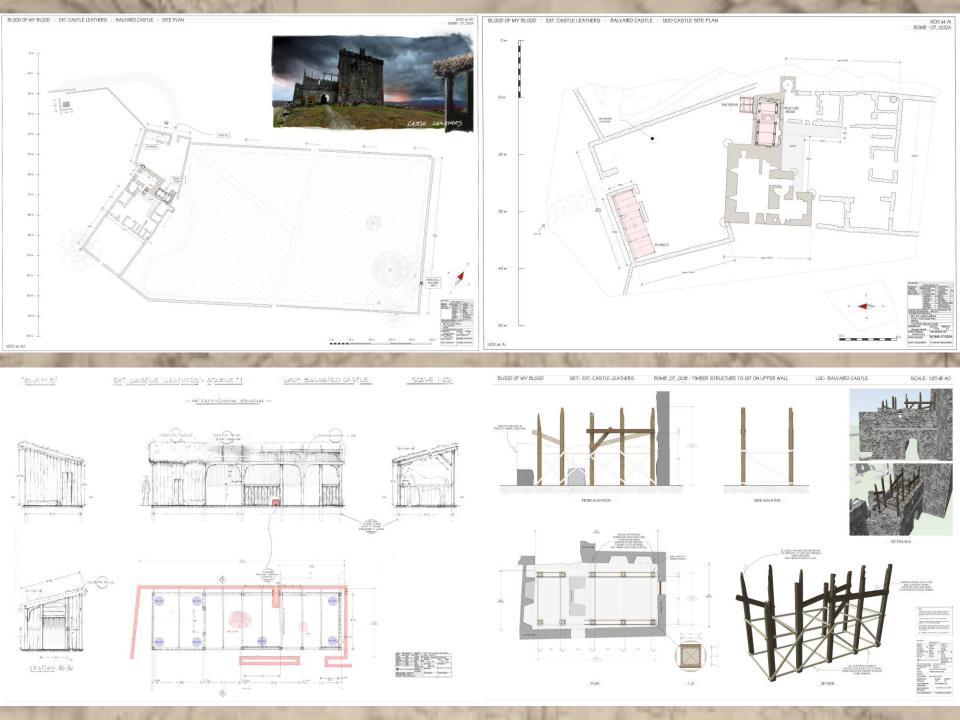














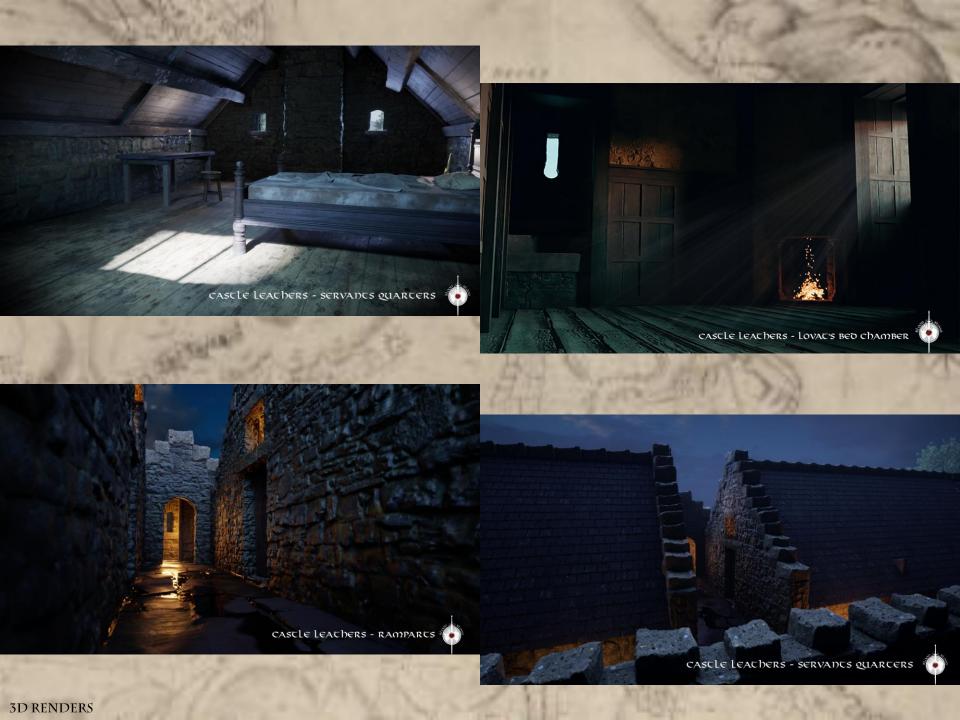


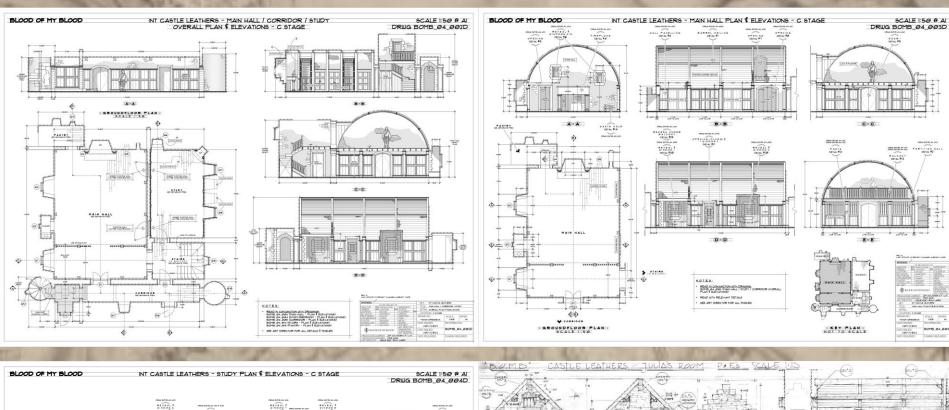


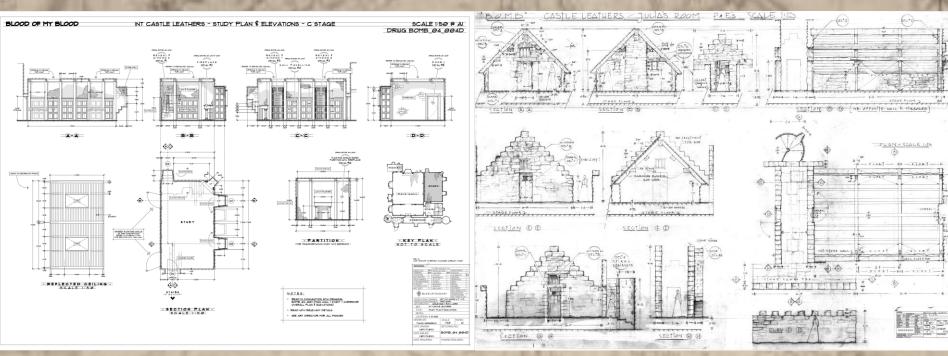


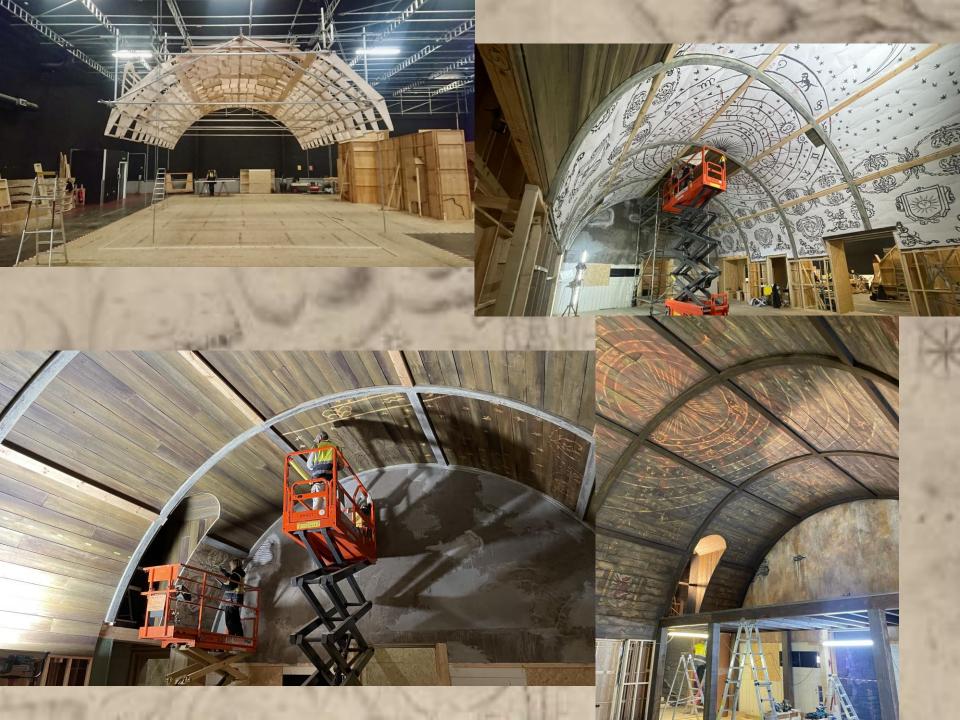




































PRODUCTION DESIGN STATEMENT

Across the season, we built 134 sets across 31 locations and six sound stages, spanning 200 years of history. For this episode, we focused on four contrasting environments that carried the emotional weight of the narrative while remaining historically authentic: the devastated First World War battlefield of Passchendaele, the Redaction Office, where the war was filtered into bureaucracy, the cozy sanctuary of Julia's Flat, and the medieval fortress of Castle Leathers.

Each world reflects the contrasting imprisonment of our characters across different time periods, taking the audience on a journey from the grandeur of the past, through the destruction of the battlefield, to the quiet oppressiveness of the home front—a narrative arc spanning two centuries.

From my interpretation of the scripts and close collaboration with the Writers and Producers, I developed a comprehensive design brief supported by conceptual sketches and models. These allowed me to entrust the Supervising Art Director with translating the concepts into detailed plans, elevations, and 3D