

# Master of Fine Arts Costume Design & Production



Tartuffe (2017-2018)

## PROGRAM GOAL

To provide students with training in the art and practice of costume design and technology. The program is designed to prepare students with proficient skills that will be needed to continue their growth and assure success in their future career.

Students graduate with an in-depth knowledge in all aspects of costume design for the stage, including theatre, dance, opera and film. Costume technology is a key component with classes in couture sewing, draping and patterning, millinery, fabric modification and costume crafts. Additionally, students will work and develop their wig and makeup design and technology abilities to nurture a distinguished costume design portfolio. A professional portfolio of executed design and technology work is required for graduation.

## COSTUME DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

### FSU Productions

Costume graduate students usually assist and design directing projects during their first year. The second- year students design a season subscription show, as well as assist. Their technology skills will be utilized for productions in any of the skills that they have developed including as a draper, fabric dyer, crafts artisan, etc. The third-year student will continue in this trajectory with a culmination of a MFA Creative Final Project, (practical thesis) in either designing for a large season subscription show or taking on a major technical component for a large show, which could include head draper or crafts artisan, etc.

### Other Costume Design/Costume Technical Work

With major professor's permission, students can work with the FSU Film School, Opera Department, Dance Department, either designing an MFA film/dance/opera project or working in their shops. Students may have the opportunity to learn and develop their wig and makeup skills through educational and practical experiences.

### Teaching

While at FSU, students may be given the opportunity to teach undergraduate classes during their second and third year.

### Assistantship (20 hours per week)

Assistantship includes a tuition waiver for 60 hours over three years plus a stipend of approximately \$16,250 for the year. Students must acquire in-state resident status by the end of their first year. Assistantship duties include working in the costume shop, supervising wardrobe crew or teaching introductory costume classes.

## PRODUCTIONS

Assistantship work includes various tasks on productions. Each student will be assigned to help build costumes and develop costume skills. This ranges from day to day organization, alterations, stitching, first hand work, as well as the aforementioned pattern making, crafts, dyeing, millinery, wig styling, makeup application, and other technical work. Production work is assigned with student success and career goals in mind.

## SEMESTER REVIEW

Each semester, Faculty review student's progress regarding class work, production assignments and assistantship work. The review includes portfolio development and review of current resume. Students need to pass this each semester to continue in the program.

## SCHOOL OF THEATRE PRODUCTION SEASON

Five subscription shows that are fully produced each season, including classical and contemporary plays, a children's show, and two musicals. Previous shows include: *Something Rotten*, *In the Heights*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Cat in the Hat*, *We are Proud to Present... Men on Boats*, and *Eurydice*. Lesser produced work includes MFA Director One-Acts and devised theatre projects.



Disney's Beauty and the Beast (2016 - 2017)



## COURSES

### Costume Design

Research for projects cover various periods of costume history. Designs of costumes for theatre, dance, opera and film are covered as well as discussions of performances spaces and needs of the performer for each of these. Discussions of best process practice of designing include: script analysis, research techniques, fabric and fiber identifications and knowledge, communication skills, costume plots and budget, fitting protocols and dress rehearsals.

### Rendering

Rendering classes cover both traditional and digital techniques with the overall goal of strengthening drawing skills while improving designer communication techniques. Traditional rendering techniques include various media, analysis of different rendering styles, and analysis of research. Digital rendering explores various software including Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, as well as digital portfolio and website development.

### Costume History

The Costume History Seminar class covers both lectures of the various historic periods plus more in-depth research on traditional and non-Western clothing. Student also research from actual vintage and antique garments.

### Costume Technology

Classes in costume technology cover a wide range from couture sewing, flat patterning, draping, historic period draping, millinery, crafts, fabric modification, tailoring, corsets and crinolines, wigs, management, etc.

### Wigs and Makeup

Techniques taught include wig and facial hair construction focusing on hair texture, types, and color, foundation building, ventilating, historical and conceptual design research, and styling. Moreover, traditional stage makeup application emphasizing color theory, skin types and tones, historical influence, and design-based thinking.

## COSTUME SHOP EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

**Sewing / Patterning Room:** Industrial and Domestic machines; including a Bernina embroidery machine, several large cutting tables and dress forms in various sized/styles.

**Dye and Craft Room:** Specialty equipment including textile digital printer, fabric steamer, industrial dye vat, as well as all appropriate safety equipment.

**Costume Storage:** Large hanging stock with costumes organized by period, type, gender, and size; Large folded stock in labeled boxes organized by period, type, gender, and size; Hat and shoe room organized by period, type, gender, and size. Over 3250 sq. ft of on-site costume storage.

**Laundry Room, Wig Room, and Dressing Rooms**



*The Addams Family (2017-2018)*

## APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

**The following criteria must be met for consideration of acceptance into the program:**

1. A Bachelor's Degree in Theatre from an accredited college or university. Students who do not hold a Theatre degree must show evidence of substantial coursework and/or experience in theatre to indicate probability of achieving success in advanced theatre studies.
2. A grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) during the last two years of study for a bachelor's degree, or 3.0 on a master's degree from an accredited institution; OR have acceptable scores on the verbal and quantitative portions of the Graduate Record Examination taken within the last 5 years.
3. All applicants must participate in an interview and a portfolio review session, which may be at LINK, URITA or USITT. An on-campus interview is required for all domestic applicants and strongly encouraged for international applicants.
4. Applicants must submit a completed School of Theatre application, three current letters of recommendation, current resume, and a statement of purpose.
5. Specific approval of the program director within the School of Theatre.

For admission procedures, contact the Office of Academic and Student Services at 850.644.7234.

### Faculty and Staff

**Jacki Armit (she/her/hers)**  
Associate Professor of Costume Technology  
Interim Director, MFA Costume Design Program

**Emily Tappan (she/her/hers)**  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Costume Design

**Sarah Jahnke (she/her/hers)**  
Costume Studio Manager

**Madison Weber (she/her/hers)**  
Wig and Make-up Specialist

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Jacki Armit (she/her/hers)**  
Associate Professor of Costume Technology  
Interim Director, MFA Costume Design  
239 Fine Arts Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1160

**Office: 850-644-7257**  
**E-mail: [jarmit@fsu.edu](mailto:jarmit@fsu.edu)**  
**Website: [theatre.fsu.edu/programs/graduate/costume-design/](http://theatre.fsu.edu/programs/graduate/costume-design/)**

## The School of Theatre at Florida State

For additional information about the program, the faculty, and how to apply, please visit: <http://theatre.fsu.edu/graduate>.