



Notes from the Underground

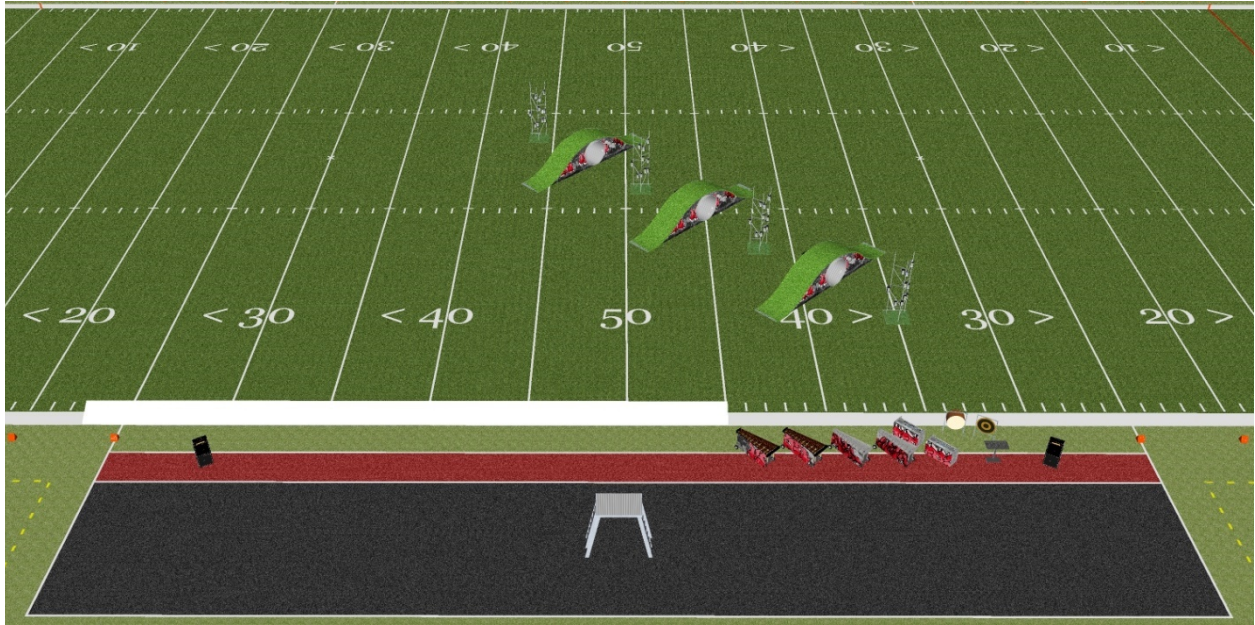
Fannin Musical Productions

For too long have we hidden below... now, we will rise!

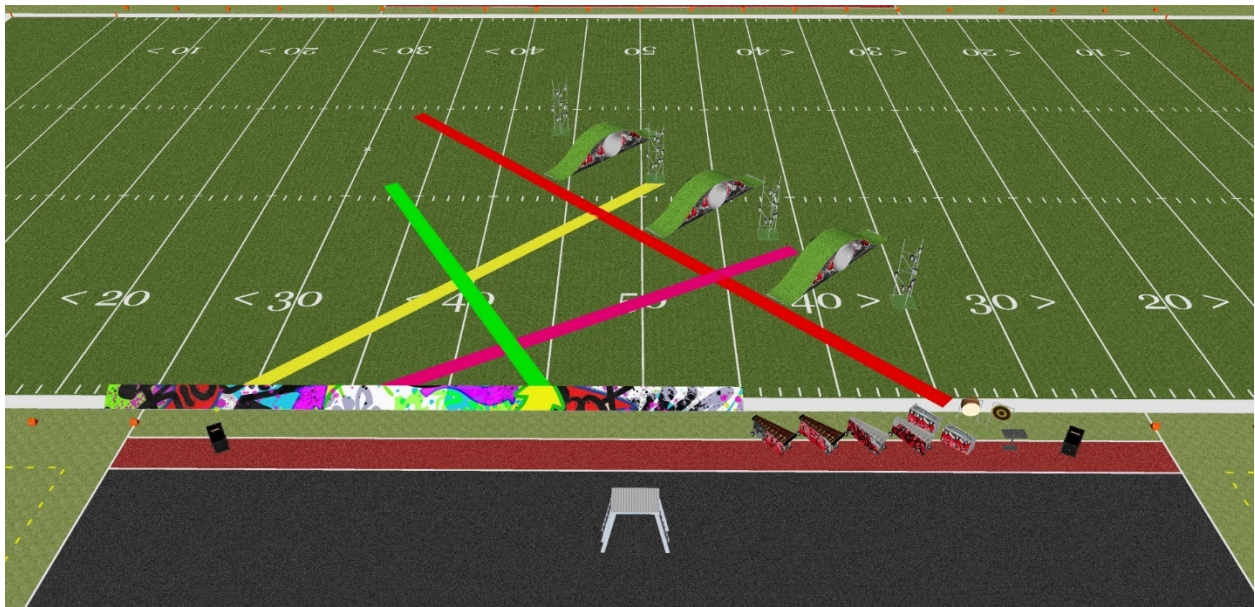
Gritty, passionate, and universal, *Notes from the Underground* captures the rebellious defiance of those society has cast aside or ignored. Your students will instantly connect with the spirit of protest and self-expression this show embodies, enabling them to get in to character and perform their hearts out. Featuring original music by Matt Hightower and sly arrangement of Nirvana's 'Heart Shaped Box,' and a clever visual design which literalizes the concept of rising up from below, *Notes from the Underground* will bring both home crowds and judging panels to their feet.

