

Ilia Kemble

Professor Sheffield

TH488; TTH3-5:30PM

Miss Saigon Digital Binder

December 10, 2013

→ “Miss Saigon” is a very timely and poignant love story. It is set in Vietnam, during the Vietnam War. The story takes place between 1968 and 1970, right before and after the Fall of Saigon. I listened to and read the play multiple times, and was struck by the chaos that was taking place in Vietnam during this time. I thought that the story was beautiful, but that the events of the Vietnam War had left the people struggling to find their identity. Women, especially, were driven to sell their bodies in order to survive. Prostitution was, and still is a big industry in Vietnam. I decided that “beauty in chaos” would be the theme for my set design. I used for inspiration, impressionist and fauvist paintings of Vietnam. I used the painters techniques and color palettes to guide me in the creation of this world. I felt that the impressionist paintings helped me to fill the world with texture and color, giving the world a beauty that I would then throw into chaos using the fauvist paintings. Overall, I wanted to create an abstract world for my characters to live in, almost as if they were living inside one of those paintings.