



"Notes Act one Scene 1"

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Notes

Act one Scene 1

The curtain opens on ~~a collection~~ ^{an array}
of ~~very tall~~ shadows - thin, tall, ^{wavy} like

Giacometti statues - high and
howering against a back drop of

Red (I see the colors ~~and~~ as ~~red~~ ^{red}
& black). We hear "scratchy" sounds
which becomes
~~which~~ and a Chant. ~~The~~ Lights move

To reveal the source of the shadows:

~~groups~~ of slaves (about 20 ~~grouped~~ ^{into full and partial family relationships}) The shadows feel
I don't know what
1 ~~they~~ are chanting but the word NO
is distinguishable. Some of the
"no's" are ^{-timid.} fearful, some defiant
and some are like moans of pain.

~~The shadow face.~~

~~One voice~~ A woman's - ^{solo} ~~lifts~~

voice ^{raises} ~~out~~ ~~raises~~ above the Chants,

~~adding providing a refrain~~

Her lyrics provide a list of

what the "no's" are referring to:

an amalgam of horrible
~~E.g.~~ things ^{they} ~~fear~~ ^{will happen} and ~~their memories~~

~~lost~~ beautiful ~~memories~~ recollections
~~lost~~ anticipation of what will

be lost:

E.G. ^{chorus} NO

She ~~stand~~ of Rocking chairs
facing the rain

NO

~~broken skin from a lash~~
Skin broken by a cane.

Lights are altering and focusing
to reveal the woman ^{leading the} ~~serpent~~
(Margaret) ^{Sarg}

and ~~the~~ an apparatus indicating that

these people are restrained, penned

Something gestural - not realistic-
but powerful.
Perhaps a single ^{but menacing} twisted wire

Surrounds them & (~~as~~ for bidding
as police tape), or a series
of vertical bars spaced among
them ~~so the~~ in such a way
that the slaves are inhabited
by the bars - their movements
limited by them.

~~As the music~~

Enter a crowd of white people
prominently an auctioneer who
quickly ~~reads~~ and businesslike sets
up his podium. To the crowd
he announces the opening of the
Sale. His libretti will provide
the info: "By the powers ^{approved} ~~those~~
by the ^{great} state of K and invested
in me, I hereby declare on

afternoon of the ^{May} [month] Boone
X day of 1856 in # County

~~At~~ the opening sale of
at the John Gaines estate of
to be open. All bids etc. in
(Here a nod to - Gaines who stands apart)

^{Audience} Begin with the slaves: (he lists

them - name age gender, while

his list is delivered. The man

noded to Gaines steps toward the

Slaves with some gesture

(or word) of regret. * He John Gaines

moves downstage and is

surprised by the arm of
another man on his shoulder.

Archie!

Brother!

You NEVER said a word
Looks like I got here just in time

* Factioneer & helper
up slaves lines slaves
up children - women
men in separate
lines.

in Time?

The Auctioneer brings forward a
10 year old girl and hears
bid.

Archibald interrupts saying
he is bidding on the lot as is
his privilege
Slaves' relief (re grouping as families)
Crowd consternation and
John's disbelief.

J. What is this? ~~the~~ Maplewood
costs a fortune.

A. Precisely. (He flashes \$)

J. You?

A. ME. Why not me?

J. Well

A. You think I stole it? Or
won it ~~at~~ at cards?

J.

Well

A.

Don't write me off ^{yet.} Governor

(sung with smiling
envy)

Not yet. I know what you

think. ~~Never~~ A widower

gone to seed, Roots withered,

stalk pere. No blossom but

my only child. Elizabeth

etc. with Chorus accompanying

Their exchange ^{strongly} exposes
their the
uneasiness of their
relationship

Then:

J.

What are your plans for
~~the~~ the home our father made?
If it is a stake in game
I'd just as soon sell it
piece by piece.

A.

I will make it grander
than ever. It will be etc.

(his dreams
of mastery
& power)

Interrupting
Against his ~~dreams~~ descriptions
are John's words of caution about power
~~words of caution~~
& plea for benevolent authority.

as:
shape it
A. I will have it in my hands.

J. A strong hand is not a fist

A. Yields will double in
my hands. Work will triple
in my hands

J. Slaves ~~need~~ ^{lies} are in your
hands.

A. So is their death - if ~~then~~
as they surely know.

At this moment the Slaves exit -
Margaret turning around to
look at the brothers. * ^{Her} ~~the~~ ^{gracometti} Shadow
~~to return~~ ascends and looms.

* They
turn
toward her





