

Hoodoo Love Script Treatment

Little Theatre

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Introduction

The following document is a script treatment for *Hoodoo Love*. This document breaks down the play scene-by-scene with descriptions of lighting will aid in the storytelling. Research images are used throughout to help indicate how the lighting in specific moments. I am open to thoughts and feedback to this document

Overall

Hoodoo Love is a play set in Memphis, TN during the Depression Era. Toulou has dreams of becoming a blues singer alongside her lover Ace. When Ace, her blues playing lover, continually leaves her, she puts a spell on him with the help of her neighbor Candy Lady. Her brother, Jib comes into town and creates even more difficulties. Toulou is left dealing with the consequences of her decisions.

Lighting Concept

The linear nature of the show calls for lighting to help move the narrative and guide the audience through this passage of time. Using textures and natural shades of lighting, the audience will get the sense of the gritty world that the characters inhabit. The lighting will incorporate subdued color palettes to create a warm and cozy southern town while also using shadows to create a murky tension filled world. The show also veers away from the realistic world and into a world filled with magic and supernatural energy. Lighting will support this with surrounding the set with swirling textured and unnaturally colored light to match the mystic energy in the environment.

Scene by Scene

Act 1

Prologue – Outside Toulou’s Shack



The show begins at night outside of Toulou’s shack while she goes through her mojo bag and sings a song. Lighting will draw focus to Toulou with pale blue and lavender moonlight while the remaining surround remains hidden in a textured darkness.

Scene 1 – Toulou’s Shack

The story shifts to the inside of the shack as Toulou tries to convince Ace to take her with him so that she can live out her dream of being a blues singer. The lighting for the world outside of the shack will be bathed in saturate blues and organic textures to give the appearance of moon light (Image 1.1). Meanwhile, inside the shack, the lighting will use warm amber lighting to look like a candle lit room creating a cozy intimate environment (Image 1.2).



Image 1.1



Image 1.2

Scene 2 – Outside by the clothes line



We transition to the next afternoon, where Toulou and Candy Lady are talking about putting a spell on Ace when suddenly, Toulou's brother Jib appears. The conversation between Candy Lady and Toulou is very casual and light-hearted and when Jib enters, the energy for Toulou shifts to a resistant disdainful mood. The lighting will create a pleasant bright environment when the two ladies are

conversing and as the energy shifts the lighting will become more textured creating more shadows resembling impending storm clouds rolling in (Image 2.1).

Scene 3 – Outside the Shacks



The next morning, Candy Lady and Toulou are sitting on the porch talking when Ace returns. The lighting will mimic the natural pastel colors of an early morning sunrise with pastel pinks and lavenders (Image 3.1). The pastel colors will also symbolize the light-hearted first encounter that Ace and Jib have.

Scene 4 – Outside Shacks



We see Toulou coming from the alleyway having just come from Beale Street. Candy Lady is sitting on her porch when Toulou arrives home. For this scene we have moved from early morning and are going into evening. The lighting will use darker lavenders and pinks to show that the sun is beginning to set and the carefree nature of Toulou as she is returning home (Image 4.1).

Scene 5 – Outside on the Porches



This scene takes place the next afternoon as Candy Lady and Toulou sit outside on their porches. Candy Lady tells her friend that Ace is going to a club to perform with another woman before he leaves town. Toulou is upset and decides to finally let Candy Lady help put a spell on Ace. The lighting for this scene will be bright and full of natural colors because the sun will be at its highest point for that day (Image 5.1). The lighting will also support the heightened tension of the scene as Toulou lets her love for Ace cloud her judgment. This scene sets in motion the

events that will later change her life completely.

Scene 6 – Inside Toulou’s Shack/Outside

We transition to the inside of Toulou’s shack. Ace is laying in bed in agony after being given the potion from Toulou. The lighting for this moment will use warm ambers resembling the glow from candle light (Image 6.1) to create shadows and tension that echo the agony that Ace is in. Later in the scene, Toulou sneaks outside her shack to go speak with Candy Lady. As we shift our focus outside, the streaks of sunset will create saturate and dramatic colors on the scene (Image 6.2).



Image 6.1



Image 6.2

Scene 7 – Outside the Shacks

Nine days later, it is nighttime and Candy Lady and Toulou are between their shacks digging up the orange that they had previously planted. They are completing the last step of the spell that they are putting on Ace. The lighting will begin with saturate blues for the nighttime (Image 7.1) and as Toulou and Candy Lady are conjuring up the magic, the lighting will shift to shades of reds and purples as swirling textures consume the environment and surround them (Image 7.2).