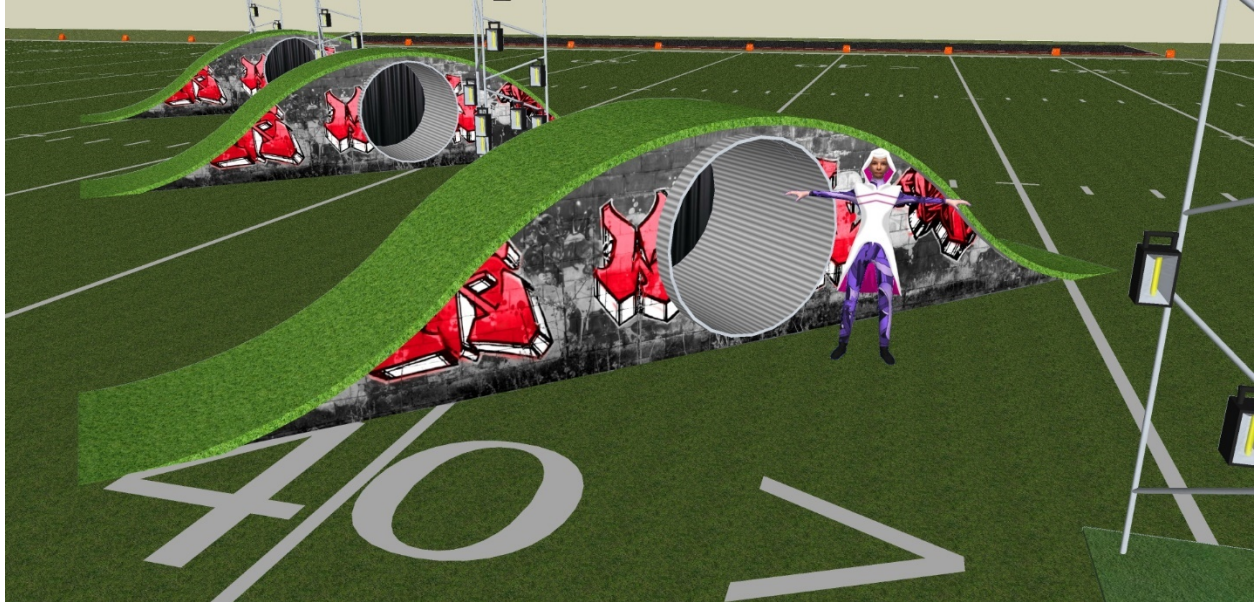
This show requires copyright clearance to perform.

Set Design and Props



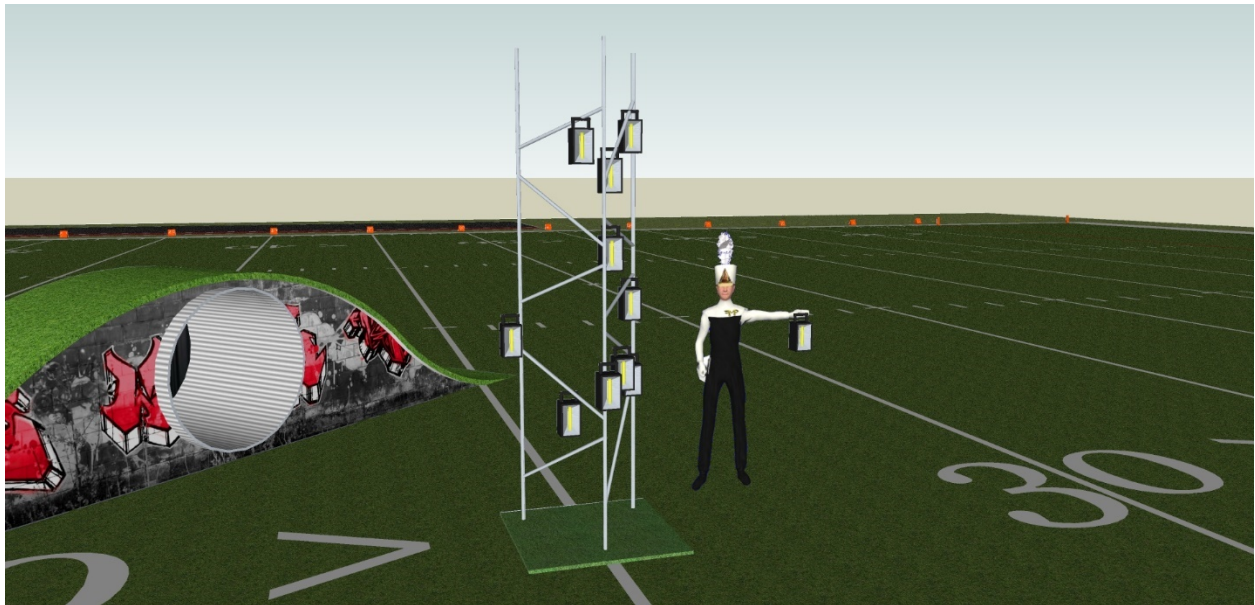
The set design for Notes from the Underground immediately transports the audience to a gritty, urban setting, and features a number of prop possibilities to enhance your performance. Striking to begin with, the props allow the set to be completely transformed by the end of the show for an even larger visual impact which demonstrates the triumph of the downtrodden.