models, ensuring each set was buildable, practical, and visually precise. The Set Decorator then layered the spaces with objects, textures, and lived-in details, giving the actors and camera a world of depth and truth to inhabit.

Passchendaele posed the greatest technical challenge: constructing trench systems and a battlefield that could convey scale, chaos, and horror. The sets combined layered timber, corrugated iron, and sandbags with artificially waterlogged earth to evoke the soaked, decaying terrain. We built tanks, burnt-out vehicles, shattered trees, bunkers, and collapsing trenches that could be flooded and drained. Personal debris enhanced the authenticity, resulting in an immersive, visceral environment that allowed the audience to experience the grim reality and unrelenting tragedy of the Western Front.

In contrast, the **Redaction Office** risked monotony. The challenge was to make a paper-based environment cinematic. I designed the space with visual rhythm and depth, while the Set Decorator filled it with period-accurate details—typewriters, mailbags, stacked files, and ledgers. This layering conveyed the overwhelming scale of wartime bureaucracy and the emotional disconnect between clerical order and frontline chaos. Our love letter became the *needle in a worldwide bureaucratic haystack*.

Julia's Flat is a cozy yet cramped 1920s London attic garret. With sloping ceilings, exposed rafters, and muted earth tones, the space exudes warmth and intimacy. Dark, well-worn furniture, a cast-iron bed, and literary clutter create a bohemian sanctuary for a working woman in post-WWI England—a personal refuge in contrast to the wider world's turbulence.

Castle Leathers required a balance between ancient grandeur and ruin. The location provided a skeletal framework that we expanded with extensive exterior construction to enhance its scale and authenticity through medieval stonework and crumbling ruins. The interiors, built on stage, showcased an enormous vaulted ceiling brought to life through detailed scenic painting. Historic furnishings, tapestries, and chandeliers added richness, while weathered finishes and lighting emphasized both power and fragility.

This episode was chosen because it demonstrates the **full range of the Production Design team's work**—from the architectural authority of a medieval castle, to the devastated landscapes of the Western Front, and finally to the intimate precision of the home and the office. These four sets highlight every discipline within the Art Department—**Graphics, Prop Making, Scenic Painting, Plasterwork, Drapes and Textiles, Construction, and Set Decoration**—showcasing the **versatility, ambition, and precision** that define our team's craft.