

Costume Roles and Costume Schedule for a Production

Basic information about costume roles and a generic schedule for production. This is a 'traditional' schedule, adapt it as needed but be very aware of the tasks and their order

Roles

(These can all be done by one person or many persons)

Costume Designer

Studies the 'piece' and designs costumes, in line with director's vision. Works with Supervisor to create costumes e.g. choosing fabrics, attending fittings etc. It is not unusual for the set designer to also be tasked with designing costumes, especially on shows with a smaller budget.

Costume Supervisor

Studies the designs and organises the creation of all the costumes, including budgeting, scheduling, staffing, purchases and fittings up to First Performance

Costume Maker

Studies design and makes costume, including fitting to an agreed deadline.

Costume Assistant

Assists maker in construction of costume

Head of Running Wardrobe

Supervises costumes during the 'get in/run/get out', including budgeting, scheduling, staffing and purchases – used to be called 'Wardrobe Mistress'

Dresser

Assists back stage with costumes, usually does 'get in/out'

Wardrobe Maintenance

Launders and repairs costumes during 'run', usually does 'get in/out'

Schedule

Before the first day of rehearsals

- Costume Plot: A list of every garment in show, by character and scene, including quick changes/ on stage changes etc
- Designs – based on costume plot
- Budget forecast – based on costume plot/designs.
- ‘Signing off’ designs – Director approves designs, budgets are agreed

First day of rehearsals

- Design showing – show designs to cast
- Measurements – relevant measures taken of all actors

During rehearsals

- Sourcing/making costumes – plan time needed;- fabric/trimmings buying, construction time, sourcing/hiring, hire period
- First Fitting – most costumes to be fitted, time agreed with Stage Manager/Director.
- Final Fitting Dates - all costumes to be fitted
- Costume Parade - all costumes to be seen and approved by Director (This is not a fitting) preferably on actors or just on a rail
- Dressers/show plan – dressers to read script, create ‘dressers plot’ for all costume changes.
- plan for ‘pre/post’ show costume settings and maintenance
- Run through – dressers to attend, add entrance/exits to plot

Technical rehearsal

- All costumes should, ideally, be complete but must be functional, labelled and preset
- prior to tech starting, dressers to attend all tech sessions and perfect their plots

Dress rehearsal

- All costume complete,
- ‘Dressers plot’ and ‘maintenance schedule’ to be complete,
- Show tasks allocated and copies given to Head of Wardrobe/Stage Manager.

First Performance

- All costumes to be complete, ironed and ready for performance.
- Dressers to follow ‘plot’ and amend/adapt as needed