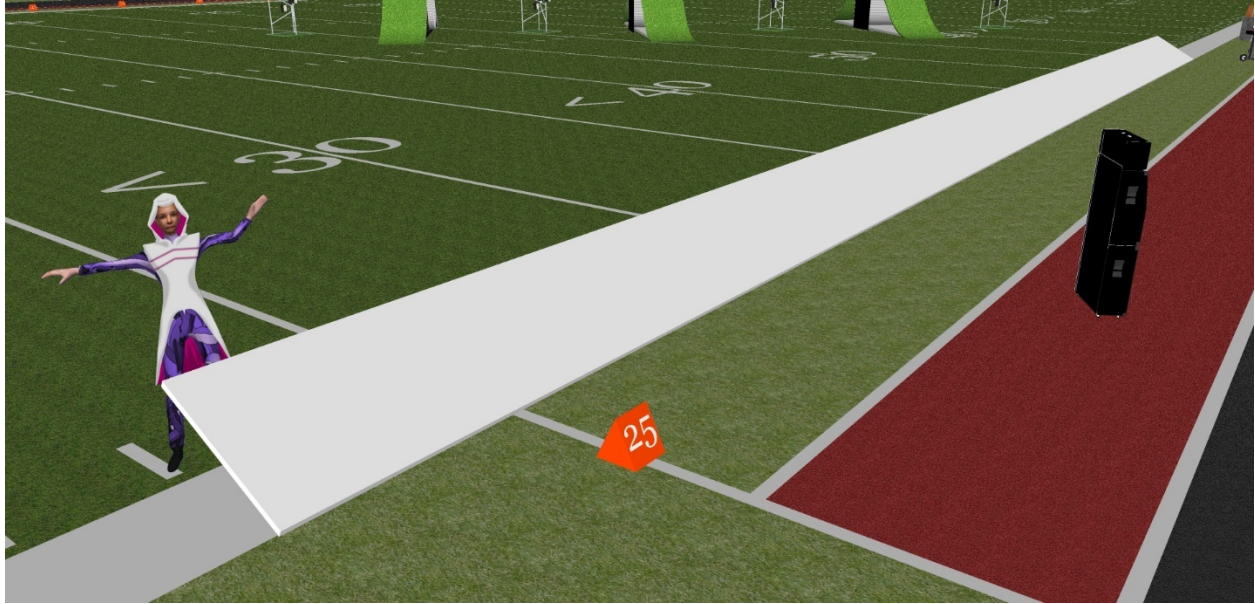




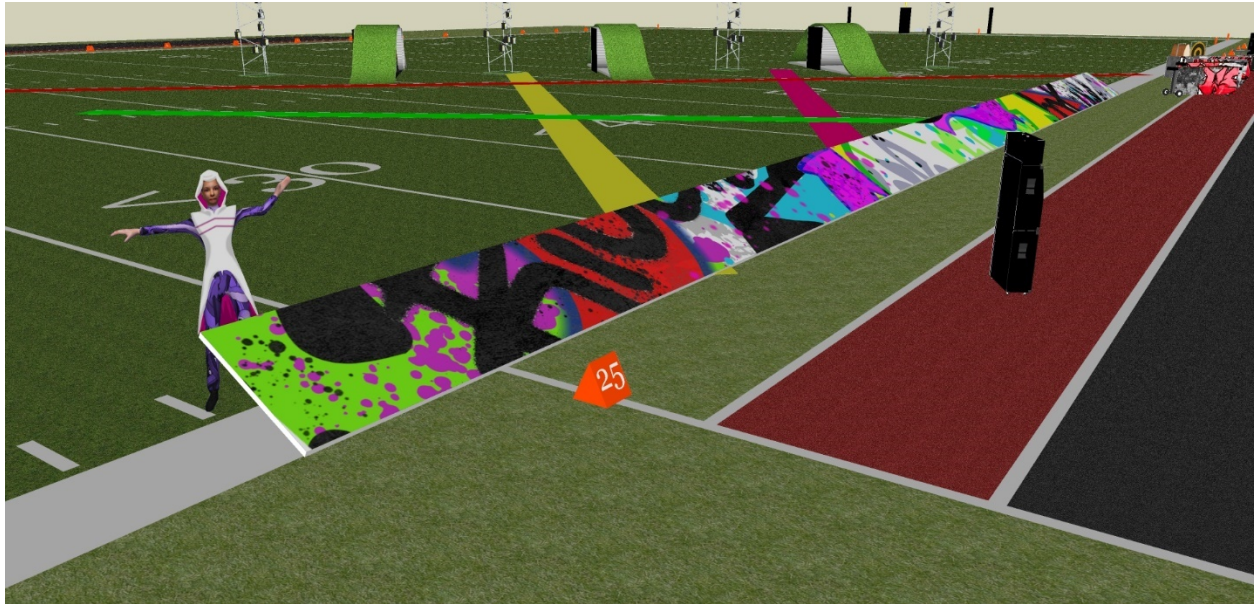
The key props for this show are designed to mimic culverts, graffiti tagged entrances to the literal underground. Performers may pass through and over these adaptable, multifunction props. Construction blueprints and high-quality, digitally printed vinyl are available from our partners at Total Visual Design.

A further prop option are these climbable, steel towers which continue the theme of climbing up from below. Hanging from the props are removable, hand held LED lanterns of the sort available at any camping or outdoors store which can be used for a key effect in the ballad.





