



## **COSTUME INFO FOR CAST & PARENTS**

### **Welcome to the cast!**

**The Costume Crew and I are looking forward to working with you and helping you develop your character through the way you dress. There are a few things I would like to go over before we get started. You may hear these more than once throughout the production, but they are important.**

### **1. “The Speech”**

Before the first dress rehearsal I usually talk to the cast about hygiene when it comes to costumes. But, I will let you know the facts now.

The costumes are delicate and have to last through 6-8 performances with minimal cleaning. You **MUST** shower and apply anti-perspirant/deodorant before wearing costumes. Guys must wear a clean plain white undershirt and underwear under all costumes unless told otherwise. Girls should wear clean undergarments and a nude camisole-style leotard and tights (color TBD) under their costumes unless told otherwise. This helps keep body oils and perspiration off of the costumes, as well as provide a modesty barrier for quick changes.

After each performance, **ALL** costumes must be hung-up on provided hangers in the proper way. The “proper way” will be demonstrated to you, but basically it means hang them neatly. Guys pants must be hung with creases, shirts must be smooth and top button buttoned, girl’s skirts should be hung on clip hangers, etc. This is important since the costumes will not be ironed after every performance.

If a repair is needed on a costume during the run of the show, please tell a Costume Crew member as soon as possible. Costumes are **NEVER** to be taken home unless instructed to do so by me (Costume Mentor).

### **2. Personal Items**

Besides the undergarments mentioned above, typically actors are asked to provide certain items for their costume themselves. These items from home should be brought to the theater for dress rehearsal and must remain there for the run of the show. This way we don’t run the risk of costume pieces being forgotten at home before a performance.

You may be asked to provide your own shoes as well as personal items (i.e.- socks, tights, leotards, etc.), according to the costumer’s specifications. Typically, guys will need black or brown dress shoes (plain lace-up oxfords), or character shoes, and socks in the proper color, usually black or brown. Girls will usually need character shoes in black or tan. You can purchase these items at a dancewear supply store/online.

### **3. Costume Fittings**

Out of respect for your rehearsal time, costume fittings are done before rehearsal, after rehearsal, or at a rehearsal that you are not called for. This appointment will be arranged through the Stage Manager based on your conflicts and rehearsal calls. It is important that you keep your fitting appointment. We are respecting your time, so please respect ours.

It is important that proper undergarments be worn to rehearsals so that if you are being fitted for a costume we can see that it fits properly. For this reason, girls please do not wear sports bras to fittings; wear a “true bra” for the most flattering fit.

### **4. Costume Plot**

Once the costume design is complete and all of the costume pieces are assigned, I will print up a Costume Plot. This will show each actor exactly what they are wearing in each scene. The Costume Plot will be posted in the dressing rooms for your reference during the run of the show.

If at anytime you have a question about what costume piece(s) you should be wearing, please ask a Costume Crew member.

### **5. Costume Check In**

On the day of “strike” every actor is responsible for checking in all of the costumes pieces that were assigned to them. There will be a “check-in station” set up in the Costume Lab/room C3, and Costume Crew will check off the items you bring them against the Costume Plot. The actor is financially responsible for the replacement of any item that is missing / lost / stolen / damaged. So, keep track of your costumes. A basket will be provided to you for keeping “loose” items such as shoes, socks, hats, etc. (Common sense – heaviest items (shoes) go on the bottom of the basket, lightest items (hats) go on the top of the stack).

**I hope this info will help your experience at Theatre At The Mount be a more congenial one. Have fun and take pride in what you create to make this our best show yet.**

**Break A Leg,**

**Debbie Waldschmidt**

**Costume Design Mentor**

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