

Michael Chekhov

August 19, 1939

Suggestions Arising Out of Showing of Models
of Sets for Adventures of Samuel Pickwick, Esq. at Ridgefield

Scene I: MRS. BARDELL'S HOUSE

1. Two upright constructions of the platform to be as light as possible in weight.
2. Replace flat between kitchen and hall with hat rack.
3. Move kitchen steps downstage with possible platform separate units.
4. Open upstairs door between Tommy's room and Pickwick's room into Pickwick's room, hinges to be upstage. Stage right upstage door in Pickwick's room to open on with hinges up-stage. Downstage door on stage right in Pickwick's Room to open on stage, hinges upstage.
5. Lower the railing of Pickwick's staircase as much as possible.

Scene II: THE BLUE LION INN

1. Fix balcony over-hanging stage-left in "Blue Lion".
2. Be sure to have kitchen door down-left in "Blue Lion".
3. Provide two tables with not more than three chairs at each table. Also arm-chairs by the fireside.
4. In "Blue Lion" up and down-stage open-back bench between kitchen and entrance area.
5. Don't forget several tall English chairs with open-backs.
6. Make the proscenium opening wider.
7. Provide exit from balcony on stage-left in Inn if possible.
8. Bring downstage Arabella's door.
9. Add door to present shop from stage-right in "Blue Lion" as if to interior of Inn.
10. Provide exit from balcony right upstairs as well as down-left side.
11. The exit from upstairs right on balcony goes to interior of Inn.

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12. Down left doorway to Inn for Weller.
13. Entrance to the Inn under the balcony in "Blue Lion" in reverse order - stage-left instead of stage-right.
14. Try to angle Arabella's room and bring it as far downstage as possible.
15. Provide staircase on stage-left from balcony in "Blue Lion" upstage circular.
16. Snodgrass and Emily's doors open off-stage - hinges downstage.
17. Wardle's bedroom door to touch the dividing wall.
18. If hanging permits it would be nice if we could have the beds in the "Blue Lion" a little downstage from the roof tops.
19. Rake Arabella's bedroom as much as possible. If necessary Arabella's room can be made more shallow.
20. Make platform holding Arabella's room, i.e. the kitchen, as wide as possible and on a rake. It will not matter if Weller's door is at right angles to the foots.
21. In revising the glass wall of the Inn, reduce the size of mullions as much as possible.
22. Bench in downstage-right below balustrade.
23. One table and three chairs in the entrance of the Inn and two tables with chairs on stage.
24. Keep kitchen door downstairs from Arabella as is.
25. If possible try to make the balasters on the balcony a little thinner.

Scene III: MRS. WELLER'S INN

1. If possible put the back of Mrs. Weller's Inn in the same grove that was used in the "Blue Lion."
2. It would be nice to drop the roof of Mrs. Weller's Inn to a lower level.
3. Question of the door on the balcony to open or not - this

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to be decided later.

4. The window on the balcony on stage-left should be transparent.

Scene IV: COURT SCENE

1. Discard door in Fogg's office.
2. Make Judge's desk narrower - also the two central clerk's desks.
3. Revise steps to Judge's room stage-right - top steps only.
4. Jurymen's door should be raised one foot.
5. Bench behind jurymen's box.