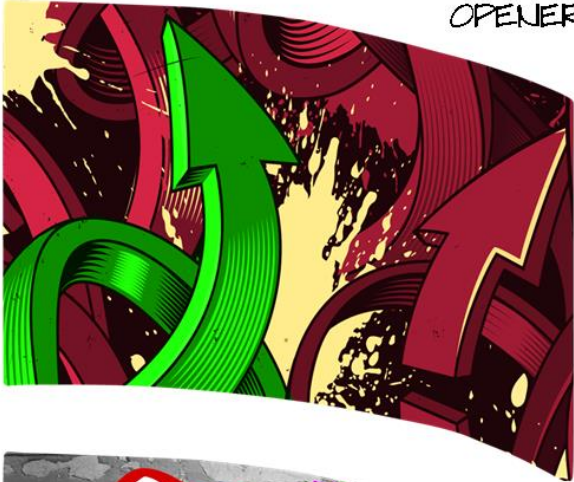
Finally, a long sideline screen runs the length of the Side A front sideline. Initially white to hide against the white paint on the edges of many college football fields, during the closer they may be transformed via the use of bright, graffiti tagged vinyls that alter the whole mood of the stage. High-quality, digitally printed vinyls are available from our partners at Total Visual Design.



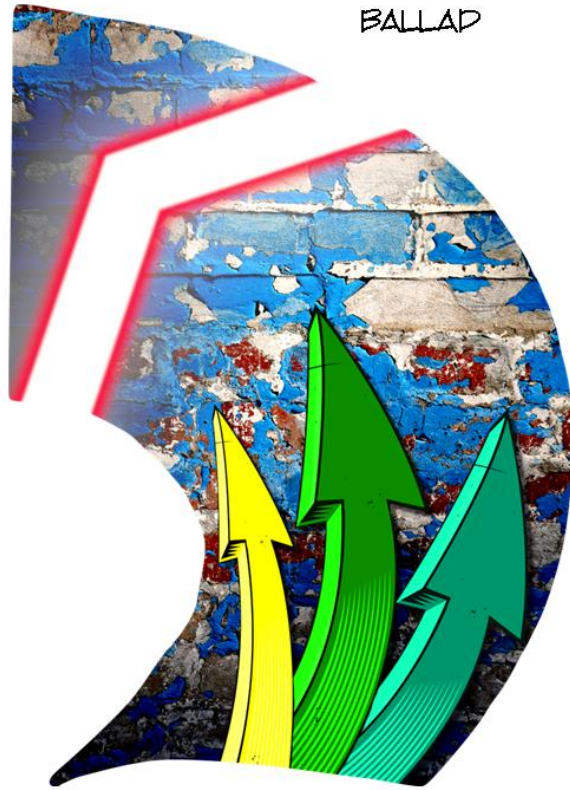
Costuming & Flag Silks



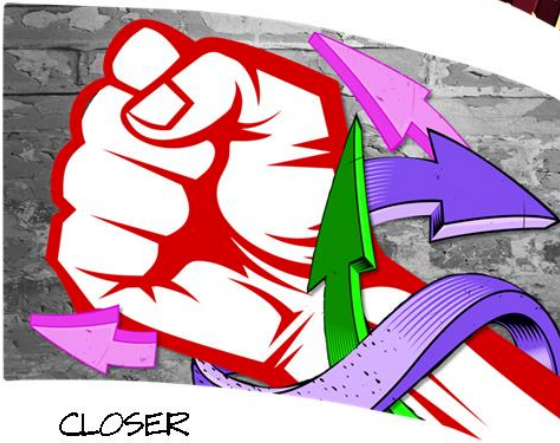
The costume design for *Notes from the Underground* incorporates a hood which is lowered and raised at different points to illustrate the rise of the downtrodden into the light. A chevron motif points upward to tie back to the theme as well. An optional musician costume design is available as well.



