

Basic Costume Design Tips

Here are some starting points and ideas to help you achieve strong and dynamic costume designs

It can be useful to

- Make sure you know the script, plot very well
- Discuss your ideas and the script with the Director, make sure you understand the Directors vision and that your own is compatible.
- Make sure you understand each character, their relationships with each other and function/journey in the production.
- If the production is set in a particular time period, location etc. research and use it to inform your design ideas
- A limited colour palette is a simple and effective design tool
- Develop mood boards/images to properly communicate your ideas
- Produce design images and present to the director and performers
- Consider the physical requirements of the performers (it's no good putting a cast member in a tight fitting full length dress if they are required to do a high kicking dance number)
- Consider all feedback from performers and adjust designs as you see fit
- Make sure that your designs work with the set, lighting and other elements of the show
- Think carefully about your budget and spend wisely (better design doesn't mean bigger budget)
- Work with all departments to resolve any issues
- Always communicate with Director
- And finally, be brave and be creative!