Image 7.1

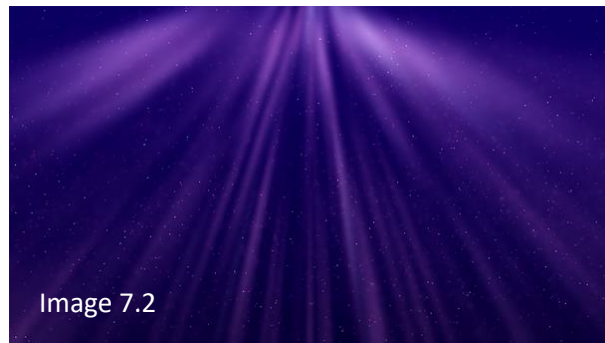


Image 7.2

Scene 8 – Juke Joint/Toulou’s Shack

The next scene begins with Ace and Toulou performing at the Juke Joint. The lighting for will isolate on Toulou and Ace while the rest of stage is washed in red light to resemble the club’s setting (Image 8.1). By the end of the song, we transition back to Toulou’s shack. The lighting will shift to the nighttime intimate cozy shack look (Image 8.2). The lighting will slowly isolate to just to Ace and Toulou to show their growing love and affections for one another.



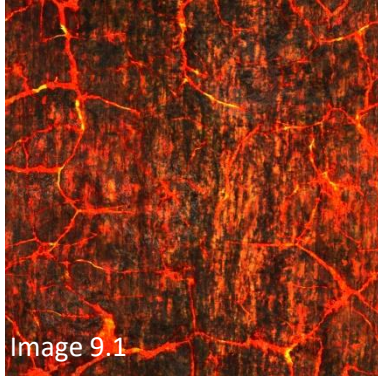
Image 8.1



Image 8.2

Scene 9 – Toulou’s Shack

It’s the next night and Ace leaves and plans to meet Toulou at their designated place. After he leaves, Jib comes back to Toulou’s place as she is trying to pack. Jib catches on to what she is doing and tries to stop her. At the end of the scene Jib rapes his sister and as she cries out for help, Candy Lady ignores her pleas. Inside of Toulou’s shack, the lighting will be the same warm candle light look as the previous scenes but when the rape moment occurs the lighting will become more shadowy and silhouetted to exemplify the tension (Image 9.1). Outside of the shack, lighting will silhouette Candy Lady with pale blue (Image 9.2) and lavender textured moonlight (Image 9.3).



Act 2

Scene 1 – Outside on Porches



Act 2 continues six months later with Toulou, who is now pregnant, outside strumming Ace's old guitar, while Candy Lady listens. Toulou tells her how she doesn't want her baby because it's Jib's and Candy Lady tells her the story about how she accidentally smothered her daughter. Their conversation on the porch takes place in the late afternoon, the lighting will be warmer natural colors to show that the sun is beginning to set around them (Image 10.1). The

saturate colors will also highlight the dark moments in both of their lives that they have faced and are conversing about.

Scene 2 – Toulou’s Shack

Toulou is sitting inside her shack looking at the red vial that Candy Lady has given her. During this moment the lighting inside will be the warm candle light as in the previous scenes. Later in the scene Ace shows up and sits on Toulou’s porch playing his guitar. As Toulou comes out to speak to Ace, the lighting outside will be the same as the previous night scene, however we will also see Orion’s Belt illuminated in the sky made with patterned lighting (Image 11.1).



Image 11.1

Scene 3 – Toulou’s Shack

A week later, Toulou returns home to find Ace drinking. He is antagonistic and confronts her about her mojo bag. Jib eventually emerges from the alleyway after being invited to stay there by Ace. The lighting for the inside of the shack will be warm like the sun is shining through the shack (Image 12.1). The outside world will be in warm pastel natural color palette for the sunrise (Image 12.2).

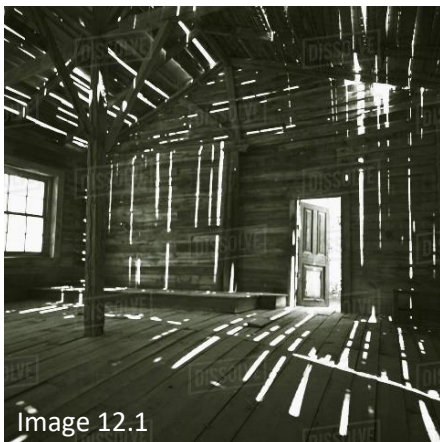


Image 12.1



Image 12.2

Scene 4 – Toulou’s Shack



Image 13.1

Ace and Jib come home drunk and begin playing cards. Throughout the game, Ace tries to interrogate Jib to discover if the rumors are true that Jib is the father of Toulou’s baby. Ace ends up winning Jib’s flask and drinks the poison Toulou had meant for Jib. Toulou returns home and tries to reverse the spell but she fails in saving Ace. The lighting for the shack will be the same as the previous nighttime shack scene (Image 13.1). When Ace drinks the potion, the voodoo color palette will

surround showing that the magical energy has returned. When Toulou runs to Ace the lighting will isolate them to show the love and compassion for each other in his last moments.

Epilogue- Outside Shacks



Image 14.1

In the final scene, Toulou is in front of the shacks about to take off for her new life. The lighting for this scene will be bright and sunny because it is the morning but will show the hope and new opportunity that Toulou has for her life (Image 14.1).