OPENER



BALLAD

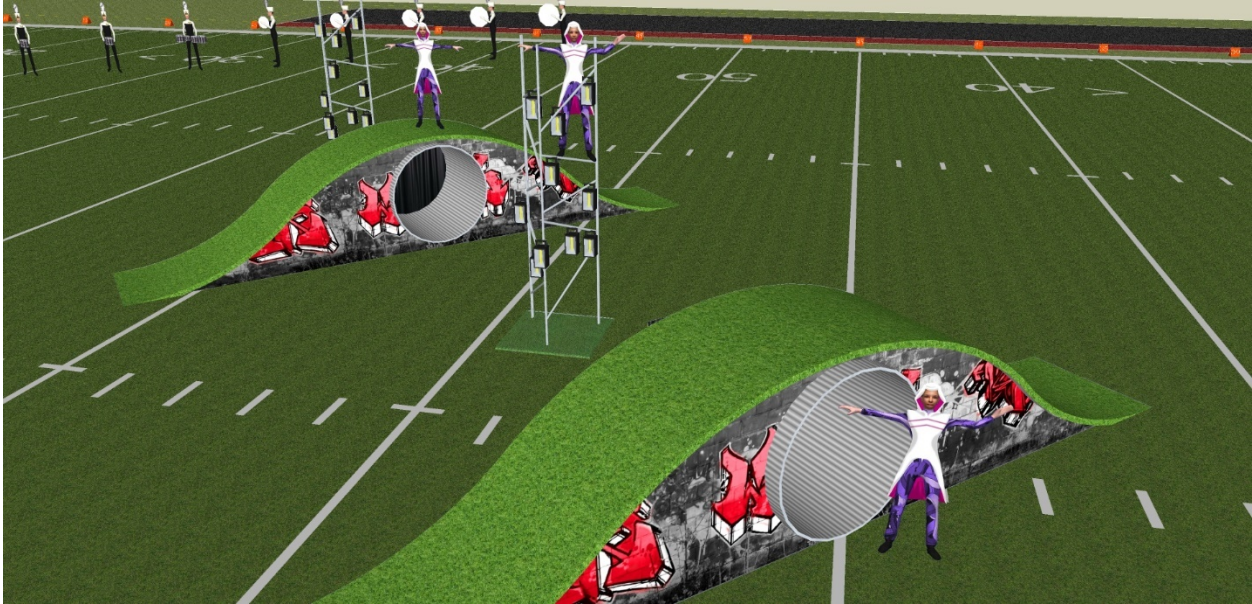


CLOSER

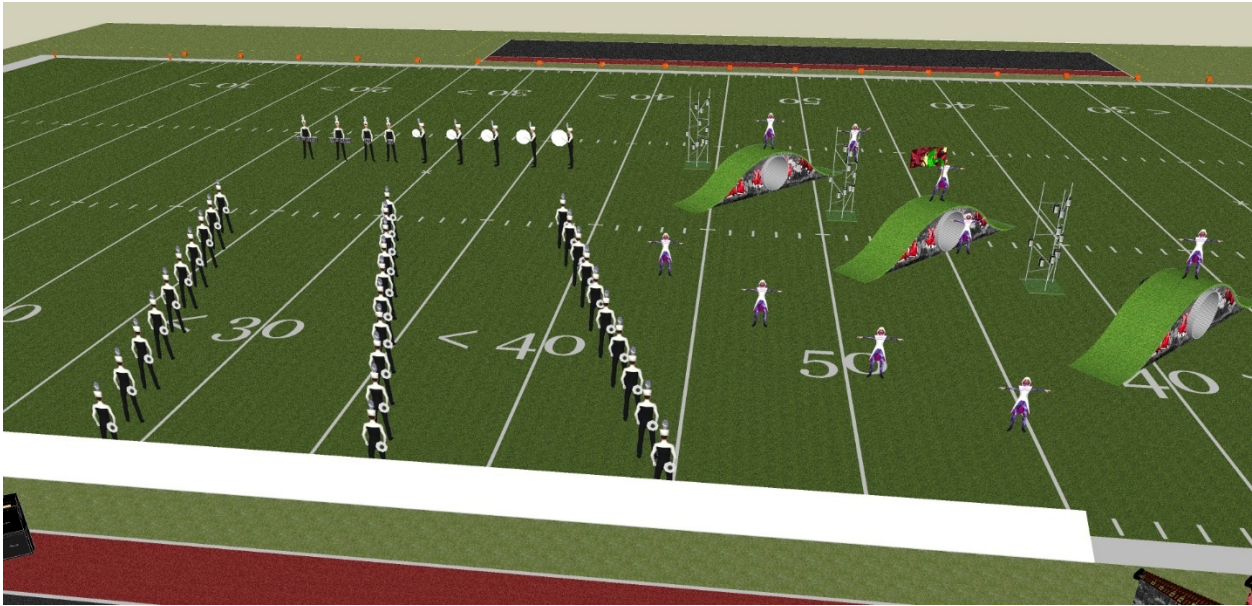
The flag silks are tied together by the repeating visual motifs of graffiti and bold, striking arrows that give the program dimensionality and dynamism. Combined with the guard costume they create an excitement and energy that immediately connects with the audience as your performers enter the field.

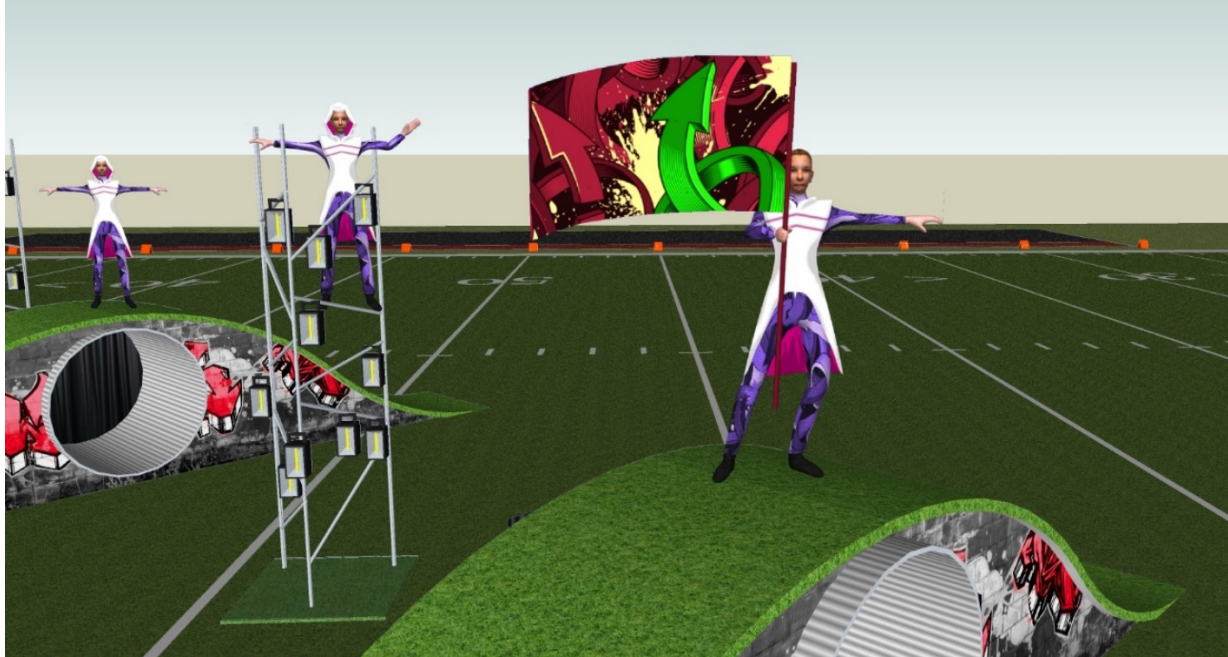


Movement 1 Effects



As the show begins, the field is curiously empty with most performers hidden. Then, as the pit enters musically, they begin to emerge: through the culvert props, climbing the towers, and in the case of the majority of the musicians, from behind the sideline screen. The visual design, in this way, literalizes the concept of rising up from below and immediately connects the dots for effect judges and audiences.





The color guard, meanwhile, introduces our first flag silk: a bold red and vibrant green, signaling defiance.

Finally, all elements come together for a color filled, impactful opening statement!





The musical book then proceeds aggressively, providing abundant opportunities for each section of the ensemble to take the spotlight. First, the woodwinds...

...and then, the brass. The unique set design provides a wide variety of staging possibilities for your drill writer to explore as the first movement proceeds to a rebellious, high energy conclusion.

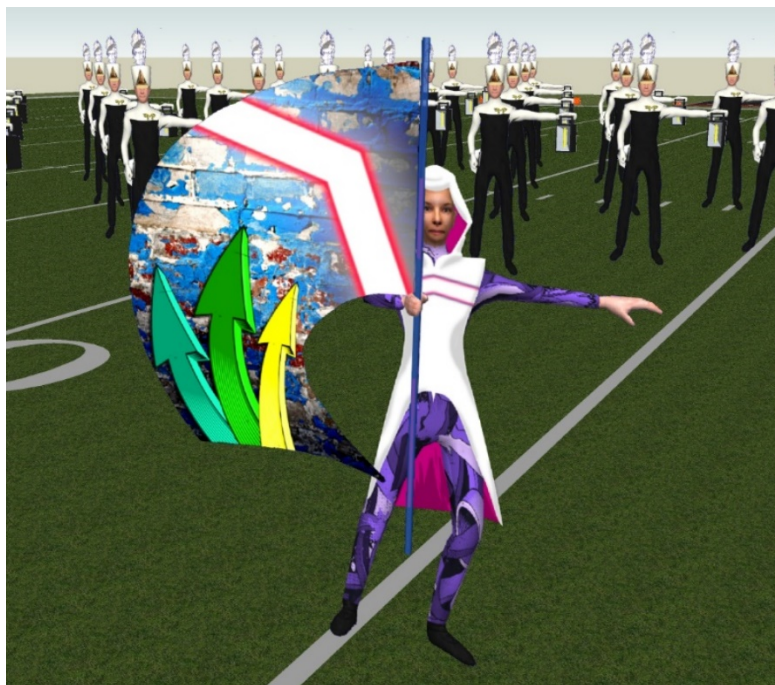


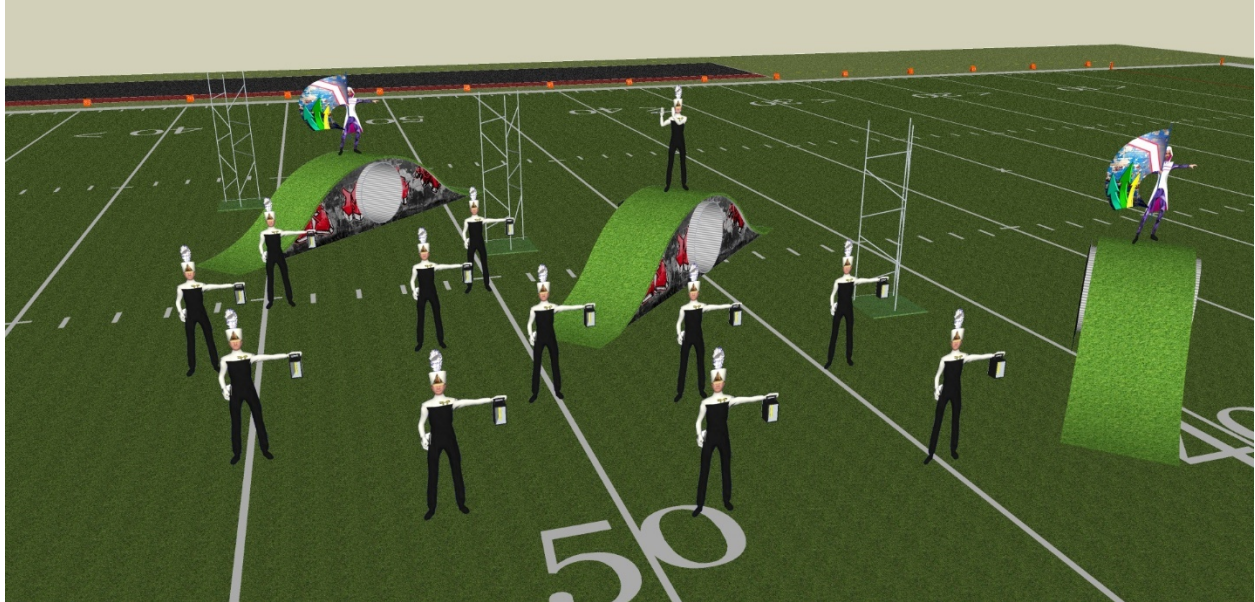
Movement 2 Effects



In the second movement, audience members—and judges—of a certain age will smile from ear to ear as they begin to recognize Nirvana’s immortal, “Heart Shaped Box,” here reworked into a haunting, surprising ballad. With pit percussion featured in the opening moments, the horns are free for visual expression, removing the LED lanterns from the towers as a literalization of the defiant “light in the darkness” that the downtrodden uprising represents.

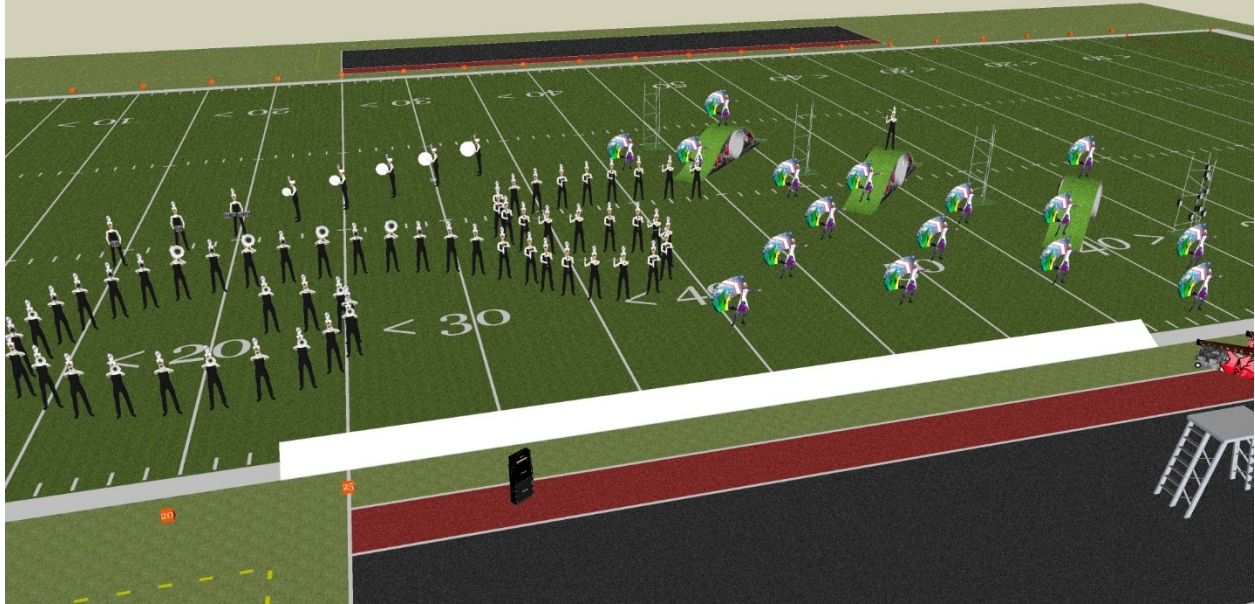
Meanwhile, the oversized swing flag, ballad silk reinforces the theme, utilizing the same design language as the uniform and the opener silk for a unified, cohesive effect.





The melodic line is introduced by a soloist—here illustrated as a flautist, but our arrangers can customize the part to suit your most talented players—and the eye is drawn to them by the LED lanterns and the body choreography that makes them effective.

Finally, the soloist is joined by the full ensemble for a bracing, impactful high moment on the full “Heart Shaped Box” motif expressive of the righteous anger and indomitable spirit of those society has cast aside.

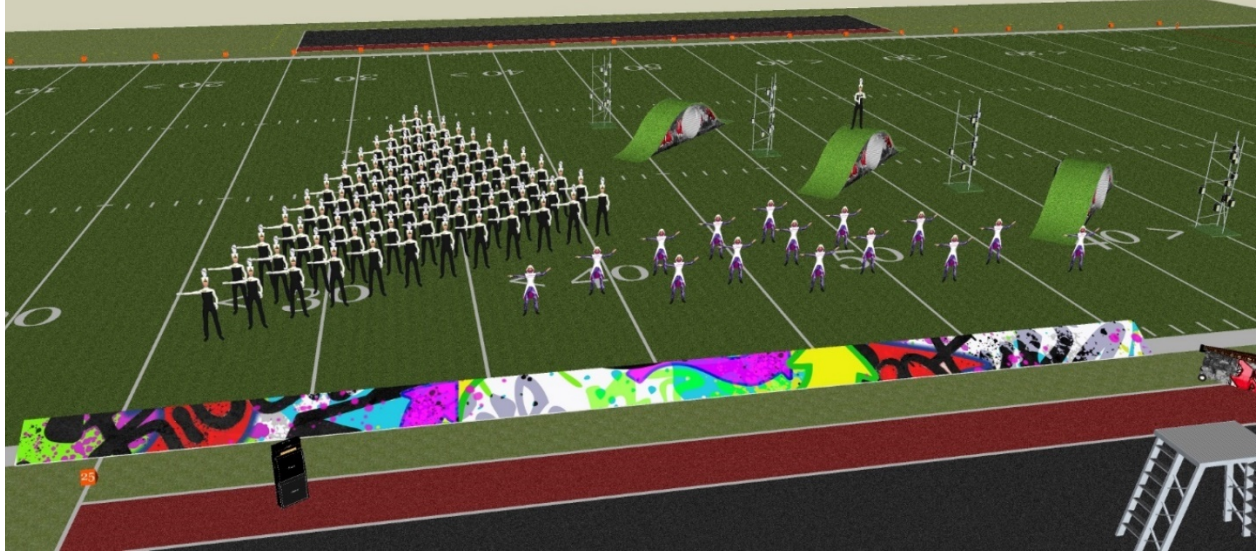


Movement 3 Effects



The beginning of Movement 3 provides an opportunity for your drumline to retake the spotlight, and for the horns to perform some exciting drill and choreography which the set design makes possible. The guard introduces our final flag silk: the defiant raised first of rebellion and defiance!

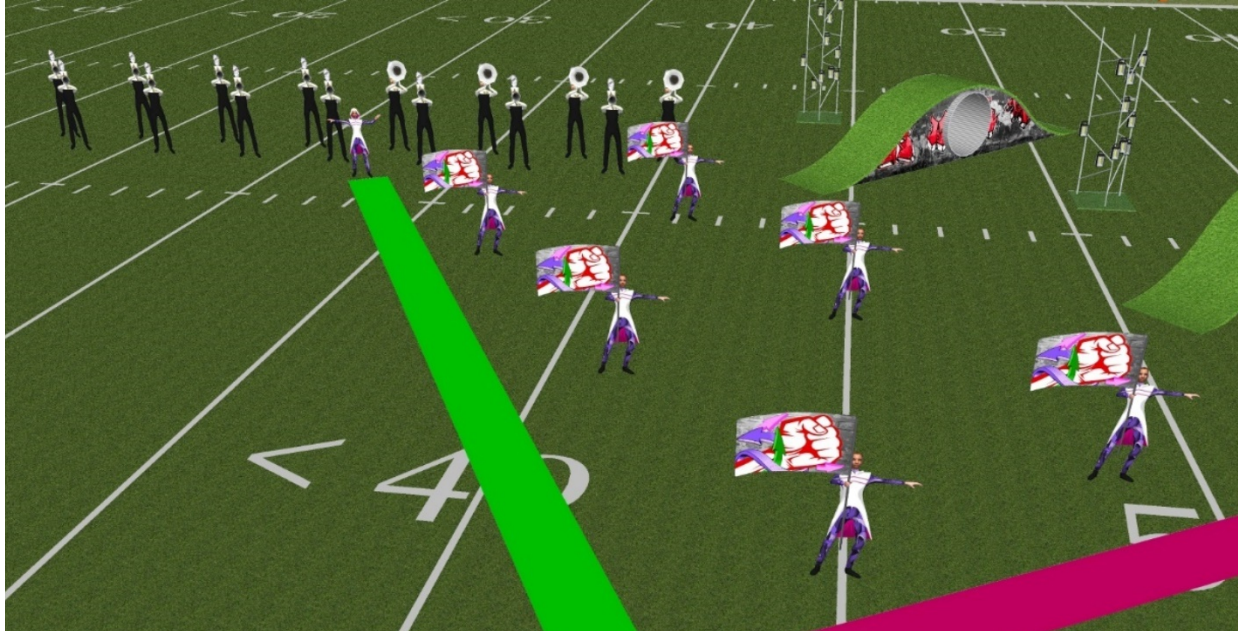




As another solo opportunity presents itself—here a saxophone, but infinitely adaptable—the set begins to transform, representing the power of the formerly repressed to change their world. The sideline screens go from plain white, to vibrant, street art and the horns and guard perform a featured body choreography passage.

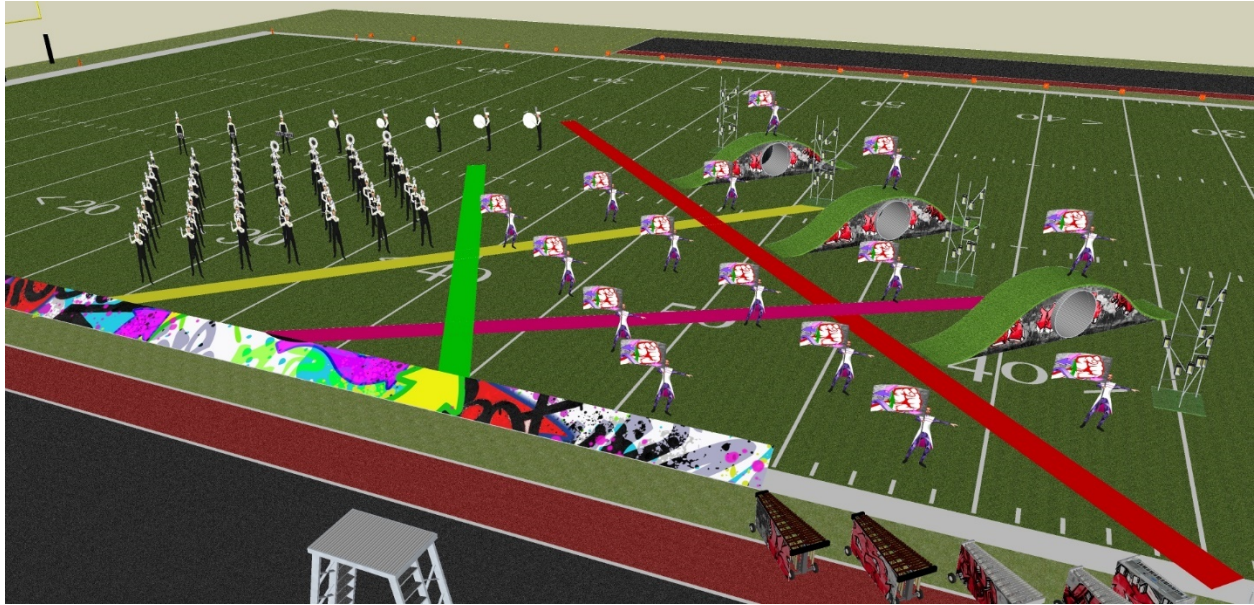
The sense of triumph spreads from section to section as the set further transforms. Bright, eye-popping vinyls are pulled from behind the sideline screen to literally and figuratively highlight featured sections. First, the woodwinds...





...and then the brass! The clever design of the vinyl draws an impossible to ignore line directly to the featured section, an audio-visual correlation effect judges will reward every time.

By the end of the show, the entire stage—and figuratively the entire world—has been transformed into a vibrant world of color and energy by the efforts of those society has previously cast aside. The downtrodden, the repressed, those who were once in the shadows, now create a brighter light for all.



Fin.

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